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Your twice-a-month e-newsletter from AGRM

Useful news and information for association members

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Convention Hotel Block Filling Fast

AGRM is already at nearly 45 percent of our contracted room block at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront. Last year at this time, we were at 27 percent. Fortunately, we have arranged with the hotel to offer rooms at our convention rate beyond our contracted block, but we do want to let members know that rooms are filling up fast.

It seems clear that Jacksonville is the place to be June 7–10 for the 2016 AGRM Annual Convention.

Our opening General Session in Jacksonville will be particularly memorable. We are using the historic Florida Theatre, which is just a block from our convention hotel. The format will be like an evening talk and variety show, with numerous guests stopping by. You won't want to miss this.

Still need details? Check out the [insert](#) in the center of the January/February issue of *Rescue* magazine. Or enter www.agrm.org/2016convention to visit our always up-to-date convention web pages.

Don't forget to [register](#) for the event. Save some dough by registering before March 1. And, of course, because they are filling fast, reserve the rooms you'll need in Jacksonville by going to www.agrm.org/2016hotel.

Winter Weather Affects AGRM Offices

AGRM's Colorado Springs offices are closed today due to a [winter storm](#) hitting the Rockies and moving across the Plains (and beyond!). However, most staff members are working from home. If the weather forecasts hold, this will likely be the case again tomorrow as well. If you need to reach someone, the best means of contact is email. We'll also be checking our voice messages when possible. *Note:* The district presidents' meeting scheduled for today will still take place today at 12:00 p.m. MST.

Don't Miss the Important Election-Year DC Forum

Registration is now open for AGRM's 2016 DC Forum, which will be held March 14–16, 2016, on Capitol Hill.

Here's some of what's new this year:

- Insider's 2016 national elections projections and analyses.
- On-site meeting with key staff at HUD headquarters.
- Optional Tuesday dinner in historic Georgetown.

Any mission participant age 31 and under can attend this year's DC Forum at half price—which is well below our costs! Our reason? The average age of a House staffer is 31, and Millennials have a lot in common.

Check out all the details—the policy issues we plan to tackle, new initiatives we will introduce, the schedule and agenda—and register for the event by clicking [here](#). Or simply enter www.agrm.org/DCForum in your browser.

Watch the *Same Kind of Different as Me* Webinar

If you missed the webinar regarding AGRM and local mission involvement in the upcoming motion picture release of *Same Kind of Different as Me*, you can watch a video of the webinar at www.agrm.org/agrm/SKODAM_Webinar.asp. Also, be sure to bookmark and regularly check the main AGRM movie page at www.agrm.org/same-different for updates on how your mission can use the movie as a tool to increase awareness, donations, and volunteers. If you have suggestions, questions, or to share ideas about how missions might use the movie, contact Mark P. Fisher, AGRM's director of strategic initiatives, at mpfisher@agrm.org.

Limited Scholarships Available for 2016 Convention

Once again, scholarships will be available for individuals wishing to attend this year's annual convention in Jacksonville. If your mission's annual operating expenses are \$600,000 or below you may qualify for scholarship funds.

Deadline for applications for a limited number of scholarships is March 15. Contact Director of Member Engagement Selena Hayle at shayle@agrm.org for additional details.

Participants Wrap Up First Ripple Effect Cohort

AGRM's new Ripple Effect board performance acceleration program got underway January 21–22 with an event at Talaris Conference Center in Seattle, Washington. Ten different AGRM-member missions comprised a capacity crowd that brought together CEOs and two to four of their key board members for relevant instruction and exercises, led by board development professionals. The Ripple Effect program spans nine months. In that timeframe, there is a second meeting (in April), plus webinars, reading assignments, and two on-site meetings between each mission's CEO and board and its Ripple Effect Coach.

You can see AGRM President John Ashmen's introduction video to participants [here](#), and you can view some photos of the first cohort [here](#).

