



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

Useful news and information for members

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### Promoting Broader Collaboration in Communities

Citygate Network's growing relationship with the Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) of the U.S. Department of Urban Development (HUD) was featured just two days ago on the HUD Exchange news site. The [report](#) notes, "Developing community partnerships in response to this trend is more important now than ever before, to better align strategies and achieve the shared goal of preventing and ending homelessness," and touts the connection between HUD and Citygate Network's goal of closer coordination between local Continuums of Care and Citygate Network members in communities. The report notes that many of our members are the largest—and sometimes the *only*—homeless services provider in many cities. Citygate Network's John Ashmen worked closely with Norm Suchar, director of the SNAPS office at HUD, to produce the document.

### We're Less Than Two Weeks from the Start of Our CEO Summit

Attention executive director and presidents: We have another large group of mission and ministry leaders signed up for the summit. Are you one of them? If not, don't wait too much longer to register...or you might have to wait until next year!

The event will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 27–29. This is a great location: Indy is within driving distance for many of our members. Additionally, flights are still reasonable, even at this date.

Citygate Network's CEO Summit is the annual gathering where we talk honestly about the biggest problems on our planet and share our secrets to our greatest successes, all in a setting where Christ is lifted up. Multiple facilitators/consultants will be with us to help with our confidential conversations.

This year's venue is the Hilton Indianapolis. You also don't want to miss the tour of our local member, Wheeler Mission. The event includes plenty of time for discussion, interaction, and idea-sharing. Go to our [online registration page](#) and use the code to check out the schedule and to see what special guests will be facilitating our discussions. Then get yourself registered for the summit in you in Indy.

### **Check Your District Conference Page for Latest Updates**

Registration is still open for all of this fall's district conferences. You'll find new details—including schedules, seminars, information on main speakers—on each event's webpage.

These regional gatherings are packed with education, inspiration, and networking designed to enrich and connect mission staff in every district. Think about what staff members from your mission can benefit from interaction and education. This is a great way to show downline staff—especially those who don't receive Street Smart and other Citygate Network—are valued.

Access your district's event at [www.citygatenetwork.org](http://www.citygatenetwork.org)>Events.

### **Alaska Member Gets Encouraging News**

This past Friday, a federal court issued an order that stops Anchorage officials from misapplying a city ordinance against **Center** (Anchorage, Alaska), thus allowing the organization to continue operating its shelter for women. Thanks to the **Defending Freedom**, the organization received a preliminary injunction to continue operating as it always has done, even against them proceeds. The case—which many experts say is destined for the Supreme Court—is being watched very closely in America. You can read about it [here](#). Please be in prayer for CEO Sherrie Laurie and her board and staff at Downtown they press forward and do important work even while under great scrutiny.

### **Member CEO to Embark on Motorcycle Ride Across America**

Brandan Thomas, director of **Winchester Rescue Mission** (Winchester, Virginia)—along with at least seven other support mission—will embark on a coast-to-coast motorcycle ride September 27 to shed light on the national homeless crisis. The trip **Rescue Ride**. The group will ride from Winchester to Los Angeles, traveling and staying at rescue missions and kind along the route, including Citygate Network members in Nashville, Little Rock, Denver, Las Vegas, and others. The group will shelter volunteers and homeless populations to document the work of missions and the struggles facing homeless people. information with other missions. Check out this [video](#) regarding the ride.

### **Bidding Farewell to a Citygate Network Staff Member**

Malcomn Mitchell, who has served as Citygate Network's Business Development Manager for two and half years, has left with VisionBox, a software-development firm based in Colorado Springs, beginning August 19. While with Citygate Network, he worked with business members on advertising and our conference Exhibit Hall, handled social media, and served as our VisionBox, Malcomn will be their Senior React Engineer. There he will design software for organizations such as the U.S. Olympic Committee, the World Anti-Doping Agency, and various international medical firms. Even though he will be missed at Citygate, this is a big step forward in his career. Congratulations, Malcomn!

### **Citygate Network Board Member Releases New Book**

Clarence Shuler, a board-elected member of Citygate Network's board of directors, has released a new book titled *Challenging Wise Decisions That Brave Young Men Make* (Moody). The book is co-authored with Gary Chapman (*The Five Love Languages*). Shuler is president/CEO at Building Lasting Relationships in Colorado Springs, notes that the book is targeted at those 11 to 18 alone or with a mentor, but college-age through late 20s young men are reading and loving it as well.

### **Looking Down the Street...**

- Please welcome into Citygate Network membership **Tulare Lighthouse Rescue Mission** (Tulare, California), where [davecleve@gmail.com] serves as executive director. (Note: Dave is also the executive director of King's Gospel Center, Hanford, California, which is already a Citygate Network member.)



