



Your twice-a-month e-newsletter from AGRM

Useful news and information for association members

Volume 11 Number 3 | February 1, 2017 | www.agrm.org

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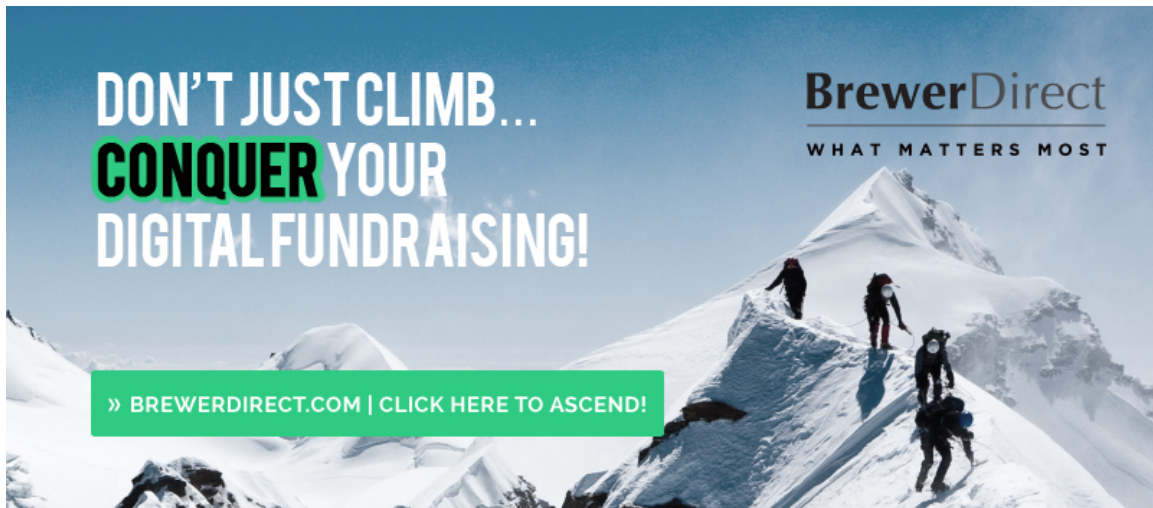
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ourstreet
News from AGRM and our members

Baylor Study Presented at National Press Club Today

Even as you read this, the 11-city study showing the reach of faith-based organizations (as opposed to government or government-funded organizations) is being presented at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. today. Approximately 130 guests—including nonprofit leaders, government officials, and members of the media—are attending.

The study, which was, in part, coordinated by AGRM and member missions in the 11 cities studied, concludes that faith-based organizations likely provide greater assistance to our nation's homeless individuals than all other sources combined: federal and state government, municipalities, and non-faith affiliated not-for-profits. In fact, among the cities surveyed, faith-based organizations supplied nearly 60 percent of emergency shelter beds.

You can access a PDF of the full report on Baylor University's Institute for Studies of Religion [website](#). This study—and the ramifications—will be explained, in full, at the upcoming DC Forum.

Don't Miss AGRM's 2017 DC Forum

More than ever before, it's important to have a voice in Washington, D.C. Please consider having someone on your staff join us in the U.S. Capitol March 13–15 for an opportunity to demonstrate to new government leaders the importance of religious liberty and the value that

rescue missions bring to our cities.

The cost this year is just \$279 for the sessions and event arrangements (less than previous years). It includes all AGRM-led meetings, materials, program features, administrative costs, and meals/snacks designated in the schedule—including a special dinner at the Army and Navy Club. (Please note that attendees need to book their own accommodations.)

You can find all the details and registration at www.agrm.org/DCForum. With all that is happening in Washington, you need to have someone representing your mission at this event.

2017 Convention Registration Continues: Rate Increases March 1

Have you registered for AGRM's 2017 Annual Convention in Dallas, Texas? Hundreds already have. This important annual event will be held May 31–June 3 at the Hyatt Regency Reunion downtown. This year's convention, themed Strong Tower, features a New CEOs Immersion Course; an interactive prayer room; TED-Talk style general sessions; mission tours near the beginning and end of the event; a worship-focused general session; a chuck-wagon dinner in our expansive Exhibit Hall; and one of the best lineups of speakers we have ever had.

