

# Aftercare

Support for the transition to  
New Life

*If you are interested in knowing more about becoming a mentor, arranging ECHO training for your church or supporting our Aftercare program in some other way, please contact:*

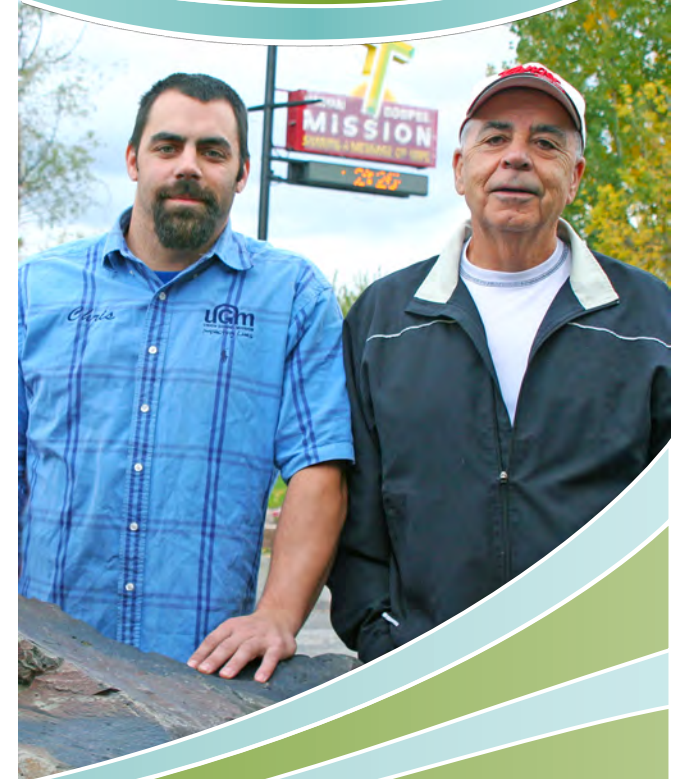
*“Our desire is to deepen our partnership with the community as we continue to help men and women return to society as contributing members.”*

**-Phil Altmeyer**  
Executive Director  
Union Gospel Mission

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## Mentors

### *The Heart of the Aftercare Program*

Mentors provide relationship support and an extended family to men and women in the Union Gospel Mission recovery programs.

- Mature Christians are paired with residents in phase 3 of our recovery programs
- Mentors receive training in the recovery process
- 1.5 to 2-year commitment
- Ongoing training and support provided

## Why Aftercare?

Participants in the Union Gospel Mission recovery programs often speak of discovering what it means to be truly loved and accepted within our shelters — of experiencing a sense of family for the first time. Then, after 18 months to 2 years, they must leave that newfound community. The transition back into society — even for a strong, healthy program graduate — can be extremely difficult. The Aftercare program was created to facilitate this move from one community to another by helping to connect our residents with trained mentors, loving churches and each other.

## Churches

### *Equipping Churches for Hands Outreached*

**ECHO** provides quality training for pastors and lay people who are working to make their churches healthy places for people in ongoing recovery.

The training benefits both churches and people in recovery:

- ECHO churches grow in their ability to reach out and minister to the hurting and broken while also encouraging spiritual growth and maturity.
- People in recovery, including graduates from the Mission's programs, can be welcomed into the Body at churches throughout the Inland Northwest — churches that know how to effectively support them in biblical recovery.

## Alumni

### *Supporting Each Other*

Events are hosted on a regular basis to help graduates who have continued in their recovery stay connected with staff members and one another. A calendar of events is available on the UGM website: [www.ugmspokane.org](http://www.ugmspokane.org).

