



Your twice-a-month e-newsletter from Citygate Network

Useful news and information for members

Volume 13 Number 12 | June 17, 2019 | www.citygatenetwork.org

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Attendees Tout Palm Springs Conference as One of the Best Ever

Citygate Network's 2019 Annual Conference and Exposition is in the books, but its effects will be felt for months to come. Here are some comments we've received from attendees:

- "The Citygate Conference really helped me get direction as a new director of development. Having only been on the job for three months, the ability to connect with others in the same industry, doing the same work, was worth every penny to attend. The Lord used these connections to remind me again that it was Him who called me to this work and it will be Him who provides what our mission needs. So grateful to be able to attend and can't wait to come back!"
- "As a first-time attendee, I left refreshed in my spirit, renewed in my faith, and more prepared to move forward in my role as COO! I feel as though I garnered insights from some of the best in this field, and will endeavor to put the information into practice to the ultimate benefit of our treasured guests!"
- "I look forward to the conference every year. The connections and training have been instrumental in taking our organization to the next level. Each year, I know that God will have something for me in a conversation, class, or general session. I don't dare to miss it!"
- "I am always encouraged and reinvigorated at the Citygate annual conference. I come back home with new ideas and inspiration for my work and our mission—and also a renewal of the spirit! It is a blessing."
- "This conference was more of a spiritual retreat than any conference I have ever attended. I was blessed by God's ministry directly to my heart as well as to my team and the mission we serve."
- "The Citygate Network Annual Conference is the best conference I attend every year. Hands down, the best training and most uplifting!"
- "Another exciting Citygate Network conference! Grateful to meet people from all over the U.S., Canada, and even Barbados! Insightful seminars, general sessions, and we had a chance to laugh together—a nice respite from our daily work at the ministry. Pool and sunshine was excellent as well."
- "I've been in rescue ministry executive leadership for more than 33 years. This was the best conference I've ever attended. I believe the enthusiasm and synergy experienced at the event will continue to promote the growth of a collective impact among Christ-centered ministries that is desperately needed throughout North America."
- "The conference was rejuvenating and life-giving for me. I did not know what to expect since it was my first time attending, but I left feeling uplifted with a fresh excitement about ministry and my passion for Jesus. Thank you, Citygate Network team, for being sensitive to the needs of your members and God's direction for the conference!"

- “We sent 13 people to this convention. Huge investment and worth every penny we spent. Best ever, I believe!”
- “What a wealth of information and resources! We felt as if we were drinking from a firehose... but in a wonderful way. Every topic, speaker, and resource we were introduced to enriched and encouraged us. It was more than worth the cost. I can’t really say enough good things. We have fresh vision, ideas, and inspiration to move forward with new tools, resources, and support to transform lives.”

Set aside the dates now for the 2020 event, which will be held in San Antonio, Texas, May 27–30. Of course, you’ll be hearing much more about speakers and other activities in the weeks ahead.

A Few Conference Follow-Up Items

Some attendees did not receive **tote bags** at this year’s event, and we found a box of them as we were cleaning up! So if you did not receive a tote bag, email Stacie Hughes at shughes@citygatenetwork.org, and she will get one in the mail to you. Offer good while supplies last.

Our **conference app** this year was wildly successful, with more than 80 percent of attendees downloading and using it. If you used the app, you can leave it on your mobile device for a while and continue to use it for networking, viewing photos from the event, or tracking down the instructor to that awesome seminar you attended. The app will be available for six months.

A number of organizational members were honored Monday evening in Citygate Network’s annual **Media Innovation Competition**. The awards honor some of the most effective printed and digital media created by our members. Citygate Network members submitted more than 500 entries for this year’s contest. Visit www.citygatenetwork.org/2019MICawards to view all of this year’s winners.

Register for Tomorrow’s Development Webinar

Space is still available in Citygate Network’s Quarterly Resource Development Webinar, which will be held tomorrow (June 18) at 10:30 a.m. MDT.