Visit our convention pages for this exciting event at www.agrm.org/2017convention. Just click the “register” button to get yourself and your staff signed up now. Keep in mind that the price goes up on March 1. Reminder: From all missions who register staff members between December 16, 2016 and February 28, 2017 (the date of the next rate increase), we will draw for a \$150 gift certificate to Ellen's Southern Kitchen, located near the convention hotel in Dallas' West End Historic District.

Movie's New Release Date Opens a Flood of Opportunities for AGRM Members

Mark your calendar for October 20. That's when your mission can host a red-carpet advanced screening of the movie *Same Kind of Different as Me*. Our promotional partner, Pure Flix, is developing a powerful “how-to” checklist for any mission that signs up for a red-carpet event. Nearly 90 missions are already signed up.

If you'd like to be added to the list, just click [here](#). You'll get up-to-date instructions and resources to make this event increase both awareness and donations for your mission.

New England or Atlanta?

Atlanta Mission CEO Jim Reese is letting Boston Rescue Mission CEO John Samaan know that the Falcons are prepared to sink their talons into the Patriots. If the Falcons lose Super

Bowl LI (51), Jim will send John enough biscuits and gravy to feed Boston Rescue Mission's guests breakfast for a day. John's counter is that if the Falcons win, he will send Jim several gallons of real maple syrup for a special breakfast for the Atlanta Mission guests.

Help AGRM Tell Our Collective Story

We're still looking for some great videos! As you tell the story of your mission visually, we'd like to extend that message to help tell the story of AGRM.

We would like to feature brief video stories of mission clients on AGRM's website. Thousands of people visit the public side of AGRM's website each month—many looking to locate local rescue missions—and we want to be clear what AGRM and our members are all about.

For more details or to submit a video link, please contact Director of Communications Brad Lewis at blewis@agrm.org.

Grants Available for Women's Domestic Violence Shelters

Every October, The Mary Kay Foundation observes National Domestic Violence Awareness Month by awarding grants to deserving women's domestic violence shelters across the United States. In 2016, the Foundation awarded \$20,000 grants to more than 150 women's domestic violence shelters across the nation for a total of \$3 million.

If your mission serves domestic violence victims—or perhaps are interested in starting a program to serve these women—visit the foundation's [website](#) for details.

Looking Down the Street...

- Herb Johnson has announced that he plans to step down as president and CEO of **San Diego Rescue Mission** (San Diego, California) after more than a decade of leadership. Read his retirement [announcement](#) in the *San Diego Union-Tribune*.
- Henry Young has been named CEO of **Las Cruces Gospel Rescue Mission Inc.** (Las Cruces, New Mexico). Former CEO Bob Jeska retired on December 31, 2016.
- Jason Bull is the new CEO at **Medford Gospel Rescue** (Medford, Oregon).
- Please welcome AGRM's business member **American Hospitality Supply** (Boca Raton, Florida). [Barry Medick](#) is the company's sales manager.



membershipstop

Highlights of AGRM member benefits

AGRM Member Benefit: Connections

In addition to the AGRM Connect Groups that help members discuss pertinent issues via email, AGRM also offers directories to help members make vital connections. Members can obtain contact information for missions—by name, location, or programs; business members—by name, location, or specialty; and individual members—by name, location, organization, or professional network. The mission and business member directories are available to the public as well under the *Locate* tab on every page of AGRM's website. For the individual member directory, login to the members side of the site is required.



mainstreet

Reports from North America's downtowns

More Than \$60,000 Raised for Homeless Teen in One Day

The power of a community coming together is being felt in a northern Texas city that helped raise more than \$60,000 in just one day for a homeless teenager described as the “nicest, most gracious person,” [reports](#) Fox News.

Colleen Hoover, the owner of a nonprofit bookstore in Sulphur Springs, launched a GoFundMe campaign on Wednesday to help out Anthony, a 19-year-old who she says has pulled through life despite his mother abandoning him four years ago and being homeless for much of that time. The residents of Sulphur Springs have rallied together to help him out—businesses gave him food, offered him odd jobs for money, and even opened some places early so he could catch some hours of sleep off the streets.

