Partners for Change

For the last 9 months, I have had the privilege of working as the Development Director at the Madison-area Urban Ministry (MUM). From my personal experiences to my strong faith background, MUM has been one of the most fulfilling organizations I have ever worked for.

As an immigrant, I have always valued two things: access to opportunity and community. I have valued the many opportunities I have taken advantage of, while also realizing that those opportunities were not accessible to everyone. Being an Alumna of the University of Wisconsin-Madison where I received my Bachelors, and Cardinal Stritch University, where I received my Masters in Business Administration, I have been grateful to have the opportunity to expand my education. This has given me the lens to be passionate about working with different communities.

I have served on several boards and committees of various organizations including: Wisconsin Youth Company, African Women Association, Madinah Academy, The Morgridge Center-University of Wisconsin Women Entrepreneurs, YWCA, and the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce Small Business Advisory Council. In addition, in my Muslim community, I started a youth group for middle and high school students called Muslim Youth of Madison (MYM). I have always had the drive to work with people of all backgrounds to provide opportunities for people who lack resources and to also bring communities together.

While many are given access to opportunities, my work at MUM has exposed me to the barriers many people face. The concept of second chances is one aspect that is unique to MUM. Facing negative stigma, individuals who are returning to our community from prison often are met with judgments and obstacles. MUM challenges and changes this stigma, gives people a second chance at rebuilding their lives and gives them a sense of empowerment. Not only does this positively impact the person, but it allows for an economic investment in the community. MUM has a profound impact on this city, but often goes unrecognized. For example, our “Journey Home” program highlights that MUM’s recidivism rate (return to prison for either a new crime or a violation of supervision rules) is below 7% compared to 67% statewide. This eye-opening statistic truly shows how MUM makes a difference and lives up to its goals and core values.

As a Muslim woman, my faith pushes me to work towards justice and to spread compassion and mercy to those around me. The work MUM does in the community is also rooted in similar values of social justice and faith. As explained by the MUM vision through the words of William Sloane Coffin: “Charity yes, always, but never as a substitute for justice.” This call challenges us to fight for justice, regardless of the obstacles. It also calls for the entire community to be involved -- from individuals, businesses and faith-based organizations to all community groups.

As Development Director, one of my main objectives is to recognize the support MUM receives while also showcasing our work to the community at large. We are organizing our first “Partners for Change Luncheon” on April 12th. This luncheon will serve a twofold purpose: first, to provide our community with the opportunity to become more involved with MUM and to showcase our work over the years. Secondly, we are celebrating our 43rd anniversary of inspiring social good and investing in our community.

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The work of MUM is impossible without the support of donors, volunteers, partners and community leaders like you. Our services at MUM are free to our clients and to maintain the services we provide, the need for support from the community is constantly present. The individuals that come to our doors often arrive with nothing, and yet face so many obstacles along their way. By giving them a second chance, we not only improve the lives of individuals but also invest in our community. Regardless of how difficult the work may be, MUM will always be here for the most vulnerable in our city, with open doors and open hearts.

Please come and celebrate with us on April 12th.

Nasra Wehelie
Development Director
Questions on Partners for Change?
  Please contact nasra@emum.org

For tickets & to sponsor
**Partners for Change Luncheon**
Tuesday, April 12
11:30 to 1:30
At The Madison Concourse Hotel
www.emum.org

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Thank you to all our community partners! Your donations and support make a profound impact.

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**In memory of:**

Edward E. Daub  
From Cynthia Bush  
To support social justice work

Donald E. Dushek  
From the Dushek Family  
To support Healing House

Helen Edna Edwards  
From Judith Wilson to celebrate Helen’s love of reading and to support Reading Connections

Jerry Kaufman  
President of Growing Power  
From his wife, Judith Zukerman to remember his work with Chuck Pfeiffer and to support MUM’s work with children of incarcerated parents

William Ketcham  
&  
Jeffery Ketcham  
From Carolyn Ketcham and Peter Warshaw to support social justice advocacy

Gordie Kowing  
From George Ball  
To support MUM’s work

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**In honor of:**

David Schrankler  
Honored by Gerald and Arlene Schrankler  
In support of second chances and Just Bakery’s career training program for men and women facing employment challenges

MUM thanks these donors for their contributions to social justice

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**Dialogue** is a reflective journal of faith and action printed by Madison-area Urban Ministry staff. The positions expressed here are the opinions of the authors and not necessarily the board of directors or funding sources of MUM. Faith communities and all individual members receive a copy. Individual membership in MUM is encouraged. Please mail contributions to our address below or visit MUM’s website.
Who is my neighbor?