The webinar will take a deep dive into the topic of inspiring first-time givers and occasional donors to becoming lifetime and legacy benefactors. This educational opportunity is free for members of Citygate Network, and we still have room for you to join us. Our presenters are eager to share new ideas, insights, and practices that will lead you and your donors down a fruitful path. This webinar is sponsored by The Focus Group and Money for Ministry, and representatives from both agencies will be presenting.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about how to join the webinar. To register, click [here](#).

2019 Ripple Effect Cohorts Begin in June and July

Citygate Network’s Ripple Effect Board Acceleration Program kicks off 2019 with its first cohort event in Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 27–28. We have room for a couple more ministry boards, but you’ll have to act fast. Another option is our second cohort event in the Los Angeles, California, area, July 11–12. These events are the starting point for a nine-month program that also includes on-site board consultation, a webinar, and an online repository of governance resources.

To learn more about the program or to reserve your board's spot, contact Ripple Effect Program Director Ed Morgan, at ed@inspirationalleadership.com or 917-576-6604. To register, visit www.citygatenetwork.org > Events and select the Ripple Effect cohort location you are interested in joining.

Summer and Fall Events Just Around the Corner

The dates are set for Citygate Network's CEO Summit, which will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 27–29. CEOs, be sure to block out this important time on your calendar, and watch for an email coming later this week with much more information, including how to register.

In addition, dates and locations are all set for district conferences this fall. In fact, registration is now available for three of the events (Rawhide, Great Lakes, and Liberty Districts). Please visit www.citygatenetwork.org, and click on the Events link at the top of the page.

Citygate Benefits Program Growing and Improving

At about halfway through the first year of the program, a checkup of the Citygate Benefits program reveals that it's healthy and growing! Some 60 people attended an information session at the 2019 Annual Conference and heard about how the program is delivering solid health benefits at a rate that's well below what the average member ministry can obtain on its own. New members are preparing to enroll throughout 2019.

What's more, the program has launched two new benefits. The first one is KnovaSolutions, a special program for members who have a higher risk profile, due to the number of physicians they're seeing or number of prescriptions they're using. This is a confidential and voluntary personal health service provided by an independent team of nurse clinicians and pharmacists who can be a resource for information and decision support. The second program enhancement is a Medicare consulting service to help program members ages 63 and over navigate decisions related to Medicare.

If you'd like to learn more about Citygate Benefits and how its changing the landscape of health insurance for its members, visit www.citygatebenefits.com or send an email to benefits@citygatenetwork.org.

Citygate Network Certification Program Offers Conference Discount

If you were able to join us for our annual conference in Palm Springs, you saw member ministries receiving their certifications in every general session. Through Citygate Network's Certification program, member ministries have access to a very comprehensive management and organizational review that demonstrates the ministry's commitment to excellence, helps ensure good stewardship and accountability, promotes trust, reduces exposure to legal and liability problems, and can even earn the ministry a significant discount on insurance. To learn more about the certification program, visit www.citygatenetwork.org/agrm/Certification_Program1.asp. If you registered any attendees for the annual conference, you also have access to a special discount for the certification program, available only through June 30. To claim the conference special on certification, visit www.citygatenetwork.org/certificationspecial.



Amazon Plans to Donate \$8 Million to Fight Homelessness

Amazon announced last week that it will donate \$8 million to fight homelessness in its two headquarter cities, Seattle and Arlington, Virginia. The initial donation will include \$5 million to Plymouth Housing in Seattle and \$3 million to the Arlington Community Foundation. Amazon will also match employee donations to some charities that address housing and homelessness in either location through September 30. Amazon said it will match up to \$5 million in employee donations. According to an [article](#) in *USA Today*, Amazon had previously opposed an effort from the local Seattle government last year to place taxes on big businesses to curb city taxes. The Seattle City Council eventually voted to repeal that tax hike, which would have raised \$48 million annually to fund the city's efforts to combat homelessness and provide affordable housing.

