



Plenty of people care about others. Far fewer put that care to work. We are full of gratitude for you, because you do put your care to work. Through the Mission, your faith and compassion become life-changing action.

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“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” (1 John 3:18)

Many of our neighbors will face hunger and homelessness this year, which they cannot overcome alone. With your prayers, your understanding, and your support, they can overcome. We know that’s true because of stories like the ones below (and so many others that aren’t told in a newsletter but mean just as much).

Please walk with us again this year. We can offer you stories of lives changed, so that you can celebrate with us. We can also offer an unvarnished look at the need in our community, even when that need is great and our neighbors’ pain is sobering. Whenever and however you choose to turn your heart into action, it will be right.

Leion is celebrating 5 months in his new home! Since sharing part of his story at the Mission banquet in October, Leion is loving life. His apartment is fully furnished and feels like a real home now. He is working as a truck driver, which he finds fulfilling. The job comes with benefits that have given Leion stability and confidence in his future. “I feel like I’m living the dream,” he recently told us. It’s all forward from here for Leion!



Aaron and his partner have been in their new apartment for more than a month now. They are expecting a child together soon. Thanks to the shelter and support you provided, their baby will grow up in a safe home. The couple left the Mission with some kitchen gear, diapers, and baby clothes, which were generously donated by people like Nicole (who you’ll read about later on)!

Kelvin moved out just a few weeks ago, but he’s hopeful for the future. He has most of what he needs, but he’s still looking for a couch and a bed to replace his air mattress. Kelvin plans to stop back at the Mission soon to check in with staff and say hello to friends he made during his stay. We plan to get him some food from the pantry and connect him with any other resources he needs to stay on track!

Troy enjoyed Christmas in his own apartment. He worked hard for it: getting sober, obtaining his birth certificate, finding work, and saving enough money for a deposit and rent. By the grace of God, Troy found the help he needed along the way: food and shelter from people like you, a job offer from a friend, and encouragement from his daughters, who helped him believe in himself again.



A Letter From:

Elaina Wickman, Executive Director

Dear friends of the Mission,

I am incredibly honored to step into the role of Executive Director at Northlands Rescue Mission. I know that for many of you, I am a new name and a new face. You have my word that I will do my best to earn your trust and ensure your support has a meaningful impact on people in need.

Though I am new to this role, the Mission has been a big part of my life for more than 13 years. I started in the front office, answering phone calls and helping people as they walked through the door. I then became a case manager. I spent years working directly with our clients, helping them find jobs, connecting them with services, and guiding them toward stable housing. Eventually, I went back to school and became a licensed social worker, so that I could better serve the clients I cared about so deeply.

Stepping into the role of director is both humbling and incredibly meaningful to me. My intentions in this role are threefold: to strengthen the Mission's core services, including the provision of shelter, basic resources, case management, and food through the pantry; to build stronger relationships within our community and with you, the people who make this work possible; to uplift Christian values within our community and the Mission, embracing opportunities to be the hands and feet of Christ.

I hope I get the chance to meet you and learn your story. It's inspiring to see how many people like you care about the work happening here. The meals, the shelter, the programs, the second chances – none of it happens without you. Please know that under my leadership, your questions, your suggestions, and your prayers are always welcome.

God bless,

Elaina

2025 STATS



You provided **24,715 nights of shelter** for people experiencing homelessness. Clients received **5853 donated items**: clothing, winter gear, hygiene products, and more!



291 people found homes (58% of all clients). Many moved into their own apartments. Others reunited with family or found a stable living situation with friends.



You helped end hunger with **106,446 hot meals** for clients and community members. More than **2000 families received a food box** full of meat, produce, and dry goods.

*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. [Micah 6:8]*

Community Kindness



The Power of One

Nancy and Nicole each showed the difference **one person** can make! Nancy filled her trunk with food items and brought them to the pantry. It was enough to get several families through a tough month, including one woman who cried when she saw how full her box was. / Nicole stops by sometimes with diapers, wipes, and formula. Her donations bring relief to young mothers who are struggling to cover the costs of a new baby. For these tired, stressed women, a gift like this means more than the shelf price.

