

URBAN MINISTRY

A United Methodist Ministry of Compassion and Wholeness

December Newsletter

GIVE THE GIFT OF A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

You are paving the way to home ownership this Christmas season

Antonio loves Urban Ministry. In middle school he went through the Urban Kids after school program, and in high school he attended Community Church Without Walls and brought friends to the youth group.

Antonio makes a little over \$15k a year – 50% of his monthly paycheck goes to rent

Antonio loves the WE Garden. He taught neighbors about eating healthy and showed volunteers how to compost. Even though he had a lot of work to do, he was never too busy to put down his garden hoe and walk the neighbor's children to Hemphill Elementary.

Thanks to you, Antonio has the opportunity to be a homeowner in West End, the neighborhood he loves!



Antonio grew up in West End, volunteers at Community Church Without Walls and worked in West End Garden

Antonio volunteers to lead Community Church Without Walls' youth group. Every week after work, he drives to Urban, leads Bible Study, and cares for kids. He wants to give back. He shares the same love with middle and high schoolers at Urban Ministry that he experienced as a high schooler a decade ago.



Antonio volunteering at WE Cafe

Antonio wants to be a physical therapist. Right now, he works as an assistant therapist at UAB, and on top of his workload, he takes night classes. His job, his classes, and the pandemic make life hard. Somehow, he manages to budget his money and make ends meet, but there is no room for unexpected expenses. Antonio is responsible. His only debt comes from helping buy his mom a washer and dryer. She needed it, and he takes care of her whenever he can.

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Urban Ministry's WE Build program gives Antonio and other West End residents the chance to lease-to-own a home interest free. When Antonio finishes his degree and makes more money, his house payment will increase. Urban Ministry bases monthly house payments not on the value of a home, but on the capacity of the tenant. The day Antonio's rent covers the costs that Urban Ministry has invested in his home, we will sign the deed over to his name. Here is the best part: Gifts to WE Build keep on giving. When you give to WE Build it doesn't just help one person once, but it is a regenerating donation.



Antonio's new home, next to WE Garden

Your gift helps Antonio own a house and build wealth. Antonio will start the new year in a home that he can call his own. This year, give the gift of a home for the holidays. You can donate with the included donation card or online.



Meet Madaha, a local Birmingham poet that is contributing to our Advent Poetry Project!

A gift to WE Build gives people like Antonio the chance to celebrate the holidays in a home he can call his own.

Celebrate Advent with Urban Ministry

This year, Urban Ministry invites you to join us in celebrating Advent by reflecting on scripture together. We will feature poems and meditations on daily lectionary readings throughout the Advent season by local poets Madaha Lewis & Christina Toney-Schmitt. You can find our reflections on social media.

Follow Urban on Social Media:
Instagram: urbanministryinc
Facebook: Urban Ministry, Inc
Twitter: @UrbanMinBham

Lets look at all the incredible work you did at Urban during the pandemic:

- 627 families recieved food
- 25,282 lbs of food pantry and fresh produce distributed
- Over 7,500 meals cooked, prepared, and delivered since March
- Over \$168,000 in financial assistance

Want email updates from Urban Ministry? Let us know and we'll put you on our email list!