Many of our long-time supporters will recall that the original name of our Returning Prisoner Simulation was “Who is My Neighbor?” Language is powerful; it can be used to continue to promote the sort of stigma that Nasra’s cover article refers to, as in the use of the word “offender” when referring to someone who has returned from prison. We changed the name of our simulation initially because people didn’t have a clear understanding of what the activity or event was about. All these years later, we sometimes wish we had kept the original name because it better describes our mission and philosophy at MUM.

The reality is that the men, women and youth who return to our communities after having been incarcerated are our neighbors. The men, women and youth returning to our community from prison are returning citizens: they pay taxes (sales tax, property tax – yes, property taxes are built into rents, payroll taxes, etc.); they work and/or are looking for work; often they are volunteering in our community; they attend school and training programs; they are caregivers, parents, children and members of families, workplaces and congregations. If they are on supervision, they are being taxed without the right to vote (representation). If a returning prisoner is undocumented, they often have been convicted of immigration related offenses (a rapidly growing sentencing pattern, especially in Federal prisons) and they are likely to have no legal path to citizenship, and to face deportation and the breakup of their families.

Too often our returning neighbors are denied access to employment, housing, credit, and education. This is true even many years after they have fulfilled their sentence, or even after they are released from prison having been exonerated of the crime for which they were convicted, sentenced and incarcerated. Years of incarceration have denied prisoners the opportunity to earn credits in the Social Security system (although they may have held prison jobs during their incarceration). On average, the age and health status of returning prisoners over age 50 is 10 years above their actual chronological age, and upon return to the community many have minimal access to health or dental care, or to adequate mental health and addiction treatment. Yet we have policy makers and politicians who tout that we are the “land of opportunity” and of “second chances” even though their policies do little or nothing to foster ideals that might become a reality for everyone. As Nasra wrote, providing real opportunity and second chances for our returning neighbors “allows for an economic investment in the community.”

We need your partnership. We need you to push back on policy makers who propose ordinances and legislation that further criminalizes poverty and that further punishes returning citizens, creates classes of citizenship, and exacerbates the crisis faced by undocumented people. We need those of you who are landlords to commit to offering that second chance. We need you employers to open the doors at your business and offer opportunities. We can tell you from our experience at MUM, returning neighbors make some of the best employees. Fifty five percent of our current employees at MUM have walked that journey from prison gate to city limits and they have made our organization stronger, our commitment to justice deeper, and our community safer.

In faith,
Linda Ketcham
Director

Healing House update

Many of you have been asking about our progress for Healing House. We continue to be in conversation with the three area hospitals regarding possible support of the project. Our fundraising efforts continue and we are collecting more and more data about the need for the program as we talk more in-depth with Joining Forces for Families Social Workers, Transitional Education Program Social Workers, hospital social workers and discharge planners, emergency room staff and Public Health staff. We’re well on our way and ask for your patience and ongoing support as we continue to work toward what will be the first medical respite in Wisconsin.
Dear Friends:

This spring, Madison-area Urban Ministry (MUM) invites you to join us at our Partners for Change Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 12 at The Madison Concourse Hotel. Please celebrate with us as we pause to observe our 43rd year of working together to support our most vulnerable neighbors. Looking to the future, we commit ourselves to continue the powerful work of showing up for each other with care, attention, and an array of services designed to inspire life-affirming choices, which then sustain all of us who share our life and work in this community.