Having our Back!

The food pantry almost had to close after our kitchen manager injured his back. Fortunately, some **compassionate volunteers** swooped in to help! Lacey, Paulette, and Cathy quickly learned the ropes. They served 40 local families in just two hours, each one greeted with a smile. We've welcomed them back on several occasions!



There is Beauty in Kindness

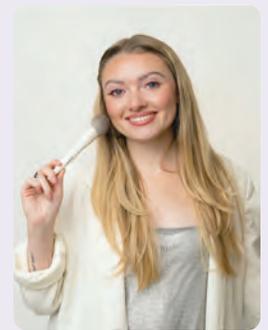
When the team at **Bloom Beauty Bar** learned about the women staying at the Mission (and how many of them feel vulnerable and self-conscious), they knew they could help! Throughout February, the team collected feminine hygiene and personal care items. Staff donated products, and they gave their customers the chance to show their generosity too. We picked up more than 600 items from the drive! Now those items are helping women at the Mission feel clean, beautiful, and safe.

Bloom owner Marissa Mero on how her friends and faith inspire compassion:

Marissa first met our volunteer coordinator, Korrin, through her business. The two got to talking about the people who stay at the Mission. It hit Marissa how close hunger and homelessness are, right here in our community.

“My heart grew listening to [Korrin’s] stories,” says Marissa. “I realized that we have the ability to so easily help these people. It lit a fire in me, and our conversations turned into my internal dialogue, which turned into prayer.”

Marissa knew she wasn’t the only one who had a heart to help. Her team and her clients did too! She came up with an idea: Bloom Beauty Bar would run a food drive for children in the Backpack Program. Marissa offered customers store credit for each food item donated. The result blew her away: 15,000 food items donated to feed local kids in need!



Marissa opened Bloom Beauty Bar in Grand Forks in 2021, later expanding into Devils Lake.

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“It is so cool to watch people walk in with bags or boxes of donations,” says Marissa. “[Our clients] always comment on the community involvement and how they love supporting a business that is involved in that sort of thing. I truly believe that our clients support Bloom for who we are at our core, and that means that they care about this too.”

Bloom has two locations: one in Grand Forks and one in Devils Lake. Both teams and their clientele donated to the drive. They’ve since worked together on a winter gear drive and the feminine hygiene drive too.

Marissa brought her team to the Mission to slice pies for the Thanksgiving meal, and they toured the building to learn more about the people who stay there. The team realized that their work wasn’t just making a difference — it was bringing them closer together.

“We all have similar hearts when it comes to this stuff,” says Marissa. “Working with the Mission has created a bond between us six girls, and it’s been a beautiful thing to watch that bond unfold.”

When will the next opportunity to serve present itself? That is to be determined, but Marissa knows her faith will lead the way.

“I have a calling from God to rally my team and clients to help the people at the Mission,” she says. “It’s the least I can do to pay forward the love that God has for all of us.”



Bloom staff and clients collected more than 15,000 food items for kids in the Backpack Program!

When a client gets the keys to their new home, it’s a big deal. However, there are so many other “wins” happening at the Mission each day because of people like you. We want to celebrate those, too!

Bret just reached 30 days of sobriety!

AND he’s lined up a new job! These are significant achievements for Bret, given his long and difficult history of drug abuse. The structured environment that you provide at the Mission is helping him stay focused.

Richard got a new scooter!

Richard is disabled and can’t walk without great pain. He recently got a motorized scooter and is making responsible, monthly payments on it. After he was approved, he couldn’t wait to show everyone a picture of his new wheels!

Your Memorial Gifts Matter

Thank you to everyone who has sent in a memorial gift for a friend or loved one. Please know that we track each of these gifts carefully. With your permission, we may inform the family of the person being commemorated. This can be very meaningful, as it lets them know their loved one continues to inspire generosity toward people in need. If you would like to give in memory/honor of someone, please include a note with your gift, or fill out the appropriate section on our web donation form. Call Samantha at **(701) 772-6600 ext. 1011** for any questions.