Anthony's story has touched more people than those in Sulphur Springs, about 90 miles northeast of Dallas. More than 2,100 people from around the world have donated more than \$60,400 and counting in just one day.

Nation's First “Safe-Injection” Sites Approved in Seattle

Officials in Seattle approved the nation's first “safe-injection” sites for users of heroin and other illegal drugs, calling the move a drastic but necessary response to an epidemic of addiction that is claiming thousands of lives each year, [reports](#) *The Washington Post*.

The sites—which offer addicts clean needles, medical supervision, and quick access to drugs that reverse the effects of an overdose—have long been popular in Europe. Now, with

the U.S. death toll rising, the idea is gaining traction in a number of American cities, including Boston, New York City, and Ithaca, New York.

While opponents say the sites promote illegal drug use, supporters say they can keep people alive and steer them toward treatment. They compare supervised injection facilities to the needle exchanges that became popular in the 1980s and 1990s as a way to slow the spread of HIV and hepatitis C among intravenous drug users.

Cold Weather Really Can Make You Sick

Growing up, your mom might have warned you to stay out of the cold if you wanted to avoid getting sick. But you've probably dismissed that advice as an old wives tale. After all, viruses and bacteria are what make you sick—not the weather. Right?

Turns out, your mother might have been right all along. At least that's what the results of a new study seem to imply, [reports](#) Fox News.

Researchers from Sweden and Scotland collected over 20,000 nasal swabs over a three-year period to detect respiratory illnesses. Then they analyzed local weather data. The researchers discovered that outbreaks of respiratory infections like the flu and respiratory syncytial virus—a virus that causes cold-like symptoms—began during each year's first low-humidity, below-freezing week. In other words, the winter chill kick-started flu season.

Viruses—like those that cause flu—travel in liquid particles, which survive better in dry, cold climates, the authors theorize. This type of air absorbs extra moisture, leaving the particles light enough to stay airborne. That means they're more accessible for someone else to breathe in—and catch something from..



One in Four Americans Still Using Tobacco

More than 25 percent American adults and nearly one out of 10 teens still use tobacco, according to findings from the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Habits (PATH) Study, [reports](#) Yahoo News.

Americans could be forgiven for thinking that the war on tobacco had been won. In 2015, smoking rates hit an all-time low of 15.1 percent. Since the Surgeon General first raised alarms about smoking's health risks in 1964, the drop in smoking has saved an estimated 8 million lives, adding 157 million years to lives that otherwise could have been cut short by

tobacco. But as traditional cigarettes get stubbed out, e-cigarettes are taking their place.

The study, published online ahead of its publication in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, looked beyond cigarette use. Researchers asked 32,320 adults and 13,651 teenagers about their use of 12 types of tobacco products, including cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, and hookah.

They found that 27.6 percent of adults and 8.9 percent of teenagers had used at least one of these products during the past 30 days. Among those who used more than one, cigarettes and e-cigarettes were the most common combination. Even as use of the former has dropped, e-cigarettes, which heat a nicotine solution for inhalation, have become popular in recent years. High school students' use of the devices grew from 1.5 percent in 2011 to 16 percent in 2016.

Could Homelessness Be Classified as a Medical Condition?

Josh Green, a Democratic state senator in Hawaii, feels that the Medicaid budget could be used as the source to fund the problem of homelessness in his state. A bill introduced by the senator in the Hawaii legislature classifies homelessness as a medical condition.

According to the bill, doctors would be allowed to prescribe housing facilities and insurance companies would assist in covering expenses, [reports Tech Times](#).

Green, who is also an emergency room doctor, found out more about this issue treating homeless patients suffering from diabetes, mental health problems, and an array of diseases.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, some 54 out of 10,000 people have been found to be homeless in Hawaii.

Donor Communication Increases in a Digital Age

Digital donors are pushing charities to communicate with them the way they prefer, [reports The Nonprofit Times](#).

