

**Three New Faces, One Exciting Month:
Welcome to new Staff and Board Members!**

This month, USM welcomes three new faces to the fold:

Allison Lord joins our staff as USM's first-ever Development Director, bringing with her over 11 years of marketing programs experience. She has special expertise in developing, directing and managing comprehensive marketing programs. Allison has been a volunteer at the University Family YMCA Homeless Youth Program for over 4 years, and has developed a special relationship with the youth at this program. Before joining

USM, she was the Marketing Programs Manager at Attenex Corp., a developer of legal document review software, and has also run marketing programs at Microsoft, Appian Graphics, and WRQ. Allison graduated from Washington State University with a bachelor of Communications in Public Relations.

Also this month, we've expanded our Board of Directors with two great new additions who are familiar faces to many of our

youth and volunteers.

Marc Pollard, a Teen Feed volunteer with the St. Stephen's Episcopal food team, is broadening his service with USM by joining the board. In addition to his familiarity with Teen Feed, Marc brings a wealth of business management experience as a senior executive in a number of Seattle-area high tech firms, including Advantive Corporation, MACROsystems, Inc., Network Commerce, and the Cobalt Group. Prior to the high tech industry, Marc's career included account management roles at some of the world's leading marketing,

public relations and communications firms.

Brad Papineau, a Teen Feed advocate since 2001, is also expanding his role with USM to include board service. Brad is an accomplished musician whose band has played at past USM holiday parties, a former drop-in volunteer at the University Family YMCA Homeless Youth Program, and by day, a systems analyst in information technology at Nordstrom, Inc.

Please join me in welcoming these three outstanding individuals to the USM board/staff team!

--Jeff Albertson



UNIVERSITY STREET MINISTRY

Teen Feed Times

Fall 2006

Teen Feed is located at a consortium of four neighborhood churches:

- Sunday– University Christian Church 4731 15th NE
- Monday– University Lutheran Church 1604 NE 50th
- Tuesday– University Temple Methodist Church 1415 NE 43rd
- Wednesday and Thursday– University Congregational United Church of Christ 4515 16th Ave NE

USM is:
Megan Gibbard
Direct Service Supervisor & Outreach Case Manager
Allison Lord
Development Director
Eric Wirkman
Teen Feed Coordinator
Mike Weybright
Chair, Board of Directors
Jeff Albertson
Board of Directors
Frank Lawler
Board of Directors
Luciann MacDonald
Board of Directors
Brad Papineau
Board of Directors
Marc Pollard
Board of Directors

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Fall 2006

**The U District Holiday Party Approaches!
Be a Teen Feed Secret Santa!**

It is this time of year when service providers like myself turn to each other – looking out of doors at the crisp, colorful, and frigid fall – and remark again on how difficult it must be to be homeless. We are lucky to be in the lives of homeless youth and young adults each week, but sometimes greater reflection, greater empathy, takes a good long pause. Look outside your window. Pause. Imagine yourself outside.

It is fortunate for all of us that this cold season also offers many opportunities to give, to support homeless young people, and to remember the youth on the streets as we remember and give to our own families.

Each year, the U District providers join as a team to put on The U District Homeless Youth Holiday Party. This December 13th, youth will come for a hearty dinner, incredible dessert, entertainment by a live jazz trio, conversation and laughter with volunteers and staff, and a present for every single young person under the tree. Maybe for the first time ever, the holidays become a time of support and giving for these young people.

USM and Teen Feed supporters – you are the ones who make it all happen.



The 2005 Holiday Party

Please be a Teen Feed Secret Santa or donate holiday party general needs this year!

If you would like to sponsor a young person and provide the gift they ask for this December, email teenfeedsecretSanta@yahoo.com for the list of youth.

You can choose one or many young people, purchase their gift (an item/s around \$30) and drop the items off at the USM office. We ask that all gifts be dropped off by December 7th, unwrapped, to allow plenty of time for organizing and wrapping prior to the holiday party. If you would like to provide general need items – gifts for youth who do not have Secret Santas – please collect any of the following items: sleeping bags, gift cards, sweatshirts, bus tokens, hand warmers, backpacks (please check the complete list on page 3). Please consider hosting a drive at your work, place of

worship, school, family or community group. If you have a giving tree at your church or work – could it be dedicated to the youth we serve?

Thank you all for your involvement to make this very difficult time of year more pleasant for our young people, and don't hesitate to contact us if you have additional questions. (206) 356-9314. A final and big thank you to everyone who supported the youth last year by being a Secret Santa, donating general need items, time, or financial gifts. You are the foundation of the Holiday Party, and the foundation of support for these homeless young people.

In Struggle and with hope,

Megan Gibbard

Direct Service Supervisor



UNIVERSITY STREET MINISTRY

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**CHECK OUT OUR
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www.teenfeed.org**

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Helping Our Youth To Meet
Their Future Off The Street*

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Feeding teens (and young adults, and dogs and sometimes babies): One Year In

"Teen Feed makes a difference in so many young people's lives, I learn so much from them every day"

Fall is always a time of introspection for me, my own internal new-year. With the turning of the weather, I find myself thinking back over the past year, and looking forward to the next one. At just over a year into running Teen Feed, I can't begin to say how much I love this job. Teen Feed truly makes a difference in so many young people's lives, and I feel as if I learn so much from them every day.

