

2017 UPLift Report to the Congregation of University Presbyterian Church

THANK YOU to all of you who make UPLift possible! You are an important part of the work we do and you matter to the people we serve. This outreach ministry at UPC is able to assist our neighbors in need because of YOU and your very generous support!

The following report shows how your gifts have made a difference in the past year in the lives of those in our community who struggle to maintain life's basic needs.

Where does the money to fund UPLift come from?

Gifts from the UPC congregation and fundraisers provide the funding for UPLift.

\$11,266.00 - balance carried over from 2016

\$25,500.00 – support from the UPC Service Committee, UPC operating budget

\$22,018.33 – Our “Invisible Saints”(contributions from UPC congregation)

\$11,935.25 – Fundraisers – Amplify ATX-\$10,134.00; Supper & Substance,
\$369.00; Alternative Gift Market-\$1,432.00

\$70,719.58 – Funds supporting UPLift in 2017

How were UPLift funds used in 2017?

The dollar amounts listed below are from the UPLift Summary report from UPC's Financial Manager. The numbers of clients served are approximate.

• Rental/Housing assistance	\$17,912.28*	- 308 clients
• Utility assistance (electricity, gas, water)	\$17,734.00**	- 364 clients
• Vision assistance-Eye exams/glasses	\$ 6,658.00	- 98 clients
• Assistance with work boots	\$ 3,868.94	- 102 clients
• Capital Metro bus passes	\$ 8,904.00	- 1,575+ clients
• Other mission expenses	\$ 3,524.83	- ??
• Administrative expenses/office supplies	<u>\$ 1,624.81</u>	
Total UPLift expenditure for 2017	\$60,226.86	2,651+ clients

*Rental assistance is provided to clients in one of two ways. Our agreement with Foundation Communities provides \$100 in rental assistance to clients who are referred by FC and who bring a voucher to UPLift. (limited to 8 vouchers per month) The remaining rental funds are provided to clients at the discretion of the counselors, following an extensive interview.

**Utility assistance is also provided in two ways. The utility assistance provided with UPLift funds includes gas, water and electric bills, as shown above, and is limited to \$50 once every 6 months. In addition, UPLift is one of 50 Plus 1

Partners with Austin Energy. UPLift does not receive any funds as a Partner, but is able to assist with client's Austin Energy bills through an allotment.

In 2017 UPLift expended **\$23,670.52** through our Plus 1 allotment to **204** clients – making the total assistance that UPLift provided for utilities **\$41,404.52** and serving nearly **570** clients! In total, UPLift distributed **\$83,897.38** in assistance to those in our community in need!!

UPLift has a dedicated group of about 35 UPLift Saints who help administer this UPC outreach each Tuesday morning, and an equally dedicated group of “Invisible Saints” who support UPLift with their financial gifts. And every Tuesday UPLift clients are treated to a nutritious mid-morning snack by our Kitchen Krew – a special group of creative, awesome cooks, who make something special out of whatever is available – all served up with warm smiles and on occasion with a song!

Please note - the Kitchen Krew and the ladies who provide hygiene kits do not operate within the UPLift budget. All of the food that is served and all of the soap, shampoo, and other toiletry items provided to our clients is donated!

UPLift faces a number of challenges in 2018 as each week the number of clients coming to our door on Tuesday morning increases. How do we help our clients who need assistance with rent, and utilities in a meaningful way? Rental expenses are very high in Austin and we can only provide a partial payment. How do we treat our clients fairly and compassionately? Each client's situation is different and we try to be flexible, but we must also be fair. How do we network with other agencies to better assist our clients? I am confident that we will meet these challenges as we seek to live out our mission to “offer Christ's hospitality and generosity in a welcoming environment that affirms the worth and dignity of all people.”

UPLift will again participate in Amplify Austin - the city-wide day of giving – on **March 1-2**. Our goal is to raise **\$12,000.00** to help our brothers and sisters who are struggling with basic needs. Please give generously, your support means so much!!

Come see this ministry at work! Visit us in the Great Hall any Tuesday morning. We're here by about 8:30, and would be glad for you to join us!

Thank you again for your generosity to UPLift in 2017!

In Christ,
Madelyn Mitchell for the UPLift Steering Committee