

AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

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As I was sitting in my new apartment one day and reflecting on my past and present state of affairs, I was reminded of a quote spoken many times from my wise and loving grandmother. “Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a gift and not giving it.”

You see, in 1999 because of a disease of addiction, I had become homeless, jobless, and had a low self-image of myself .

United Ministries, was willing to take a chance with me, because “I was committed to changing my lifestyle.” They provided me a temporary home, security, and the support I needed to stabilize my chaotic lifestyle. I was empowered to acquire a home, find a job, begin my dream of furthering my education, and regain a positive self-image of myself.

I felt grateful, now, I wanted to express and act upon this benevolence shown to me. Of course, my next question was how? Without hesitation I decided to leave what monies I have at the time of my death to United Ministries/Earl’s Place. Now I was not just feeling gratitude, I was expressing it. By deciding to give back I felt an overwhelming sense of happiness within myself, something I had not felt in a long time. I now, understood what my grandmother was communicating to me.

I urge all of you who are able to do the same. Please consider including United Ministries in your will.

The mission of United Ministries is to provide housing and supportive services to persons who are committed to changing their lives. United Ministries fulfilled that mission on my part, and I am sure that my pledge to give at the time of my death will enable them to continue their exceptional work.

Once again, as I write about my commitment to United Ministries and my plea for you to do the same, I am reminded of another quote, this one from Helen Keller. She said, “Many people have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification, but through fidelity to a worthy purpose.”

Glen Conrad
(proud to be a Visionary eternally)

Glen completed the program in 2001, graduated from Morgan State University and is currently working toward a Master’s in Social Work degree.