That's not to say it hasn't also been a hard year: Teen Feed has seen its fair share of drama and tragedy. As we move ahead in providing much needed services to our young folk, I would ask that people take a moment to remember those who are no longer with us: Justin, Rhys, Jonathan, and Raymond. These young men left us too soon, and their passing has had a tremendous affect on all who are part of the community here. If I remember this year as one in which I undertook the most satisfying job I've ever had, I will also remember it as one in

which we lost far too many young people to the dangers of street life.

One of the most important things that Teen Feed can provide our guests is a safe, non-judgmental space in which they can find shelter, not just from the elements, but from all of the negativity and danger that they face daily. Too often, I talk with youth who have never had an adult in their life that they could really trust, who are told repeatedly that they are worthless. This same message is repeated over and over in the mainstream media: that worth is based on income, social standing. Surrounded by a cacophony of negativity, these messages are internalized, and become major obstacles to them fulfilling their dreams.

Teen Feed, and most importantly the compassionate support of Teen Feed's donors and volunteers stand in stark contrast to this, as if to say, "You are a person. You have intrinsic worth." I have long

held that food is a right, something which we all should receive access to without any strings attached. I'd like to take this chance to thank everyone who enables me to do my job and for supporting me in putting this ideal into action. I hope you'll continue on this path with me.

"Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself[sic] and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control."

-United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 25, Section 1

Yours in solidarity,

--Eric

University Street Ministry is a Member Agency of the University District Service Providers Alliance.

The University District Service Providers Alliance (UDSPA) is a coalition of nonprofits working together to create a comprehensive continuum of services for homeless and street-involved youth and young adults. The UDSPA helps member agencies share resources and work together efficiently while pursuing our shared mission of offering a full spectrum of compassionate, quality care and support to Seattle's homeless and street-involved youth and young adults.

UDSPA Member Agencies are: 45th Street Clinic, ROOTS, Sanctuary Art Center, Seattle Education Access, Street Youth Ministries, University District Youth Center, University Family YMCA, and University Street Ministry.

For more information, visit www.udsp.org.



Special Thanks and Congratulations

A very special thank you to the following donors:

- Cedar Cross United Methodist Church
- Donna Werner
- Frank Lawler
- Haas Charitable Trust
- Jane Arnett
- Jeff Albertson
- Joel Crawford
- John & Priscilla Kirby
- Linda Sweet
- Lynnea Luoto
- Sammamish Presbyterian Church
- Stephen O'Brien
- Wes Bjorn

To Victoria and the stylists at **Vain** for donating free haircuts to homeless young people working with SLY case management!"

Also, congratulations to weekly Teen Feed volunteer **David Otten**, who just received his Eagle Scout.

Holiday Donation Needs...

Here's a partial list of items we need donated during the holidays (and year-round!). Please consider picking up a few of these to help make our youths' winter a little easier.

- Gift cards for Food, Clothes or Music (\$30 maximum)
- Discmans
- AA batteries
- Large-sized hooded sweatshirts (pref. dark colors)
- Sleeping bags
- Backpacks
- Disposable hand warmers
- Travel-sized sewing kits
- Battery-operated travel alarm clocks
- Flashlights
- Bus tokens
- Pre-paid phone cards
- New socks, Gloves, Underwear & Cold weather clothing
- Dry dog food
- Travel-sized toiletries
- First aid supplies
- African American hair products
- Playing cards and Silly Putty
- Journals, Notebooks, or Art supplies

Please drop off donations by **December 7th** at our office: 4740-B, University Way NE, **Please call first** to arrange a time.

We also need people to be Secret Santas, and provide gifts for specific youth. If you'd like to be one of this year's Secret Santas, please contact us as soon as possible by emailing: teenfeedsecretSanta@yahoo.com. We ask that all gifts be dropped off **by December 7th, unwrapped**, to allow plenty of time for organizing and wrapping prior to the holiday party.

Specific Secret Santa drop-in hours are also:

Wednesday, December 6th from noon – 5pm, and

Thursday December 7th from 4pm to 9pm

If you have any questions, or for a more complete list of donation needs, please contact:

Megan Gibbard
Direct Service Supervisor
(206)356.9314 cell
megan@teenfeed.org

Donate or volunteer with USM!

Please clip this form and send it in the enclosed envelope along with your donation.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

____ Please send me more information on how I can help.

____ I would like my donation to be listed as anonymous.

(all donations over \$100 will be recognized in the Teen Feed Times)

A financial contribution sufficient to:

- \$500- Provide fees and application costs for Washington State ID for 5 youth
- \$250- Provide 20 youth with direct mentoring and support with SLY Case Management
- \$200- Buy Teen Feed kitchen supplies for one month
- \$100- Buy 2 backpacks & 2 sleeping bags
- \$50- Give toiletries to 25 youth
- \$20- Buy bus tokens for 10 youth
- \$____ Other donation amount