

Nonprofit Chamber of Services
Nonprofit of the Week

This series has been established with the intent of increasing awareness of the many causes and efforts taken on by our nonprofit brethren. If your nonprofit has a particular event taking place during the course of a week, an anniversary for example, please make this known and we will do all possible to accommodate a spotlight that coincides. On behalf of our membership, we wish to say “thank you” for taking a few moments from your busy schedule to learn a bit more about our community of nonprofits.

Restoring hope and protecting the dignity of needy families is no easy task, but it is the task United Methodist Urban Ministry will be undertaking this month as they distribute over 1300 turkeys, ensuring all families in our community, despite their financial situation, are able to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving dinner together. UMUM’s annual Turkey Drive and Food Box Distribution is just one of the ways they meet their mission of providing for basic human needs, promoting positive life changes, and restoring hope and protecting dignity.

During the month of November over 3400 families in the Wichita area will receive a good nutritious box of food from UMUM. Due to the influx of families in need of food during this season, B98 FM, a ClearChannel radio station annually sponsors a Turkey Drive on behalf of UMUM. This year’s turkey drive will be on November 17th from 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Drop off locations will be at the old Piccadilly building and at the Junior League Store at Parklane Shopping Center, lower level at Oliver and Harry.

UMUM was established in 1965 by a group of Methodist clergy and laity who felt that the church should be more responsive to the advocacy needs of the community. In 1981, as the country entered a severe economic crisis and deep cuts were made in many social programs, UMUM became more involved in direct service to the members of the community.

The UMUM’s Community Food Ministry, located at 1611 North Mosly, provides food to low-income people all year round. The program serves an average of over 2,700 families per month, which includes some 4,000 children. As with other non-profits serving the poor in our community, UMUM is experiencing a growing client load coupled with decreasing donations caused by the weak economy and recent layoffs. UMUM’s consistency in providing for the poor of our community despite increasingly challenging circumstances is a testament to the creativity and energy that abounds from their leadership. Deann Smith has been the Executive Director of UMUM for the last 4 ½ years and was on their Board of Directors prior to that. Deann also serves on the BOD for the Nonprofit Chamber of Service.

For more information on UMUM’s Community Food Ministry, as well as the other community services they provide, please check out their website at www.umum.org or call them at 316.265.9371.

