



Friends, it's a blessing to be able to share this newsletter with you. Many of you tell me how much you enjoy hearing the stories of this work: "Jane got a job as a cashier" or "Marcus reconnected with his parents and moved home." My team and I get to witness these outcomes in person. You deserve to know them too, because your generous support makes them possible. I hope the stories of success and kindness in these pages move you as they've moved us.

- Elaina Wickman, Executive Director

Inside Your Newsletter:

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Gary: A Place to Call Home

Every morning, Gary wakes up in his own apartment. If the weather is nice, he'll start his day with a walk to the nearby McDonald's, where he enjoys a cup of coffee.

It's part of a routine Gary has built in the years since he left the Mission: peaceful, independent, and active. He has that freedom because, in his time of need, people like you showed up for him.

Gary never planned to need help. He certainly didn't want to have to ask for it. When he was younger and healthier, he lived an unusually independent life. He traveled the country and made a living working all kinds of skilled labor jobs. These included shipbuilding, logging, construction, and much more. He even worked at a homeless shelter at one point.

As Gary aged and his physical health deteriorated, work became harder to find. He realized that a stable future wasn't as promised as it once seemed.

Eventually, Gary's savings ran out. In 2023, he vacated his then-apartment complex when it became unsafe to live in. The security deposit he was counting on never showed up. That's when he begrudgingly accepted the fact that he needed help.

You were there to provide it through the Mission.

Gary came here with a positive attitude and a willingness to put the work in. He needed shelter, a bit of food, and someone to show him his options. That was all it took. In less than two months, he was moved into his own apartment in Grand Forks.

Three years later, he's living independently and peacefully.



Your support helped Gary get his own apartment, where he has lived since 2023.

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Gary is part of the community now. He's tried his hand at local activities for seniors. He's made friends, like with his mailman, Doug. They often trade stories and chat about the goings-on in the community. Last year, Gary says, Doug brought him a meal on Thanksgiving. That meant a lot to him.

"Everything's stable, that's why I stay in Grand Forks," Gary tells us. "I know the ropes here, and you know, I'm 73 now. It's time [to settle down]."

Gary is looking to the future, too. His big goal is to move into a nicer apartment that's closer to a grocery store. He's put some money away for that, and he's on a housing waiting list. He's not rushing anything, though.

"I'm not worried about it," Gary says. "I know it'll happen eventually. It could be tomorrow or it could be next spring. I'm ready."

He won't be alone, either. Doug offered to bring his trailer and help Gary move when the time comes.

"I've got everything I need now," says Gary. "I don't have to worry about anybody taking care of me."

Thank you for helping Gary find a place in our community. Eighty people will lay their heads down at the Mission tonight. Many hope for the kind of stable life Gary has now. Because of your generous support, they have a real chance at getting it.



Gary has found plenty of reasons to love Grand Forks. He is particularly fond of walks by the river.

Save the Dates

Mission of Hope Banquet

Thursday, November 12th at the UND Memorial Union

Hear powerful stories of lives changed, told by those who lived them!
Enjoy dinner and live music, and browse a preview of the auction.

Tickets / sponsorships at northlandsrescuemission.org/banquet



BANQUET

Season of Hope Online Auction

starts Monday, November 30th

Browse 100+ packages to help end homelessness and hunger.
Bid on your favorite date night package, art piece, kid's set, or more!

Register free at northlandsrescuemission.org/auction



AUCTION

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

[Psalm 133:1]

Community Kindness



Pizza with Purpose

Kristal Jordan knows what it's like to persevere through tough times. When she felt called to give back, she thought about folks staying at the Mission who have lost their homes. She decided to donate 40 Popolino's pizzas as a special treat for them! "This is what God wanted me to do," she told us with a smile.

Future Leaders in Action

The GFPD IMPACT Academy is a summer program for middle schoolers. Their goal is to help kids become role models through community involvement. The kids stopped by to give our picnic tables and chairs a deep cleaning. It was a joy to see them work together, laugh, and take pride in a job well done!



Mission Trip!

The ladies of Mountain Lutheran Church made the 90 minute drive from Adams, ND to host a cookout. They brought barbecue, chips, beans, and coleslaw. In just one hour, they served more than 200 community members!



TLC Cleaning Rallies the Community to Beat the Heat

When temps reached nearly 100 degrees during the weekend of July 11th, we put out a call: help provide water for community members in need. That heat is dangerous, especially for people without shelter or those who work outside.

A blessing soon arrived via **TLC Cleaning**. They kicked things off with a \$100 commitment, then asked friends and customers to join the cause. Their initial goal was to donate a full pallet of water. It became much bigger.

Support poured in. One pallet of water turned into FOUR, plus 66 bottles of sunscreen! People lined up to carry everything into the Mission on a hot July afternoon. Staff have since handed out thousands of donated bottles, helping people stay cool and safe.

"This week reminded me why I love this community," said TLC owner Trisha Lake. "I'm honored we could play a small part in bringing our community together for a great cause."

Our special thanks goes out to Trisha, TLC Cleaning, everyone who supported their drive, and others who donated water independently. This is what community is all about!



Nearly 8000 water bottles were donated

Want to learn more about TLC Cleaning or get an estimate? Visit tlccleaningexperts.com/online-estimate

Growing in Faith

We know God as a profound source of healing and hope. **Since 1942, the Mission has been a place for troubled souls to discover God and build a relationship with Him.** We are blessed to partner with local pastors, churches, and volunteers, who provide faith-building opportunities like these:

- Friends of St. Michael's Church and Sacred Heart Catholic Church host a Bible study every Thursday evening at the Mission.
- Pastor Hughes of Cornerstone Baptist joins us twice a month for Bible study. "After reading the history of [the Mission], I was compelled and convicted to volunteer to help minister to the spiritual needs of those seeking help with ... food and shelter and more," he shares.
- The Redeemed Christian Church of God - Lord's Temple leads both an onsite and offsite monthly Bible study and worship for clients.
- The Salvation Army offers rides to a weekly dinner and Bible study.

Many local churches welcome our clients graciously and with open arms. What an opportunity for community, companionship, and healing through faith! Thank you all for bringing Christ to "the last, the least, and the lost."



Pastor Hughes (right) helps people connect with God right here inside the Mission. He has 34 years of ministerial experience and currently ministers at Cornerstone Baptist.

NEW BEGINNINGS

NEAL is a long-time alcoholic who'd struggled at another shelter. The support you gave him at the Mission turned out to make the difference! He is 9 months sober since coming here. He got critical help applying for benefits and housing.

Neal recently moved into St. Anne's Guest Home. That's the safest place for him now. He is cared for and surrounded by positive people. He is finding new opportunities to make friends and join in fun, sober activities. **Thank you for helping Neal live with dignity and peace again.**

JACKSON needed help beyond a bed and a meal. Because of your generous support, that's exactly what he got at the Mission!

Jackson struggled with addiction. So, he started attending the Mission's support group. A couple times a week, he sat down to talk with an addiction counselor.

This gave him a new motivation. Jackson enrolled in a residential treatment program in South Dakota. He got sober, then obtained a Certified Nursing Assistant license (a long-time goal of his).

Jackson had a setback when he relapsed. Things were different this time around, though. **The support you provided meant he had resources and people in his corner.** Now Jackson is sober again. He's working as a nursing assistant at a local care facility and saving his money for a better future.



Neal just moved into his own room at St. Anne's Guest Home!