

streetsmart



Your twice-a-month e-newsletter from **AGRM**

Useful news and information for association members

Volume 9, Number 24 | December 15, 2015 | www.agrm.org

 [Printer-friendly](#)

 [Feedback](#)

ourstreet News from AGRM and our members

mainstreet Reports from North America's downtowns

divisionstreet Vital statistics from industry experts

easystreet Innovative solutions and ideas

marketstreet Employment and product ads

streetlight Words to brighten your passage

This issue of *Street Smart* is sponsored by:

Not just any insurance...

Rescue Mission Insurance

Property / Liability / Auto / Residents
Volunteers / Directors & Officers
Workers Compensation / Health & Benefits

THE
MERRIAM
AGENCY INSURANCE SINCE 1895
CHARLES W. MERRIAM & SON, INC.
1 (877) MERRIAM (637-7426)

RescueMissionInsurance.com



Merry Christmas from AGRM!

The entire team at AGRM wishes you a Merry Christmas! We appreciate you for your tireless efforts to serve hungry, homeless, addicted, and abused people, particularly at this time of year. You are heroes to those you serve and to all of us as well. Be assured of our prayers for you and your co-workers throughout the Christmas season.

Our offices will be closed December 24–25 and January 1. Please note that the AGRM office is also closed today (December 15) because of inclement winter weather in Colorado Springs.

Early-Bird Convention Rate Ends Wednesday

The early-bird registration rate for AGRM's 2016 Annual Convention will end at 11:59 p.m. MST Wednesday, December 16. That's tomorrow!

Don't let this opportunity for the biggest savings on the convention slip away. This year's event, themed "CounterCulture," will take place June 7–10, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency

Jacksonville Riverfront in Jacksonville, Florida. General session speakers include Vince D'Acchioli, Mark Lowry, Vaughn McLaughlin, Brenda Slater McNeil, and Elisa Morgan.

Check out our convention pages at www.agrm.org/convention for details, or go straight to our [online registration page](#) to get yourself and your staff signed up. Remember, the early-bird rate is only available online.

Snapshot Survey Finds Mental Illness Increasing: AGRM Responds with Initiative

AGRM's Snapshot Survey, which provides a one-day look at those receiving services at AGRM missions, turned up some interesting results. More than 100 member missions participated in the survey, interviewing more than 17,000 guests using their mission services.

The survey found that among the individuals served by missions, 37 percent of those seeking help say they "struggle with mental illness." This represents a 15 percent increase from the 32 percent who answered yes to that question a year ago. Interestingly, AGRM had already planned to focus on mental health issues in the coming months with its Mental Health & Respite Initiative. The initiative kicked off last week with a webinar for member missions, addressing how they can balance mental health services with meeting the other vital needs presented by guests who visit their missions.

For additional information on the initiative and the webinar, visit the [online resource page](#) dedicated to mental health services.

And for more details on AGRM's Snapshot Survey and its demographic findings, check out the [media release](#) about the survey, as well as the [statistical comparison](#) of the survey results over the past five years.

Newest Mission Compensation Survey Available

AGRM's 2015 Compensation Survey is now available. If your mission provided the requisite amount of data, the CEO and AGRM billing contact have immediate access to the electronic report (in PDF form) from your online organizational profile. These two contacts may log in to www.agrm.org, click on "My Organization Profile," and scroll down to the "Other Information" section, where the download link can be found. If you would like to order a printed copy of the report, you can do so at the participant rate of \$30, including shipping; go to www.agrm.org/compsurvey.

If your mission did not provide the requisite amount of data, you may purchase the report at the member rate of \$119 for the electronic version and \$149 for the electronic version and a printed copy at the link above.

This 34-page resource includes benefit and salary information for 27 common mission positions, broken down by mission size and district, 25th and 75th percentiles, averages, and more. You'll also find handy charts and graphs, illustrating annual expenses, service levels, and other relevant data.

