

# NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025



**Your love helps  
Cronetta  
know she is  
not alone...**

LOVE  YOUR  
**NEIGHBOR**  
SUMMER CAMPAIGN

**DON'T MISS...**

2 YOU can show a hurting neighbor they're not alone!

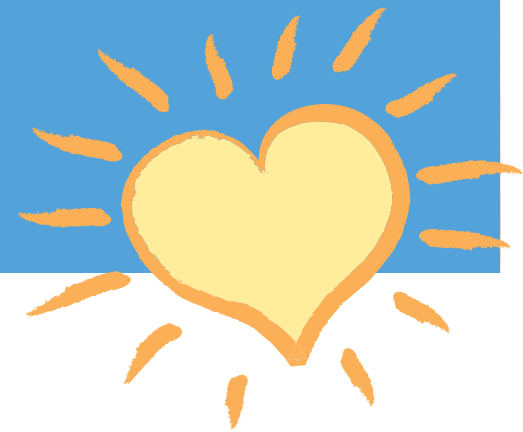
3 "I was able to forgive myself."

4 TO DO THIS SUMMER:  
Make a Will!

For more information: (803) 254-6470 [olivergospel.org](http://olivergospel.org)



**“I was able to forgive myself. They have changed my life.”**



Cronetta entered the foster care system when she was 9 years old. Living in different homes and cultures taught her a lot about people and independence. However, she didn't have healthy ways to cope with the transitory lifestyle.

She started rebelling, which led to frequent suspensions at school. “I was going through the motions and didn't have self-awareness. I reacted to things out of anger,” she says.

Sadly, Cronetta was unable to finish high school. She spent some time in the Job Corps and then college, but she didn't think she was ready for it. “I was still dealing with issues from when I was growing up,” she shares. “I just wasn't focused.”

She ended up getting pregnant and struggled to secure stable housing. She knew she needed more than just financial resources; she needed skills to live a stable life.

Cronetta had heard about our center for

women and children, Toby's Place, and

contacted us. When she arrived at Oliver Gospel, she was welcomed with a safe place to stay with her daughter. With all their basic needs met, she could focus on herself.

She loves the counseling that helps her address the root causes of her struggles. “The classes are awesome. I've learned to cope with my trauma,” she shares. **“Since coming to Oliver Gospel, I do not feel ashamed.”**

Cronetta now works as a restaurant manager. Our personal development classes have also helped her professionally. “I've been able to interact with people and understand them more.”

Now, Cronetta is focusing on growing closer to God. “When I continue to keep Him in mind, read the Bible and let Him guide me, He will continue to protect me,” she says.

**Thank you for loving neighbors like Cronetta “as you've loved yourself.” Your kindness has reminded her that she is not alone and that a better life is possible!** “I'm thankful to Oliver Gospel for changing my life.”

**“Oliver Gospel helped me ground myself and face my issues.”**





A meal served with LOVE for a neighbor in need... **just \$3.65!**



A Message from KYLE HARDING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## You're sharing **God's love** this summer.

I don't have to tell you that our community is special. You see for yourself local acts of care and compassion. When neighbors feel lonely and forgotten, we step up to show love. I'm discovering it's what makes the Midlands strong.

**But people like YOU make the greatest difference...** generous friends who go above and beyond to show love to neighbors in need. That's why I know we can count on your support over these crucial summer months – when so many local men, women and children are experiencing hunger and homelessness.

This month we're kickstarting **our 3-month Love Your Neighbor campaign** to help meet the unique needs of our guests this summer season – like shelter from the heat, nourishing meals and clean water. Each month

is an opportunity for you to respond with a generous gift that reflects the words of Jesus in Matthew 22:39... to *"love your neighbor as yourself."*

Your support will show struggling people in our community like Cronetta that they are never alone. Read her story on page 3 of this newsletter – then consider how you can best respond to help more people like her this summer. We are grateful for your partnership.

Kyle Harding  
Executive Director

*"Love your neighbor as yourself..."*

- Matthew 22:39



## LEND YOUR time and skills!

Our caring volunteers make it possible for Oliver Gospel to serve all those who come to us in need.

**You're invited to volunteer!** You can share your skills in many ways:

- Program instructor
- Meal server
- Chapel speaker or worship leader
- Thrift store volunteer
- Maintenance worker
- Volunteer driver



If you or your group are interested in volunteering, please visit

**olivergospel.org/volunteer** or contact Kara Pippin at (803) 254-6470 ext. 1018 or **kara.pippin@olivergospel.org**.

## YOU CAN SHOW A HURTING NEIGHBOR THEY'RE NOT ALONE!



***It starts with  
a meal***



***and ends with  
a life renewed!***

Your gift of \$3.65 provides a hot, nourishing meal – and can lead to other life-changing services like shelter, Christ-centered counsel and recovery.

**Give to our Love Your Neighbor summer campaign... and show local people experiencing homelessness that you care.**



**Give now!**  
**olivergospel.org**

LOVE YOUR  
**NEIGHBOR**  
SUMMER CAMPAIGN

# Keep neighbors **SAFE** this summer

Many of us can count on cold drinking water, refreshing showers and air conditioning to make it through this summer's hottest weeks.

**But our neighbors out on the street have no relief.** Without shade or sun protection, even warm days put them at risk of heat stroke and dehydration. Hot weather is even more dangerous for seniors or families with children.

Your gift can make all the difference for someone experiencing homelessness this summer. Just \$12.50 provides a night of safe shelter for a man, woman or child in need – along with other services like these!



**Cool water to drink  
& nourishing meals**



**Refreshing showers  
& safe shelter**



**Clean clothes & socks  
(Socks are our most  
requested item!)**



**Sunscreen &  
hygiene items**

Because of your support, hurting neighbors have everything they need to recover and rebuild at Oliver Gospel – so they can have healthier, more stable lives!



To see how you can help meet our neighbors' most urgent summer needs, visit [olivergospel.org/needslist](https://olivergospel.org/needslist) or scan here!

Your gift  
of \$12.50  
provides  
a night of  
shelter!

## TO DO THIS SUMMER:

# ☑ Make a Will!

Your generosity can live on beyond your lifetime! **August is National Make a Will Month.** So now is a great time to get your affairs in order and complete your will this summer.

Through a gift in your will to Oliver Gospel, the impact of your generosity will live on, bringing healing and hope to hurting neighbors, season after season.

Here are a just few examples of gifts you can designate to our ministry via your will:



Cash



Real Estate



Property



Stocks

**Ready to talk about leaving  
your legacy?**

Visit [olivergospel.org/legacy-giving](https://olivergospel.org/legacy-giving)  
or contact Nicholas Charalambous,  
Donor Relations Officer.

☎ (803) 254-6470, ext. 1002

✉ [nicholas.charalambous@olivergospel.org](mailto:nicholas.charalambous@olivergospel.org)