Homelessness Jumps 12 Percent In L.A. County and 16 Percent In the City

In a hard reality check for Los Angeles County's multibillion-dollar hope of ending homelessness, officials reported Tuesday that the number of people living on the streets, in vehicles, and in shelters increased by about 12 percent over last year. The annual point-in-time count, delivered to the Board of Supervisors, put the number of homeless people just shy of 59,000 countywide. Within the city of Los Angeles, the number soared to more than 36,000, a 16 percent increase. And as in past years, most—about 75 percent—were living outside, fueling speculation of a growing public health crisis of rats and trash near homeless encampments downtown. According to an [article](#) in the *Los Angeles Times*, the findings follow a string of similarly dire point-in-time counts from across California, as government officials struggle to respond more forcefully to the state's abject lack of affordable housing. The shortage is driving up rental prices, forcing people onto the streets at a rapid pace.

Hundreds of Austin's Homeless Now Have a Permanent Place to Stay With New Project

The world looks a little brighter from the front porch of your own home. It's a sight more than 200 formerly homeless people are waking up to each morning at the Community First Village in Austin, Texas. And they can take their time getting used to it; residents are invited to stay for the rest of their lives. Community First Village is built and run by the nonprofit Mobile Loaves and Fishes to lift the most chronically homeless off the streets and into a place they can call home. They live in about 100 RVs and 125 micro homes arranged on streets with names like "Peaceful Path" and "Goodness Way." Heavy machinery has broken ground on the neighboring 24 acres to add another 310 housing units. According to a [report](#) by KTLA 5, when the project is complete, Mobile Loaves and Fishes believes it will be able to provide permanent homes for approximately 40 percent of the chronically homeless in Austin.



Study Says Legalizing Medical Marijuana Doesn't Curb Opioid Overdose Deaths

More Americans are turning to marijuana to treat health issues, but legalizing medical weed is not projected to shrink the number of opioid-related deaths in the United States. Lawmakers and marijuana advocates have argued that legalizing weed to manage chronic pain can help reduce opioid addiction, but researchers at Stanford University's School of Medicine say there doesn't appear to be any connection between medical cannabis and opioid overdoses. According to

a [report](#) by CNBC, the Stanford study challenges a 2014 study by the University of Pennsylvania, which said there were on average 25 percent fewer opioid-related deaths a year in states that legalized medical marijuana. Only 13 states had legalized medicinal marijuana when the University of Pennsylvania study was conducted. It examined the rate of deaths caused by opioid overdoses between 1999 and 2010. The Stanford researchers found opioid-related deaths in states with medical marijuana did decline from 1999 to 2010. However, when they analyzed overdose mortality rates up to 2017—at which point, many more states had legalized medical cannabis to some extent—they found opioid deaths were actually higher in states with legal medical weed.

Boys Are Invisible Victims in Sex Trafficking

If there's a public face of the victims of human trafficking, it's usually that of a young teenage girl. But across the country, a new type of victim is increasingly coming to the forefront. Young boys are increasingly preyed upon and exploited in the sex trade, and advocates are beginning to take notice. "When you think about the magnitude of the problem, the number of kids being sold for sex here in America, most people think of girls," Geoff Rogers, Co-Founder of the United State Institute Against Human Trafficking (USIAHT) said in a [report](#) with Fox News, "and certainly there's a tremendous number of girls being sold. But if we look at one particular study funded by the Department of Justice...that study identified an estimated 36 percent of kids that are trafficked are boys."

New Report Underscores Link Between Shocking Number of Evictions

More than a half million renters have been evicted in Los Angeles County over the past eight years, according to a new report by Public Counsel and the UCLA School of Law that calls on county supervisors to adopt permanent rent control measures. Between 2010 and 2018, landlords filed 505,924 eviction proceedings in Los Angeles County Superior Court, a figure that the report, titled "Priced Out, Pushed Out, Locked Out," calls "shocking" and "staggering." According to an [article](#) in *Curbed*, the report's authors say a cap on rent hikes—along with a number of other tenant protection measures—could cork a swell of homelessness that has left 58,936 residents without permanent homes in LA County. "The county has made enormous investments in addressing homelessness, but these efforts are not enough," says Nisha Vyas, director of Public Counsel's homelessness prevention law project. "What we're seeing is that as soon as people are housed in shelters, they're replaced on the streets by people who are newly homeless." That's corroborated by the Los Angeles County Homeless Services Authority's 2019 Homeless Count, which found that while 24,493 homeless residents were placed into interim housing in 2018, about 37,000 homeless residents were without shelter for the first time.