AGRM Working Behind the Scenes on Paramount Movie Connections

The best-selling book turned movie, *Same Kind of Different as Me*, featuring Renée Zellweger, Greg Kinnear, Djimon Hounsou, Olivia Holt, and Jon Voight, is scheduled to be released nationally April 29, 2016. AGRM has garnered the support of Paramount Pictures, author Ron Hall, multiple entertainment agencies, PR firms, publishers, and special event experts to help us help you direct moviegoers from simply being inspired by the movie to engaging with your mission and its guests.

We've created a *Same Kind of Different as Me* [webpage](#) with current information on AGRM's involvement. Bookmark the page and check back regularly for updates. If you have additional questions, contact Director of Member Initiatives [Mark P. Fisher](#), who is spearheading AGRM's involvement.

There's Still Time to Vote in AGRM Elections

All AGRM members received email ballots last week. In the Mountain, Pacific, and South Central districts, members got a ballot to elect district officers, a board representative, and a board member-at-large. Members in all other districts received just the board-member-at-large ballot. The newly elected board members will serve three-year terms, starting January 1.

You still have time—until Thursday, December 17—to cast your ballot. If you have any questions, please contact Executive Assistant [Christine Matos](#).

Revisiting Safety and Security at Rescue Mission Facilities

Did you know that as of the beginning of December, there had been 355 mass shootings in 336 days in the U.S.? (See a *Washington Post* [report](#) and calendar.)

With shootings making recent headlines, your mission might be reviewing policies and procedures to make sure your guests can thrive in a safe and secure environment. Our CoverFocus story in the January/February 2015 issue of *Rescuemagazine* provided a package of articles devoted to the topic. You can view that issue by clicking [here](#) and use it to spark discussions among your board, leadership team, and staff members.

Denver Mattress Company's Matching Campaign Benefits 70 Missions

Denver Mattress Company and AGRM are pleased to announce that their charity campaign this holiday season raised \$296,800.03 for people in need. During November, Denver Mattress Company pledged to match every dollar donated to 70 participating rescue missions, with a \$2,500 cap per market. In all, \$161,266 in donations were made. Although not all missions met the cap that Denver Mattress pledged to match, the company generously donated the full \$150,000 amount.

Profile Manager Available for Member Missions

Many member missions with more complex organizational structures have requested the option of a third contact in AGRM's database. In addition to the CEO and billing contact, this additional contact can update your organization profile and member seats. We're pleased to announce that this feature is now available for larger missions.

If your mission is Level G or higher, the Profile Manager is now available on your organization profile. The CEO or billing contact can log in at www.agrm.org (select "Member Login" on the top menu bar); once logged in, select "My Organization Profile" and add your new contact's name in the Contacts section.

Please note that when you process your membership renewal online, Level G and higher missions will be required to fill in a name for the Profile Manager. If you don't have or need this third contact, simply assign the contact the same name as your billing contact. Contact Marcy Sandoval at msandoval@agrm.org if you need assistance.



Homeless People Face Unique Health Challenges

The Christmas season is a joyful time, but it can also be very difficult for those with no place to call home. A *Medical News Today* [article](#) highlights some of the health challenges those on the streets face this holiday season, including mental and physical ailments.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) mortality rate for homeless people is four to nine times higher than the general population, and the average life expectancy is only 41.

Many factors can lead to poor health in homeless people, including environmental stresses of climate and violence; poor nutrition and hygiene facilities; low personal safety; lack of privacy, warmth, and space; lack of access to warm clothing and money; and stability and supportive relationships. Homeless people are also prone to hypothermia and frostbite,

especially during the winter months. In the U.S., hypothermia is a leading cause of injury and death for those without shelter. Around 700 homeless people die from hypothermia each year.

Poverty Can Negatively Affect Decision Making

How does poverty affect the ability to make decisions? According to an [article](#) in *The Atlantic*, poverty hurts our ability to make decisions about school, finances, and life. The report is based on a study first published in *Science*, which concludes that living in poverty imposes a mental burden similar to losing 13 IQ points.

An example of the reality of the study can be found in a commentary from a person in poverty titled “Why I Make Terrible Decisions.” The individual states, “There’s a certain pull to live what bits of life you can while there’s money in your pocket, because no matter how responsible you are, you will be broke in three days anyway.” The writer goes on to say, “We don’t plan long-term because if we do we’ll just get our hearts broken. It’s best not to hope. You just take what you can get as you spot it.”

