SERVICES PROVIDED:

UGM’s Simonka Place serves women and children from a variety of backgrounds, some in the midst of crisis and some as part of an ongoing lifestyle of instability. Alcohol and drug abuse, mental illness, loss of employment, release from jail or prison, abandonment by friends or family, or other similar life circumstances bring women for both emergency shelter and food, as well as the New Life Fellowship recovery program.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS:

1. Emergency Shelter: UGM offers safe and clean shelter, three hot meals a day, showers, laundry facilities, toiletries, first aid, and emergency clothing at no charge. Generally 30 days, with possible extensions, for women who have an immediate need for shelter while they are looking for safe, secure housing. All who stay meet regularly with staff to identify needs and make plans for future arrangements including housing, education, job search and finances. Chapel, led by volunteers from area churches or UGM staff, is also offered for all guests and recovery program participants.

2. Transition Program: Services for women who are work-ready or employed. This program allows them time to seek, gain and experience employment from a safe, no-cost, secure base while save earnings for permanent housing.

3. Supportive Services: A special needs track for women who have limitations that prevent employment, but who would not benefit from a long-term recovery program. This program provides appropriate case management for the special need.

4. New Life Fellowship Program: A Christian discipleship and recovery program for women who are ready and willing to make a dynamic change in their lives as they learn to follow Jesus Christ. The NLF Program includes:
   • Weekly counseling
   • Bible studies
Life skills classes
Scheduled work therapy (employment readiness)
Learning Center classes and tutoring
Increased participation in local church
Job search and skills assistance through Valley Employment & Career Services

ROLE OF THE PRACTICUM STUDENT:

The practicum student will work with staff members to develop a program to meet the needs of the student, as well as the needs of the guests.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE PRACTICUM STUDENT:

Students are required to complete Union Gospel Mission’s volunteer application, which includes a statement of faith and criminal history disclosure. Students are also expected to be involved in a local church and provide a reference who can verify their church involvement. They are additionally expected to uphold UGM’s Mission Statement (below).

Union Gospel Mission’s Statement:
A Christ-centered ministry demonstrating God’s love by meeting physical, mental and spiritual needs of men, women and children in crisis. Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ in word and deed.

Simonka Place interns need at least 25% of their time to be completed on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 2:45 p.m.

With two interns, scheduling flexibility for the second intern may be required.

CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK REQUIRED

As of April 15, 2011, practicum sites that use the Department of Human Services Background Check Unit will now conduct a weighing test and fitness determination when an individual has been identified as the perpetrator of abuse in certain cases of sexual abuse, physical abuse or financial exploitation. The Background Check Unit will specifically consider the most serious cases of abuse reported and substantiated from January 1, 2010, forward.