[Breakfast Cook](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

[Campus Administrator \(Men's Services\)](#): Atlanta Mission, Atlanta, GA

[Care Support Specialist](#): Light of Life Ministries, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA

[Chief Operating Officer](#): Phoenix Rescue Mission, Phoenix, AZ

[Chief Program Officer](#): Phoenix Rescue Mission, Phoenix, AZ

Database Systems Administration Specialist: Water Street Mission, Lancaster, PA

Development and Database Coordinator: Union Gospel Mission, Dallas, TX

Development Director: Open Door Mission, Glens Falls, NY

Development Director: Home of Grace, Vancleave, MS

Director of Access and Case Management: Water Street Mission, Lancaster, PA

Director of Development: Modesto Gospel Mission, Modesto, CA

Director of Development: City Mission of Schenectady, Schenectady, NY

Director of Development: Rockford Rescue Mission Ministries, Inc., Rockford, IL

Director of Programs: Open Door Mission, Rochester, NY

Director of Women's Ministry: John 3:16 Mission, Tulsa, OK

Director of Women's Services: Turlock Gospel Mission, Tulsa, OK

Domestic Violence Advocate: Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

Executive Director: Campus of Hope, Conroe, TX

Extended Care Program Manager: Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

Gift Processing Manager: Milwaukee Rescue Mission, Milwaukee, WI

Kitchen Manager: Bread of Life Mission, Holbrook, AZ

Lead Cook / Dockworker: Water Street Mission, Lancaster, PA

Major Gifts Director: Union Gospel Mission, Dallas, TX

Manager, Men's Addiction Recovery Program: Open Door Mission, Rochester, NY

Marketing Project Specialist: Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

Men's Ministry Night Manager: Good Samaritan Mission, Jackson, WY

Mid-Level Donor Manager: Water Street Mission, Lancaster, PA

Night Shift Supervisor: Bread of Life Mission, Holbrook, AZ

Program Administrator - Bridge Street Mission: Bridge Street Mission, Inc., Wausau, WI

Residential Coordinator Cornerstone Manor Facility: Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

Search and Rescue Specialist: Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

Senior Director, Development: Nashville Rescue Mission, Nashville, TN

Senior Director, Women and Children's Ministries: Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

Senior Marketing and Communications Manager: Light of Life, Pittsburgh, PA

Shelter Supervisor: Open Door Mission, Glens Falls, NY

Vice President of Development: Career Cross Training, Colorado Springs, CO

Women and Children's Program Manager: Hope Gospel Mission, Eau Claire, WI



Model Servants

"I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you" (John 13:15).

Many men and women charge through life with aspirations of recognition, bonuses, and promotions. Perhaps our motivation is to provide for our family or maybe, for some, it's to prove to someone in our past that we are worthy of their respect. Whatever the reason, we push hard to get to the top.

Jesus' disciples were no strangers to this same mentality. Even during their final meal with Jesus, they argued among themselves about who had the most prestige (Luke 22:24). It's in this moment that Jesus taught them—as He reminds us today—that this energy must be channeled to serve others, not claw our way up the ladder of success.

In Luke 22:26, Jesus says to his disciples, "But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant."

That's the model we should use as we live our lives. If you want to lead, live like Christ. Some of us may excel in speaking, some in operations, and some in relating to others, but every Christian should lead with a servant's heart.

We're all in a position of authority, whether it's at home or work. Today, ask the people you lead how you can serve them better.

Devotional by Mark Henderson; used with permission of Daily Devotionals, shortdailydevotions.com.

To contribute: If you would like to write a devotional thought for StreetLight, please make it about 200 words and include at least one Bible verse or passage, and submit via [email](#).

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