



A Mom in Distress and a Loving Answer

This past weekend, one of our staff received a late-night phone call. “I’m in the Emergency Room and I don’t have anyone I trust to take my child,” shared the worried mother. “Can you please help before I have to make choices I do not want to make?”

“I could hear the turmoil in the mom’s voice,” said the GUM staffer who took the call. “She was up against a wall and needed someone she could trust. Her pride made it hard for her to call, yet she was doing the right thing by asking for help.”

The mother in distress on the phone is a mom who has been in our Getting Ahead program; we have loved and served her toddler for the past year in our Children’s Ministry. One of the many strengths taught in Getting Ahead is how to deal with challenges when they arrive, and more importantly, who you can call when you need help. I believe it’s not always what you know, but who you know that can move the needle. Relationships make all the difference. It’s the beauty of inter-dependence.

That’s what makes GUM different from other organizations. We meet people where they are, in the chaos and the struggle. That’s where we forge deep lasting relationships built on mutual respect and trust...relationships deep enough that a mother would trust us with her child.

For our GUM staff, the weekend took an unexpected turn with that midnight call. From Friday to Sunday, we had a toddler to care for. And as we do so often at GUM, we shared the weight together.

While I only saw the child for a few minutes, I am so proud of how our staff met the mother’s needs even though caring for her child impacted their own lives. Our staff gave up their personal time to serve and comfort. This selflessness and humility is common at GUM; it’s the rule rather than the exception.

This is what Christian Community Development is all about. It’s what Christians want to be a part of and non-Christians need to see. This idea of truly loving and standing with each other in the midst of struggle, trial, joy, celebration and life. This weekend was a perfect example of how GUM lives out and models this lifestyle and practice of BEING the Christian Community to those without it.

People need a caring community to stand with them. Christian Community happens to be our niche. We love that we get to model, share and stand with our neighbors day-in and day-out. Not simply when they “show up for program,” but in all aspects of life. Ours is an on-going model of love in the name of Jesus to our community.

What a JOY it is to do this work!

Josh Dorrell

Executive Director

Galveston Urban Ministries