Here is what participants had to say about the first meeting and their excitement about the overall program:

- My board members felt empowered to continue to do the work and to be a catalyst for changes that they felt were essential to our growth in the future. They learned a lot and are excited to continue the process. All board members should have the opportunity to participate in this training!
—*Sylvia Anderson, CEO, Everett Gospel Mission (Everett, Washington)*
- It was beneficial for our team at UGM Salem. The conference stimulated our board members to a greater level of involvement. We're looking forward to our first meeting with our coach in a few weeks.
—*Bruce Bailey, CEO, Union Gospel Mission of Salem (Salem, Oregon)*
- Thanks for organizing the Ripple Effect program, well done. In 40 years of attending workshops and training sessions, Ripple Effect is the best by far. By having the program continue over nine months while working with a mentor will ensure positive changes take place in a very powerful way.
—*Paul Buckley, Board Vice President, Butte Rescue Mission (Butte, Montana)*
- Very valuable for the long-term affect and organization of the Great Falls Rescue Mission. It was extremely beneficial for the long-term organization of the board itself.
—*Don Spurgeon, Board President, Great Falls Rescue Mission (Great Falls, Montana)*
- We had our first coach meeting already, and we are developing a great action plan. Thank you AGRM and Ripple Effect!
—*Mike Johnson, Executive Director, The Rescue Mission Tacoma (Tacoma, Washington)*
- Perhaps the greatest item for me was to see the enthusiasm that my staff had over the training, We all gathered great information and were all pleased that we have already done so much of it right. I believe that this training will ignite my staff toward a deeper role in the life of the mission. Thanks to all of the individuals that made this an exciting two days and we are in anticipation of what is yet to come.
—*Walt Le Couteur, Executive Director, Kitsap Rescue Mission (Kitsap, Washington)*

If you would like your mission to be involved in Ripple Effect next year, click [here](#) to learn more about the program on our website. So you can plan ahead, the dates for the two events in 2017 are January 19–20 and April 20–21. Space is limited, and we've already received some reservations for 2017.

Denver and Charlotte Missions Have Some Super Bowl Fun

The CEOs of **Charlotte Rescue Mission** (Charlotte, North Carolina) and **Denver Rescue Mission** (Denver, Colorado) are having some fun rivalry as their respective teams play in Super Bowl 50 on February 7. If Carolina loses, the CEO of Charlotte Rescue Mission, Tony Marciano, has to go on his mission's roof and do a video of himself doing a touchdown dance wearing a Manning jersey. If Denver loses, the CEO of Denver Rescue Mission, Brad Meuli, will have to perform the famous Cam Newton pose on the roof of his mission while wearing a Cam Newton jersey.

Tony points out that the challenge shows residents at both missions—and people across the country—that they don't have to get high or drunk to have a good time. "We are modeling in front of them the very behavior we want them to embrace," Tony says. And Brad notes that the rivalry shows the working partnership among rescue missions. "This challenge highlights our strong partnership to help people move beyond the crisis of experiencing homelessness," he says

We'll be sure to post a link to the winning...er, losing...video in the next issue of *Street Smart*.

AGRM Weighs in on HUD's Gender Identity Rules on Housing

AGRM submitted comments to the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on its proposed regulation regarding "equal access in accordance with an individual's gender identity in Community Planning and Development programs." You can review a copy of the comments by clicking [here](#).

Looking Down the Street...

- Jeremy Reynolds, founder and CEO of **Joy Junction** (Albuquerque, New Mexico), community activist Richard Moore, and the staff of Encuentro (an organization providing education, business, and life skills to immigrant Spanish-speaking adults in Albuquerque) were this year's "Keep the Dream Alive Award" recipients from Albuquerque's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Multicultural Council.
- Congratulations to the Women & Children's Shelter of **Union Gospel Mission of Missoula** (Missoula, Montana), which recently received the Montana Christian Journal and Bookstore's 2015 Ministry Hope Award. The shelter was observed to provide real and lasting learning and leadership opportunities through their onsite internship program and evening classes and activities.
- Please welcome new AGRM business member **Fab-Tech Company** (Owings Mills, Maryland). President [Robert Goode](#) serves as AGRM's primary contact.
- We also welcome new business member **Secure Retail POS** (Winnipeg, Manitoba). President [Jason Purcell](#) is the main contact for AGRM members.



