

Dear Friends,

As one year comes to an end and the new one is about to begin, we at The United Methodist Church Union are very grateful and eager for new opportunities. Daily Bread, Kids Meal Network, The Learning Hub, the Reading & Mentoring Program and other ministries are successfully meeting needs and offering hope to those entrusted to our care. And there is so much more for us to do together!



Here's a story about a man named Shamon who has been impacted by your support...

It was a very cold and snowy afternoon in 2008 when an 11-year-old boy knocked on the door of Rev. Larry's home and asked if he could shovel the walks. Little did he know, but the home was the parsonage, and the walk went all around the church, too! Soon after, the young boy was tasked with not just shoveling, but also garden work and polishing the 33 pews at the local church. This was the beginning of a 15-year relationship that continues today and has expanded to include a full Church Union effort according to that young boy who is now a man.

Over the years, Shamon returned to Church Union for guidance when making difficult choices and for assistance when faced with economic challenges related to housing, education, and everyday living. As a Church Union Supporter, you have been part of the village that has "kind of raised me" according to Shamon. Your gifts have enabled staff to lift up Shamon by writing recommendation letters for college and for post grad fellowships, helping with school and housing costs, and providing summer jobs like working with Kids Meal Network. Shamon has expressed his gratitude over and over to "every single person" at Church Union who has "stayed with him" to help him work towards his dreams. That village includes you!

Today, Shamon is a 27-year-old Westminster College graduate with a degree in Marketing Professional Sales. He is working on developing his own business, Shine, while he works at other jobs to make ends meet. Recently, Church Union hired Shamon as a Site Manager at The Bridge in Northview Heights. Shamon said, "I think this is the prayer that I asked for". Actually, he is also the answer to our prayers. Funny how that works.

In a recent conversation Shamon shared that his relationship with Church Union is just one example of the impact that can be made on young Northsiders. Church Union is a place "where young folks with aspirations are supported." That is the kind of impact that your gift has on the children of Greater Pittsburgh. Shamon is just one example. Thousands of children have been impacted by our Reading & Mentoring Program, Kids Meal Network, Preschool Scholarship, and The Learning Hub programs.



As you make your year end gifts, please consider a gift to Church Union. We need your financial gifts to keep these vital programs going. There are more Shamons in our community who need resources. We need your financial gifts to continue a positive impact in the greater community. Your dollars enable hope!

God Bless you for your prayers, your time, and your financial support. What you do matters.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rev. Larry Homitsky".

Rev. Larry Homitsky