



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

Useful news and information for members

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News from Citygate Network and our members

It's Coming Down to the Wire: You Can't Put off Registering Any Longer!

Citygate Network's 2019 Annual Conference and Exposition is just a month away—and your last chance to save money is even sooner than that! If you and your staff members are planning

to come, be sure to register before our next price-break deadline, which is May 15, just two weeks from today. You'll save \$30 per person from your organization. That's nothing to sneeze at. Click [here](#) to register right now!

Check out the program, education offerings, speakers, and much more on our Conference webpages at www.citygatenetwork.org/2019conference.

If you are already registered, you might want to consider adding some optional events (for an additional nominal cost) at this year's event. Although our L.A./Skid Row Experience that begins two days prior to the event is sold out (and then some!), we do have just a few spots left in the optional tour of Citygate Network member organization near Palm Springs, Coachella Valley Rescue Mission in Indio, California. That tour will be held Wednesday afternoon. It involves a small cost and includes dinner at the mission. It's on the verge of being sold out too, so quickly consider adding this valuable experience!

We also still have room in other optional events: The Enter Here Revival Experience for CEOs, Early intensive seminar offerings, and the Women in Leadership reception. Please see the [full schedule](#) for info and times. If you want to add any of these events, contact Christine Matos at cmatos@citygatenetwork.org.

Membership Grows; Campaign Kicks Off This Month

We're pleased to report that Citygate Network membership seems to be on an upward swing. Many members that left in past years (or decades) for various reasons are returning, and we're also picking up some new members who feel our rebranding unlocks the door—or the gate, we should say—to compatible connections. This is exciting because it was one of the major reasons for our rebranding.

CEOs: Speaking of membership growth, please watch your mailboxes for our "Widen the Gate" membership campaign, which starts next week.

"Taste and See" Option Offered for Annual Conference

Heads up! As part of our membership campaign, Citygate Network is offering organizations that current members identify as solid prospective members a special price to attend this year's conference. If you know of an organization in your community that would seriously consider membership in 2019, we'll waive the 40 percent non-member add-on rate for our Annual Conference and Exposition and offer them the Early-Bird rate of \$489. That's a savings of \$280 over what a non-member would have to pay today. (Accommodations and travel would be their own responsibility.) Additional help may be available from Citygate Network's districts. If interested, or you want to point a local non-member organization our way, contact Member Support Manager/Convention Registrar Christine Matos at (719) 266-8300, ext. 100 right away.

We Likely Won't Be Back on the West Coast for Several Years

If your mission or ministry is in California, Nevada, or Arizona, this is the year to fill the van and bring a bunch of folks. With drive times throughout California, you might not think of yourself as "that close" to Palm Springs. However you might be surprised! Check out this [map](#) that shows cities within 350 miles of our Annual Conference. It has been eight years since our event was last held in the region (San Diego in 2011), and while we will probably be back sometime down the road, this is a once-in-a-long-time opportunity to load up a whole van (or two) of your organization's staff members and head to the annual conference. No airfare means you can register more of your folks for this one-of-a-kind, everything-in-one-place event for those who run rescue missions and kindred ministries.

Unique Joint Event with HUD to Be Held at Annual Conference

A special symposium called "Confronting the West Coast's Surge of Unsheltered Homeless" will be held in association with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on June 3 in Palm Springs. The numbers are off the chart, and solving the problems of homelessness will take unprecedented collaboration. That's why HUD and Citygate Network will be coming together to invite Continuum of Care leaders and Citygate Network members in California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and nearby states to discuss solutions for curtailing the unprecedented predicament in many cities. The goal is to explore together what's working and what's not, plus investigate some of the ways communities and service providers can better work together to start to reduce and ultimately prevent the seemingly overwhelming problems of homelessness. This will be an invitation-only event, but there might be room for additional attendees to observe from "gallery seats." Conference attendees can head to the Citygate Network Registration/Information Center on-site to inquire about availability.

Looking Down the Street...

