

People's City Mission makes holiday warmer

# Students can help with food and gifts

By Lee Rood  
Senior Editor

It's late morning outside the People's City Mission. Several men gather outside the entrance to the Mission's Men's Shelter shuffling their feet and smoking cigarettes. The men are cold and hungry. Some are homeless. Others don't have jobs.

Despite their hardships, however, the men seem in good spirits.

They talk boisterously, laugh and greet one another. Perhaps it's the company. Or maybe it's because they're about to eat their first warm meal of the day.

Or, maybe it's because there's a place like the mission — where people who are down on their luck can get a hot meal, warm clothes and a roof over their heads . . . if only for a while.

Inside the Mission, 110 Q St., Christmas carols drift through the

hallways as Mission staff hurry about their work. The phone rings constantly. A steady stream of people entering the mission's family entrance busy the receptionist.

The People's City Mission is busy this holiday season. But, says the Mission's Resource Distribution Manager, the hustle and bustle is year-round — contrary to what most people may think.

Gwen Oldenettel says the mission's always been a busy place,

but this year it's gotten busier. Oldenettel attributed the increase in activity to a rising number of folks who are "working poor."

"They have minimum wage jobs and can't make it," she said.

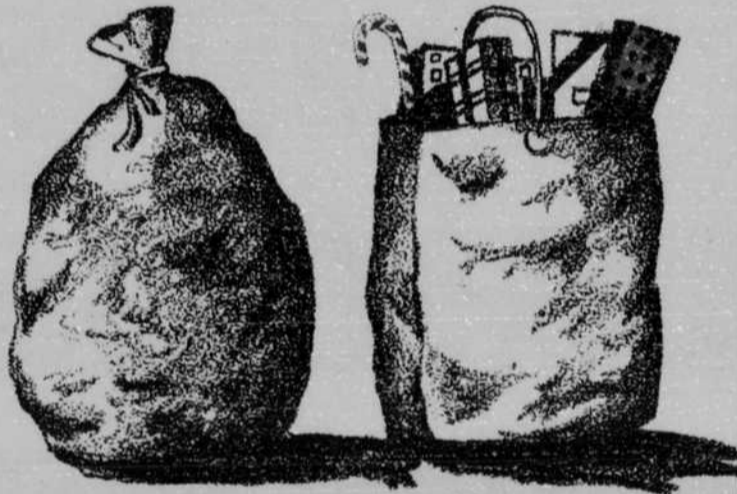
Oldenettel said she already has requests for 229 Christmas food baskets this year. Last year, the mission gave out 200. In addition, she said, the mission expects to help 500 more people this year than last through its Gift-Away

Program. Last year the program, which provides new Christmas gifts to needy people of all ages, served 2,500 people. This year, Oldenettel said, 3,000 people are expected to take part.

The increased need has created a great demand for food and gifts at the mission, Oldenettel said. University of Nebraska-Lincoln students and employees can help the mis-

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Which one are you bringing home for the holidays?



A. Laundry

B. Presents

Both of the above, right? You're on your own with laundry. But as far as shopping goes, you'd be surprised how much Downtown Lincoln has in store for Christmas...no matter how much you have to spend. Get yourself a Downtown Christmas Guide at the Union and you'll see what we mean.

You can find fun little presents, Nebraska souvenirs and lots of creative gift ideas—even high-end fashions, electronics, jewelry and more if you want to spend some bucks. There are interesting shops to explore, plenty of places to grab a bite to eat and unwind, and none of those obnoxiously long lines you get at the mall. Collect free parking stickers with Park 'n Shop and you can park free on Saturdays at the Centrum and University Square garages.

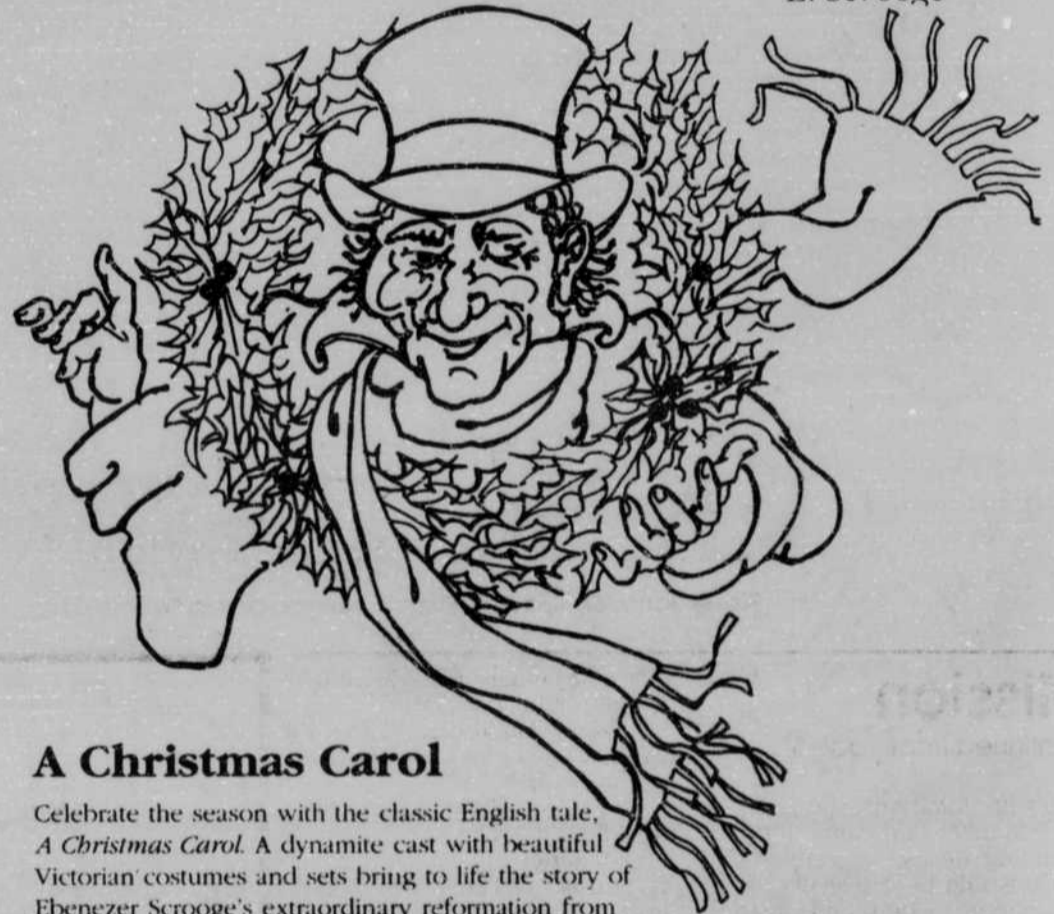
When you're ready to get into the Christmas shopping mode, stick around Downtown. You'd be surprised at how much Downtown Lincoln has in store for you.

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-E. Scrooge



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