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## **Memphis Union Mission Sees Increase in Number of Individuals Served During Point in Time Count**

MEMPHIS, Tenn., January 23, 2014—A little over a year ago, after experiencing extended unemployment, Steve Tines ended up homeless.

“I was out of work so long, I got behind on my rent,” Tines said. “I had to sell my trailer. After that, I didn’t have anywhere to live.”

Tines approached a local church, which helped him for a while and eventually referred him to Memphis Union Mission.

Today, Tines is one of the hundreds of individuals included in the numbers that Memphis Union Mission turned in to the Community Alliance for the Homeless for the annual point in time count.

As a privately-funded ministry, Memphis Union Mission voluntarily participates in the count, which measures the homeless population each January.

During this year’s point in time count, the Mission counted 423 individuals who were served through its ministry, including its overnight shelter and residential recovery programs.

That’s a 12.8 percent increase over last year, when the Mission reported 375 individuals that were served through its ministries.

That point in time increase correlates with an 8.3 percent increase in the number of individuals served at Memphis Union Mission during December 2013 versus December 2012.

The Mission is thankful for the donors and volunteers who make it possible to serve more individuals in the midst of a difficult economy.

“This is a reflection of the kindness and compassion of our city, that a privately funded organization like the Mission is able to serve these people,” said Scott Bjork, Memphis Union Mission president & CEO. “We appreciate all the many caring people who give financially, who bring us blankets and food and other items every day, and who donate their time.”

As for Tines, since coming to the Mission for shelter a year ago, he has since become a resident advisor who helps at the front desk at the Mission’s Emergency Shelter.

“I help with checking in the men who spend the night,” Tine said. “These people have been very good to me.”

Memphis Union Mission ministers to the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of men, women and children who are homeless, addicted, and in crisis. The Mission’s ultimate objective is for clients to: 1) Become mature disciples of Christ, 2) Achieve freedom from substance abuse, 3) Reunite with family and loved ones, and 4) Reemerge as responsible, self-sufficient members of the community.

For more information, visit [www.MemphisUnionMission.org](http://www.MemphisUnionMission.org) or call (901) 526-8403.

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