First-Grader Gives Up Christmas Gifts to Help Homeless

Alex Hovater has decided that instead of receiving Christmas presents this year, he will help out those in need, [reports](#) ABC 22. A video of Alex handing out bags of food, water, and clothing to homeless people around Kern County, California, is gaining attention. His parents say they were right behind him as he handed out the gifts, but the idea was all his own.

Because of their own financial limitations, Alex’s mother, Machele, tested his idea to help the homeless. She gave him the choice of keeping all his Christmas presents or giving up some in order help others. He gave up some of his gifts and when asked why he made that decision he answered, “Just a nice thing to do for other people.” Alex’s family hopes his generosity will inspire others to give.

“We tend to want to give our kids everything,” said Machele. “Growing up with a sense of entitlement and that sense of ‘I want, I want, I want,’ we kind of lose sight of what Christmas and what giving really truly is.”



Seniors at Risk for Opioid Pain Medication Addiction

Opioid pain medications such as oxycodone and fentanyl are prescribed for chronic

conditions, but overdoses of these “respectable” drugs can be just as harmful as those from heroin sold on the street, [reports U.S. News](#). Many of these drugs are used by seniors who are becoming increasingly addicted to them. Family members and caregivers are usually the first to notice addiction-related changes, such as increased anxiety or depression. Those affected might also seem confused or disoriented at times. Mixing alcohol with opioids enhances these effects.

U.S. emergency departments saw a 78 percent increase in the number of visits among older adults with misuse of prescription or illicit drugs between 2006 and 2012. About 11 percent of that misuse was with opiate drugs. A nationally representative sample with data from more than 71,000 cases involving older adults found that nearly half the visits were ages 75 and older, yet older seniors are often ignored in the broader discussion about addiction. Advocates are calling for lower, safer doses of medication with better prescribing guidelines, prescription drug-monitoring programs, overdose education, and community-based prevention.

U.S. Ranks High in World Charity Index

The U.S. has proved itself as a giving nation, ranking second overall in the 2015 World Giving Index [reports The Guardian](#). The majority of American households, 95.4%, donate to charities, contributing an annual average of \$2,974.

Not all U.S. states give equally though. Utah was the most giving state, with Rhode Island being the least. Maryland and Idaho came in second and third in most giving, while Louisiana and California made up the second and third least charitable states.

To calculate the most and least giving states, the financial information site WalletHub analyzed each state across eight key metrics, including volunteer rate, percentage of population who claimed to have donated time and money, and the median contribution to charity.

Childhood Bullying Could Lead to Mental Health Problems in Adulthood

Preventing childhood bullying could help curb the need for treatment of some psychiatric problems in early adulthood, [reports Fox News](#). Researchers in Finland found that being frequently bullied at age 8, or having been both bullied and a bully, were each tied to a doubled risk of having psychiatric problems requiring treatment as a young adult.

In the U.S., about one in four students report being bullied during the school year, according to the National Bullying Prevention Center. Overall, about 90 percent of children had no experience of bullying in either role. Another 3 percent were bullies, 5 percent were bullied, and 2 percent were both. Researchers analyzed information from a national health database about the same children when they were between the ages of 16 and 29. About 12 percent

of those who had not been bullies or bullied received treatment or services for psychiatric disorders later in life. But about 20 percent among bullies, 23 percent among people who were bullied, and 31 percent who were both received those treatments.



New Year's Eve

You already know that holidays are excellent times to host fundraisers. But have you thought of planning a fundraising event for New Year's Eve. Because New Year's Eve is such an exciting holiday, you can host different types of fundraisers that are enjoyable and will result in the donations you need to support your cause. Read [details](#) on four great ideas from eHow.



ACTS Annual Workshop: The Association of Christian Thrift Stores (ACTS) will be holding its annual workshop January 10–13, 2016, at the Holiday Inn Beach Resort in Pensacola, Florida. For more info and to register online go to www.actswebsite.com.

The following job positions are currently open at AGRM member missions. Please visit www.agrm.org/careers to view full descriptions and to apply. Click [here](#) for instructions on using AGRM's Recruiting Center to post open positions for your mission.