Two Killed in Shooting at Seattle Homeless Camp

Two people were killed and three others injured in a "targeted" shooting at a Seattle homeless encampment last week, [reports](#) NBC News. The Seattle Police Department said gunfire was reported around 7:15 p.m. local time in a wooded area known as "The Jungle."

Officers found five victims, three men and two women, suffering from gunshot wounds. One man was pronounced dead at the scene while another died at a nearby hospital. Police say at least two suspects have been identified, but no arrests have been made yet. The victims' identities and the motive behind the shootings have also not been released yet.

Seattle Mayor Ed Murray, who declared a state of emergency in November over the city's homeless population, said the tragedy underscored the urgent need to "go into these encampments," clean up, and "try and get people out."

New Guidelines Suggest All Adults Be Screened for Depression

A government advisory group has recommended all adults, including pregnant women and new mothers, should be screened for depression as a routine part of health care, [reports](#) CBS News.

The new guidelines, issued by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, calls attention to the fact that millions of Americans suffer from depression and many are not receiving treatment. The screening would involve health care providers asking about certain symptoms, even if patients don't mention them. The guidelines do not state how often adults should be screened, and there are questions about how the health care system can manage the additional burden of properly diagnosing and treating people identified through screening. The task force is focusing on pregnant women and new mothers because maternal depression has been found to be far more common than previously thought.

Restaurant Manager Feeds and Prays with Homeless Man

An inspirational picture taken at a Chick-Fil-A in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, has gone viral, [reports](#) WRCBtv.com. Joey Mustain was eating at the restaurant with his 3-year-old daughter and happened to notice manager Joshua Stout praying with a homeless man.

Justin Burkeen had just spent hours on the side of the road trying to make money with no luck. He was hungry and away from his home inside a bus.

"I asked the gentleman behind the counter if he could help me out, and he was really nice and offered me a sandwich," Burkeen said. Stout gave Burkeen some food and then asked to pray with him, but didn't know Mustain and his daughter were watching the whole event. Mustain's photo and story have now been shared hundreds of thousands of times over social media. It has also turned into a life lesson for Mustain's daughter.

"She's just conditioned, and heard the word prayer and put her head down and we prayed," Mustain said. "After it was over, we kind of marinated in it."



American Centenarians Are Living Even Longer

The more than 72,000 Americans who have celebrated 100 birthdays or more are now surviving even longer, [reports](#) HealthDay.

According to researchers at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, death rates for the oldest Americans charted a steady decline between 2008 and 2014. This trend held for both genders and across races and ethnicities, the data showed. Women comprise nearly 80 percent of centenarians.

Experts credit the increase to better injury prevention, healthier lifestyles, and better access to health care. Others say there are still many questions that need to be answered, such as the quality of life for those over 100 years old and how they are being cared for.

FDA Panel Votes in Favor of New Opioid Addiction Treatment

A Food and Drug Administration committee voted in favor of approval for an implant designed to help people beat opioid addictions, [reports](#) CBS News. The implant, probuphine, provides a steady dose of medication called buprenorphine, which is used to treat withdrawal symptoms and decrease cravings for opioids like heroin and prescription painkillers in addicts.

The implant lasts for six months and eliminates the problem of patients having to remember to take a pill, illegally selling their medication, or the risk of the drug falling into the hands of children. The implant consists

of four small rods inserted just under the skin in the inner arm, releasing a steady dose of buprenorphine into the patient's system.

The FDA is expected to make a final decision on whether to approve the implants by the end of February.

Charitable Giving Expected to Increase in 2016 and 2017

U.S. nonprofits, education in particular, can look forward to growth in charitable giving this year and next according to researchers at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, [reports](#) ThinkAdvisor.