- Please welcome Citygate Network's newest organizational member **Adams Rescue Mission** (Gettysburg, Pennsylvania), where [Bruce Dietrick](#) serves as executive director.
- Also, welcome back into Citygate Network membership **Warren Family Mission** (Warren, Ohio). [Chris Gilger](#) serves as the ministry's executive director.
- Citygate Network recently received word that Mark Holsinger, former Los Angeles Mission director and former interim director at Boise Rescue Mission, passed away last fall. His life and service will be celebrated at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery on May 10.



Judge Approves Homeless Shelter Plans on Billionaires' Row in New York City

A Manhattan judge on Monday gave city officials the green light to open a homeless shelter in the ritzy "Billionaires' Row" neighborhood. State Supreme Court Justice Alexander Tisch rejected arguments from the West 58th Street Coalition and other opponents that the former Park Savoy Hotel doesn't meet current safety standards. He also ruled that claims the neighborhood already had more than its "fair share" of shelters were "without merit." The Park Savoy, at 158 W. 58th St., stands back-to-back against the iconic One57 apartment building, the city's first "supertall" residential skyscraper and home to a \$100 million condo that was the city's most expensive when Dell founder Michael Dell bought it in 2014. According to a [report](#) by Fox News, Social Services Commissioner Steven Banks said that "we will begin serving our neighbors in need at this location as soon as possible." He also called Tisch's decision "a win for hard-working New Yorkers experiencing homelessness who will have the opportunity to get back on their feet at a high-quality, employment shelter."

Backpage Is Gone But Sex Trafficking Remains

Backpage.com, the online classifieds site best known as a place to find sex for sale, went dark last July. According to an [article](#) in *The Blade*, experts believe child sex-trafficking cases declined about 84 percent after the site died. Advocates who waged the long legal and legislative fight to hold Backpage.com and similar sites accountable for their part in exploiting young and vulnerable victims claim their efforts had an immediate effect. However, as some predicted, traffickers simply have moved to other sites, many of them harder to find, to advertise the services of their victims. Advocates note that it will take more awareness campaigns to enlighten the public so people can spot signs of trafficking and do more to protect the vulnerable young people who too often fall into the clutches of traffickers.

Xbox Adaptive Controllers Used for Veteran Therapy

The Xbox Adaptive Controller might just become an important tool for some U.S. military veterans. Microsoft and the Department of Veterans Affairs have formed a partnership that will donate controllers, consoles, games, and adaptive gear to 22 Veterans Affairs rehabilitation centers across the country. According to an Engadget [report](#), the accessible gamepads will help with rehab and therapy activities focused on hand-eye coordination and muscle activation, and should help veterans both have fun and socialize. VA staff will provide feedback to Microsoft both on the usefulness of the Adaptive Controller for therapy as well as the overall experience. While it's unclear how well the Adaptive Controller will work as a therapeutic measure, the trial could ensure that soldiers who've faced amputations, neurological conditions, and other challenges can relieve stress and reconnect with others through a common hobby.



California Plan Aims to Slash Child Poverty Rate in Half

California may represent the fifth-largest economy in the world, but poverty is more prevalent among families with children in the state than in the rest of the nation. According to a [report](#) by CNBC, in some counties in California more than 40 percent of all young kids are living in poverty. A bill pending in the state legislature sets a goal of cutting California's child poverty rate in half by 2039 and also eliminating the number of kids in "deep poverty" by 2024. Governor Gavin Newsom's first budget proposal released in January includes more than \$500 million next year on programs that target reducing child poverty and much more to address homelessness and the affordable housing shortage.

Online Giving Was Flat In 2018

Online revenue grew by an average of just 1 percent last year, down from 23 percent growth in 2017, and the first time in 13 years of the M+R Benchmarks Study that growth was in the single digits. The 71-page report, released last week, analyzed 4.4 million emails sent to 37.5 million email addresses, more than 7 million online gifts and \$376 million raised by 135 nonprofits. According to a [report](#) in *The Nonprofit Times*, 37 percent of donors who made a gift online in 2017 donated online again to that nonprofit in 2018, about 3 percent less than in 2017. Only one in four new donors who made their first online gift in 2017 repeated the gift, compared with prior online donors whose retention rate was 59 percent.