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

[Data Administrator](#), Las Vegas Rescue Mission, Las Vegas, Nevada

[Database Specialist](#), Open Door Mission, Omaha, Nebraska

[Development Associate](#), The Path of Citrus County, Beverly Hills, Florida

[Development Director](#), Salina Rescue Mission, Salina, Kansas

[Development, Assistant to Director](#), Open Door Mission Foundation, Houston, Texas

[Director of Operations](#), Rescue Mission Alliance, Oxnard, California

[Education Coordinator](#), Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, Colorado

[Executive Assistant - Team Developer](#), Rescue Mission Alliance Oxnard, California

[Executive Chef](#), Open Door Mission Foundation, Houston, Texas

[Executive Director](#), Victory Mission, Springfield, Missouri

[Facilities Supervisor](#), Rockford Rescue Mission Ministries, Inc., Rockford, Illinois

[Family Support Worker \(Overnight\)](#), Open Door Mission, Omaha, Nebraska

[Medication Aide](#), Open Door Mission, Omaha, Nebraska

[Men's Case Manager](#), Las Vegas Rescue Mission, Las Vegas, Nevada

[Men's Case Manager/Intake Worker](#), Open Door Mission, Omaha, Nebraska

[Men's Center Support Worker \(Day & Evening Avail\)](#)

Open Door Mission, Omaha, Nebraska

[Men's Life Recovery Supervisor](#), Rockford Rescue Mission Ministries, Inc., Rockford, Illinois

[Program Director](#), Phoenix Rescue Mission, Phoenix, Arizona

[Sous Chef](#), Open Door Mission, Omaha, Nebraska

[Thrift Store Supervisor](#), Rescue Mission Alliance, Oxnard, California

[Vice President of Administration](#), Milwaukee Rescue Mission, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

[Vice President of Facilities](#), Milwaukee Rescue Mission, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

[Youth Program Manager](#), The City Mission, Cleveland, Ohio



Modern Mangers

“When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law” (Galatians 4:4).

If you’ve grown up in a Christian setting, you’ve probably heard the Christmas story a gazillion times. So let’s rewind 2,000 years again to Jesus’ birth:

- We would expect a well-connected royal family;
God chose peasant parents—a blue-collar carpenter with his teenage virgin fiancée.
- We would choose an influential city—possibly Rome or Jerusalem;
God chose the little town of Bethlehem, where the sheep likely outnumbered the

people.

- We would reserve space in a comfortable palace;
God chose a stone manger in a cold stable, hewn out of the rocky hills.
- We would invite the religious and social elite;
God chose the social outcast and religious outsider shepherds.

The Apostle Paul writes, "When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son." The people, the place, and the time were all intentional. Apparently, when God sent His Son to launch His rescue mission for this world, He wasn't utilizing the same strategic thinking that we normally would.

Could this still be the case for today? Does God still want to move among a group of people or in a place that most of us would never choose? Does He still want to move in circles of those who are poor or non-influential? Does He want to move in areas of cities where crime or poverty rates are high?

These can be places and people that the world might ignore for one reason or another. Yet God decided to send His Son into those very settings to redeem us.

Used with permission from Daily Devotionals, www.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](#).

[back to top](#)

Is something unique and exciting going on at your mission? Share your news with fellow AGRM members by emailing items for "Our Street" to [Brad Lewis](#).

AGRM is a nonprofit organization committed to furthering rescue missions. AGRM provides limited space in "Market Street" for advertising opportunities, services, and products to advance the cause of rescue missions. AGRM is not responsible for the claims made by its advertisers and reserves the right to select or reject any advertising, in the sole discretion of AGRM, for any or no reason.

PRIVACY: Protecting your privacy is very important to us at AGRM. We will not rent, sell, or

exchange your e-mail address with a third party for any purpose.

All Scripture quotations taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION, unless otherwise noted. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

Street Smart is sent to you as a member service of AGRM, and is published on the 1st and 15th of each month (unless those dates fall on a weekend or holiday). The content does not necessarily represent the views of or imply endorsement by AGRM. To submit items for publication, e-mail editor@agrm.org. To unsubscribe, email unsubscribe@agrm.org.