### **Veggie Van Tours Columbus Food Deserts**

With so few grocery stores around Linden, Ohio, it's especially difficult to find fresh fruits and vegetables. So this month, the Veggie Van, a mobile market that sells fruits and vegetables at affordable prices. They even accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits. The Veggie Van visits different neighborhoods over the weeks, spending Tuesdays in Linden, Ohio, and Thursdays in Franklinton, and Fridays on the East Side of the city. Research shows these neighborhoods have the highest rates of food insecurity. According to an [article](#) from WOSU Radio, the Columbus Veggie Van is a part of a nationwide study by the University of Buffalo to measure the fruit and vegetable intake in communities that have similar programs. A total of nine vans have been launched this year, including in Athens, Ohio; Charlotte, North Carolina; Holyoke, Massachusetts; and Long Island, New York.

### **A Fresh Spin on Helping Homeless People**

A Vancouver chaplain and his brother plan to cycle 2,448 miles to help break the cycle of homelessness. Mark Roskan and Mike, are planning to bike from Chicago to Santa Monica, California, via the historic Route 66. The two hope to leave Chicago on September 11, finish by October 11, and raise \$66,000. Mark said that he has been involved in cycling all of his life. His brother took up cycling because he was not good at golf. He said that cycling gives him everything he is looking for—time to be alone, to be outdoors, and to be challenged. Mark brought the idea to me, and it seems like it was almost an instant yes.” Mark said that every penny donated will go directly to the ministries. According to an [article](#) in *The Columbian*, none of the donations will go toward paying for the trip that the brothers estimate will cost \$10,000.

### **People Struggling with Mental Illness Face Stigma and Blame**

Like clockwork, mental illness has become the focal point for blame following America's 255th mass shooting this year. According to an [article](#) by Advance Local, people with mental illnesses are 10 times more likely to be victims of violent crimes, and 10 times more likely to be charged with violent crimes. Of violent crimes can be linked to mental illnesses, according to national statistics. Using broad terms like “mentally ill” can cause harm and devastation can have a significant impact on those who suffer from depression, anxiety, or other mental illnesses. Vander Wal, executive director of the counseling center at the University of Alabama. “It can ultimately turn people away from help or coming to terms with their issues,” he said. “Generally speaking, you are linking mental illness to evil, crime, and punishment.”



### **Half of People Living in Poverty In Cleveland Are Working, Report Finds**

Cleveland is the second-poorest city in the United States, just behind Detroit. Now, a new report by local researchers challenges those living in poverty face—and what can be done to break the cycle. The study was conducted by the Center for Urban Solutions, a Cleveland-based think tank. Currently, data shows the poverty rate in Cuyahoga County is at 18 percent—up from 15.6 percent at the height of the Great Recession in 2008, according to a [report](#) by ABC News. “There are about 2 million people in Cuyahoga County who are living in poverty and about half of those are working so it's really about earnings. People can't make ends meet. They don't earn enough to be able to get by,” researchers said. It means that while unemployment is low, people are still not making ends meet.

## New York Leads Nation in Nonprofit Jobs and Wages

New York state leads the nation in nonprofit jobs and the wages they support. According to information released Tuesday by Thomas DiNapoli, New York had more than 1.4 million nonprofit jobs, paying more than \$78 billion in 2017. According to the Associated Press, nonprofit organizations employ nearly 18 percent of the state's private-sector workforce, the third highest in the nation after Vermont and Maine. Nonprofits employ 10 percent of private-sector workers nationally. In some areas, including the Mohawk Valley and the Southern Tier, nonprofits make up nearly one in four non-public sector jobs.

## Nonprofits Stack Up Well in Email

Nonprofits enjoyed higher-than-average email open rates last year compared with other industries but were in line with other nonprofit metrics, according to a survey of millions of campaigns in 2018. Campaign Monitor analyzed more than 30 billion email campaigns in 2018, breaking out specific industry averages overall as well as by day of the week, as part of its "Marketing Benchmarks for 2019: By Industry & Day." According to an [article](#) in the *Nonprofit Times*, nonprofits were one of the top industries among the 22 in the study that had open rates of better than 20 percent. The other was agriculture, forestry and hunting (20.13 percent). The lowest open rate (14.53 percent) was found among consumer-packaged goods.



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[Women's Program Manager - Laura's Home](#), The City Mission, Cleveland, OH



## Love Exemplified

*"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8, ESV).*

Can you come up with a definition for love (that accurately describes what love is) in two or three sentences? It's not an easy task.

No matter how we define love, our definition always seems to be lacking. Trying to define love can be like describing chocolate to a tribesman in sub-Saharan Africa who has never heard of nor tasted chocolate before.

We may have trouble defining it, explaining it, and even finding it, but we know deep down inside that we need it.

In 1 Corinthians 13, the Apostle Paul wrote one of the most famous descriptions of love. Notice that he does not give a dictionary definition, but instead a description of love displayed. The love Paul describes values:

- Giving over getting.
- Commitment over feelings.
- The long haul over the short terms.

Scripture is clear. You can see this love displayed in patience, kindness, humility, forgiveness, integrity, and ongoing perseverance. This kind of love survives and stands the tests of time and tribulations.

Does this describe the love you're seeking? More importantly, does this describe the love you desire to share?

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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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