More Than 700 Measles Cases Reported Across 22 States

The CDC announced on Monday that there were at least 704 cases of measles in the U.S. so far this year across 22 states. It's hard to imagine, considering the virus was declared eliminated from the U.S. back in the year 2000, and the Americas declared measles-free in just 2016. According to a [report](#) by NPR, individual outbreaks have popped up in a number of states, including New York, Michigan, New Jersey, California, Oregon, Georgia, and Maryland, but that doesn't even begin to reveal the true scope of the problem. Unvaccinated children are enduring the worst of it. Over one-third of the confirmed measles infections are in children under 5 years of age. In total, unvaccinated individuals make up well over 70 percent of the cases on record in 2019.



[Advancement Assistant/Communications Coordinator](#): Kalamazoo Gospel Mission, Kalamazoo, MI

[Assistant Executive Director](#): Sunshine Rescue Mission, Inc., Flagstaff, AZ

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

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

[Chief Development Officer](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

[Chief Financial Officer](#): St. Matthew's House, Naples, FL

[Community Living Assistant \(Men's Services\)](#): Atlanta Mission, Atlanta, GA

[Community Living Assistant \(Men's Services\)](#): Atlanta Mission, Atlanta, GA

[Community Living Assistant \(Women's Services\)](#): Atlanta Mission, Atlanta, GA

[Construction Project Manager](#): Fairbanks Rescue Mission, Fairbanks, AK

[Development and Database Coordinator](#): Union Gospel Mission, Dallas, TX

[Development Director](#): Open Door Mission, Glens Falls, NY

[Development Director](#): Evansville Rescue Mission, Evansville, IN

[Director of Behavioral Services](#): Eugene Mission, Eugene, OR

[Director of Emergency Shelter Services](#): Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO

[Director of Women's Ministry](#): John 3:16 Mission, Tulsa, OK

[Donor Development Professional](#): Madera Rescue Mission, Madera, CA

[Executive Director](#): Campus of Hope, Conroe, TX

[Extended Care Program Manager](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

[Human Resources Director](#): Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO

[Major Gifts Director](#): Union Gospel Mission, Dallas, TX

[Major Gifts Officer](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

[Men's Ministry Night Manager](#): Good Samaritan Mission, Jackson, WY

[Partnership Relations Officer](#): New York City Relief, Elizabeth, NJ

[Program Administrator](#): Bridge Street Mission, Inc., Wausau, WI

[Public Relations Manager](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

[Residential Coordinator Cornerstone Manor Facility](#): Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

[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

[Volunteer Engagement Specialist](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

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

[Women and Children's Program Manager](#): Hope Gospel Mission , Eau Claire, WI

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



Truth

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth (John 17:17).

Have you ever heard someone say, “That may be true for you, but not for me”?

The idea that truth is relative to every individual and culture is nothing new. In fact, it’s been around a long time. But what’s interesting about the philosophy of relative truth is that there’s never been a person in history who could live by it!

Think about it: If someone walked in front of a moving bus, there’s a good chance it would be the end, whether the individual believed in physics or not.

The laws of gravity, thermodynamics, and mathematics were just as true in ancient Greece just as they are today. The truth or falsity of a thing isn’t dependent on a person’s belief in it, but rather whether it exists in reality—independent of that person’s belief in it

Our world was created and ordered by the Master Designer. The truths about our world uncovered each year have been in existence from the beginning, when God spoke the universe into existence.

Don’t let yourself be fooled; eternal truth exists, and it will forever point to Jesus. God has spoken in every direction of human existence, meaning that His word provides sure footing as we walk through life.

Remember that God’s word is “a lamp to [our] feet and a light to [our] path” (Psalm 119:105).

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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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