Our Master of Ceremonies, Steven Goldberg, Executive Director of CUNA Mutual Foundation and Director of Community Relations for CUNA Mutual Group, will lead us through a brief and inspiring program. We will hear from Michael Johnson, President and CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County, who will share his insights on second chances, stewardship of community resources and coalition building. Linda Ketcham, MUM’s Executive Director, will update us and share the profound impact your support and donations have in our community. MUM program participants will inspire and share their personal journeys of growth and connection.

The Forty-Third Anniversary Celebration is a Fundraiser to support MUM’s core programs and build MUM’s capacity to serve the people of Dane County. Sponsors will receive recognition in our event program, newsletter and on our website.

Please join us to celebrate past accomplishments and anticipate all we can do together.

Sincerely

Rev. Stephen Marsh  Mary Fulton
Board President  Board Vice President

Celebrating MUM’s 43 years!

PARTNERS FOR CHANGE LUNCHEON (Tuesday, April 12)

___ I/We would like to reserve ____ seats at $43 per person  $ _______

___ I/We would like to become sponsors at the individual/family level  

___ Partner ($300) 3 tickets  $ _______

___ Activist ($200) 2 tickets  $ _______

___ Social Change ($100) 1 ticket  $ _______

___ I/We will be unable to attend but wish to make a donation of  $ _______

Please list your name/s as you would like them to appear:

Name/s _________________________________________________________________

Email _____________________________________________  Phone ____________

Menu preference  

___ Salmon  ___ Veggie  ________________________________  

___ Salmon  ___ Veggie  ________________________________  

___ Salmon  ___ Veggie  ________________________________

Please RSVP by April 1st to MUM, 2300 S. Park Street, #2022, Madison, WI 53713
Or donate and purchase tickets online at www.emum.org
PARTNERS FOR CHANGE LUNCHEON

Come and see the profound impact your donation and support have in our community.

Keynote Speaker: Michael Johnson
President & CEO
Boys & Girls Club of Dane County

M.C.: Steve Goldberg
Executive Director
CUNA Mutual Foundation

Tickets and Sponsorship Information:
www.emum.org
608-256-0906

43 Years: Inspiring social good—Investing in community.

29,000
22,000
400
3,310

MUM’s JUST BAKERY provided 29,000 hours of training last year in life skills, math tutoring, food chemistry, and commercial baking skills.

The JOURNEY HOME provided 22,000 hours of direct service assisting people in rebuilding their lives after prison.

The MENTORING, FAMILY AND READING CONNECTIONS program served more than 400 parents, caregivers, and children.

MUM staff and volunteers provided 3,310 hours of service through CIRCLES OF SUPPORT.

Sponsors:
CUNA Mutual Group
ZIMBRICK
Culver's
The Madison Concourse Hotel & Monon Center
MUM celebrates 43 years!

PARTNERS FOR CHANGE LUNCHEON

Tuesday, April 12
11:30 — 1:30
The Madison Concourse Hotel

Inspiring social good
Investing in community
Details: pages 1, 2, 4 & flyer

Expanding Just Bakery

MUM is currently collaborating with Porchlight to expand our Just Bakery program. Porchlight is building a new facility on Madison’s east side and within that space will be a training and production kitchen for Just Bakery. Currently Just Bakery rents the training and production kitchen space from the FEED Kitchen on Madison’s north side and our classroom space is donated by Lakeview Lutheran Church. This has worked incredibly well for us thus far; but as FEED becomes more popular and requests for catering from Just Bakery become more regular, we need greater training space and production access. The new space with Porchlight will include a classroom and eventually a storefront, which will allow us to add other career training components to Just Bakery. As we plan for this expansion, we will be working to raise the funds ($75,000 - $100,000) to purchase the equipment we’ll need for the new Just Bakery kitchen. We’re very excited about the plans. Having both Just Bakery and Porchlight Products in the same facility will expedite referrals to each of the programs and will offer greater co-marketing opportunities.

We’ll keep you posted on our progress. In the meantime, thank you for your continued support of Just Bakery, a program that provides free vocational training for people with chronic barriers to employment, including criminal conviction, homelessness and educational challenges. Our product outlets now include 30 faith communities, as well as local farmer’s markets and bazaars. Every penny of revenue is reinvested in the program. Just Bakery, rising above adversity!