



Urban Vision has served our North Akron community for 25 years. It was officially founded in 1992, when Jodi Matthews and a few committed volunteers began a holistic outreach ministry to the families of her neighborhood.

Since then, our impact has grown exponentially. Won't you join us?

Our mission is build a vibrant, unified community in North Hill, by coming alongside children and their families as they discover a vision for themselves and their community, through relationships focused on building dignity, inspiring unity, empowering futures, and meeting holistic needs.



Urban Vision
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Akron, OH 44310

Phone: 330-762-1163

Urban Vision is a registered
501©(3) non-profit entity.
Our EIN is 34-1720630.



Urban Vision Dignity Stores



Urban Vision
*Building a vibrant, unified community
through Christ.*



About Urban Vision

Urban Vision is a ministry holistically serving our community since 1992. We are seeking to raise up our community by investing in long-term solutions, not quick fixes or handouts.

Urban Vision serves the North Hill and Elizabeth Park communities of Akron. Our target area is home to African-American and Hispanic families, as well as a large refugee and immigrant population, primarily Karen, Nepalese, Pakistani, and Congolese. However, our diverse community is also a low-income, at-risk neighborhood, plagued by unemployment, abandoned buildings, struggling schools, crime, and broken families.

Neighborhood families often see no attainable alternative to poverty, as generations of struggle have created an atmosphere of conditioned hopelessness. In 2016, Urban Vision will serve an estimated 745 individual participants, primarily elementary- and middle-school age children. Our ultimate goal is to help these youth turn the tide in our community.

Dignity Store Philosophy

Urban Vision's Dignity Stores were born out of a desire to promote the dignity of the people we serve. For over 20 years we have held two annual stores, our Back to School Store and our Christmas Store. These stores are Urban Vision's biggest events of the year with over 250 participants and 250 volunteers at each store. These stores are the biggest way we promote our philosophy of providing a hand-up to our community members, rather than a handout.



Participants in any of Urban Vision's programs are enrolled in our mock financial system. Students earn "UV Dollars" for attendance, good behavior, good and improved grades, volunteering, and other elements of participation, learning the value of money honestly earned. In addition, they have the opportunity to manage and invest their UV Dollars in an online program, Economis.

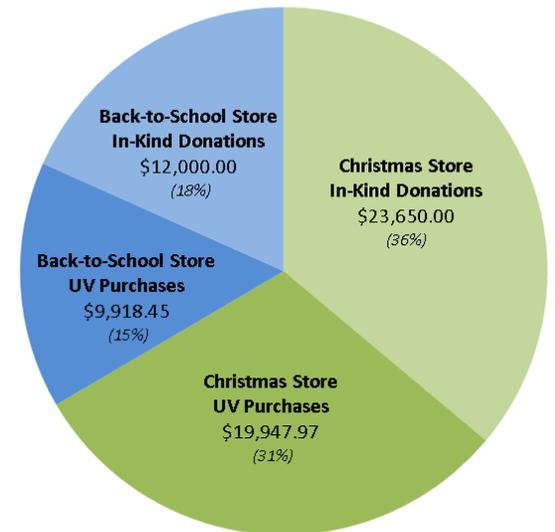
The opportunity for children to spend their UV Dollars comes twice a year. In December, participants attend the Christmas with Dignity Store, where they can purchase Christmas gifts for their families and friends. In August at the Back to School with Dignity Store, they can purchase school supplies, backpacks, uniforms, and other items needed to succeed in the coming school year. At both Stores, students can also purchase much-needed household and personal items for their families.

Our UV Economy incentives program and the Dignity Stores provide the opportunity for participants to earn UV Dollars themselves, rather than receiving a free handout. This teaches responsibility, and encourages wise earning, saving, and spending habits. Because of the Dignity Stores, students can help meet their own needs while maintaining family dignity. This helps break the bonds of hopelessness and helplessness that surround many North Hill families.

OUR NEEDS

Even with the donations we currently receive, on average, Urban Vision still spends \$30,000 on our Dignity Stores.

Urban Vision Dignity Stores
(2015-16 Fiscal Year)



Out of a 2015-16 total cost of \$65,516.42,
In-Kind Donations = \$35,650.00 (54%)
Purchased by UV = \$29,866.42 (46%)