Millennials identified social media as their preferred method in 43 percent of cases, followed by email at 21 percent. Baby Boomers and Gen Xers both prefer email, 30 percent and 26 percent, followed by social media, 21 percent and 24 percent.

Nonprofits across the globe have responded. Three-quarters of organizations worldwide accept online donations. In addition, 95 percent of organizations have a Facebook page, 92 percent have a website, and 83 percent use Twitter.

The varying levels of engagement and giving mechanisms among generations is an important takeaway from the report. Nearly three-quarters (72 percent) of Millennials prefer to give online, as compared to 54 percent of Baby Boomers. Organizational strategies might be informed by such differences, depending on the type of donor being targeted.



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.

Care Support Specialist: Light of Life Ministries, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA

Care Team Leader: Light of Life Ministries, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA

Case Manager, Men's Ministries: Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

Casework Services Supervisor: The City Mission, Cleveland, OH

Caseworker for Jubilee Ministries (PT): Jubilee Ministries, Inc., Lebanon, PA

Church Partnerships & Grants: The Bowery Mission, New York, NY

Counselor, Men's Ministries: Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

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

Development Director: Montana Rescue Mission, Billings, MT

Director of Accounting: St. Matthew's House, Inc., Naples, FL

Director of Development: Rockford Rescue Mission Ministries, Inc., Rockford, IL

Distribution and Processing Director: Jubilee Ministries, Inc., Lebanon, PA

Event Specialist: Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO

Executive Director: Union Gospel Mission, Winnipeg, MB

Health and Wellness Center Director: San Francisco Rescue Mission, San Francisco, CA

HR Manager: Rescue Mission Alliance, Oxnard, CA

Human Resources Manager: Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

Manager - Crossroads Men's Crisis Center: The City Mission, Cleveland, OH

Manager of Street Engagement: Light of Life Ministries, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA

Ministry Associate: Montana Rescue Mission, Billings, MT

Program Director: Campus of Hope, Conroe, TX

Program Director/Associate Director: King's Gospel Mission, Hanford, CA

Recovery Program Coordinator: Westminster Rescue Mission, Westminster, MD

Rescue Mission Director: Central Coast Rescue Mission, Santa Maria, CA

Resident Assistant, Center for Women & Children: Bay Area Rescue Mission, Richmond, CA

Residential Coordinator_Cornerstone Manor Facility: Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

Shelter Desk Manager: Jericho Road Ministries, Inc., Brooksville, FL

Supervisor of Men's Long-term Programming: Kalamazoo Gospel Mission, Kalamazoo, MI

Thrift Store Supervisor: Victor Valley Super Thrift, Hesperia, CA

Thrift Store Supervisor: Central Coast Super Thrift, Santa Maria, CA

Transitional Programs Case Manager, Part-Time : Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

Vice President for People and Culture: Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

Volunteer Relations Coordinator: Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO

VP of Advancement: Water Street Ministries, Lancaster, PA



Time to Ripen

But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop (Luke 8:15).

The parable of the sower and the seed is ever popular, and it's likely you've heard it before. After telling the parable, Jesus proceeded to explain its meaning to the disciples. Look at the last sentence in His explanation: The seed that falls on the good soil is the seed that bears fruit in accordance with the Gospel. It is the seed that decides to follow Jesus during thick and thin.

We often overlook the word "persevering." Seed takes time to bear fruit. But we don't really like to hear that. Aren't we supposed to die to ourselves and be new creatures right away (Romans 6:6-7)? Doesn't the gospel produce the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-24)? The

answer to these is “Yes”! But, it takes time.

Often, we want to produce good fruit in our lives immediately, and we get discouraged when we feel we are falling short. Jesus knows this about us, and in that we must realize that we don't have to fake perfection for those around us. In fact, lack of honesty and humility in our journey can lead to sinful pride that separates us from God. How much better is it for us to be honest in our journey and realize that with patience we will bear all the fruit that accompanies the Gospel.

As followers of Jesus, we all have different struggles and vices. Some we can overcome right away, while others might take years or even a lifetime. Be encouraged today that Jesus doesn't expect you to bear all your fruit in one day. Take it day by day, as you put your faith in Him.

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