According to a report presented by Marts & Lundy, a fundraising and consulting firm, giving is expected to grow by 4.1 percent in 2016 and 4.3 percent in 2017. The report projected that total giving increases in both years would exceed the five-, 10-, and 25-year annualized average rates of growth in total giving, and would fall just below the 40-year average growth rate of 4.4 percent. Researchers also found that giving by all source types would rise in 2016 and 2017. Giving by households will grow by an expected 3.7 to 3.8 percent. Donations are expected to grow by 6.3 percent this year and 6.1 percent next year.

The reasons for the increase include several economic factors, such as projected growth in the S&P 500 Index, personal income, and the net worth of households and nonprofits.



Valentine's Day Cards

Consider adapting one of the [Valentine ideas](#) at Better Fundraising Ideas. Why not sell greeting cards made by homeless people in your mission? This might work particularly well if you have your own thrift store, but local merchants might be interested as well.

One option: If one of your guests or clients is particularly artistic, he or she could create several cards, and you can use a local printer to make larger quantities for sale (maybe the printer will donate or reduce the printing expense). Some or all of the sales proceeds can go to your mission, or for a specific project within the mission. Make a connection between the project and the love theme of the holiday, such as "A Gift of Love to Feed Homeless Folks" with proceeds going toward meals at your mission.



The following job positions are currently open at AGRM member missions. Please visit www.agrm.org/careers to view full descriptions and to apply. Click [here](#) for instructions on using AGRM's Recruiting Center to post open positions for your mission.

Center for Women and Children Director: Bay Area Rescue Mission, Richmond, CA

Data Administrator: Las Vegas Rescue Mission, Las Vegas, NV

Development Associate: The Path of Citrus County, Beverly Hills, FL

Development Director: Salina Rescue Mission, Salina, KS

Development Director: Bread of Life Mission, Seattle, WA

Executive Director: Victory Mission, Springfield, MO

Executive Director: Gospel Center Rescue Mission, Inc., Stockton, CA

Facility Property Manager: Oliver Gospel Mission, Columbia, SC

Food Service Attendant: Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

Kitchen Supervisor – The Harvest Farm: Denver Rescue Mission - Harvest Farm, Wellington, CO

Maintenance: Bread of Life Mission, Holbrook, AZ

Major Gifts Officer: Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

Manager-Donor Relations: Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

Men's Case Manager: Las Vegas Rescue Mission, Las Vegas, NV

Residential Coordinator-Cornerstone Manor Facility: Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

Residential Coordinator-Mens Facility: Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

Short-Term Volunteer Coordinator: Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO

Staff: Bread of Life Mission, Holbrook, AZ

Substance Abuse and Addictions Counselor: Hope Ministries, Pleasant Hill, IA

Vice President of Advancement: Springs Rescue Mission, Colorado Springs, CO

Vice President of Shared Services: Springs Rescue Mission, Colorado Springs, CO

Weekend Supervisor – Champa House: Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO



Big Prayers

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen" (Ephesians 3:20–21).

Have you ever thought about how limited your knowledge is? Think of all of the books in your school or local library and guess how many of them you have read. Probably not even a shelf's worth. There are so many things that go on in science, literature, politics, or mechanics that we can never know a small fraction of what they all do or mean.

Now think about God and his knowledge. He knows everything because He created everything. He is the God who split the Red Sea and brought Lazarus back to life. He is the God who brought the 10 plagues on Egypt and healed the paralytic. Not only is He knowledgeable, but He is powerful. So why do we come to Him in prayer with what we only know in our little box of knowledge of how things should work in our little universe?

Paul tells the church in Ephesus that they can pray big prayers. God can do more than we can even ask or

think. He also does it through us and it all brings glory to Jesus. You see, we can pray big prayers because they will point to Jesus and not ourselves. We won't get the credit, but He will.

As you pray, ask God to help you step out of your comfort zone and to direct you to the big prayers He wants you to pray. Should you be praying for the person who would "never" change their ways and follow Jesus? Should you be praying for God to change a community that wants nothing to do with him?

You get the idea, right?

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To contribute: If you would like to write a devotional thought for StreetLight, please make it about 200 words and include at least one Bible verse or passage, and submit via [email](mailto:editor@agrm.org).

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