



Though much of our attention is focused on assisting homeless men, women, and families, our work often extends far beyond the Mission's walls. We are constantly searching for ways to better serve community members in need. You may have seen some of our messaging that uses "More Than Just a Shelter" as a tagline. That represents our commitment to ending hunger, homelessness, and poverty through a variety of programs and partnerships. Our collaboration with the Grand Forks Public Schools Mentor Center is a great example of this.

The Mentor Center is a drop-in resource center for middle school and high school students. Last year, our school district realized that many students could benefit from in-person learning and support during the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past six months, the way that students interacted with education had completely changed. Remote learning, uncertain schedules, a lack of social engagement - all of these factors and more made things challenging for students and families.



Opened in January, the Mentor Center has become a multi-purpose facility that provides students with an array of helpful resources. Students can work on crafts, take classes, socialize, form study groups, or just hang out. Nature walks, cooking classes, trivia sessions, and yoga are just a few of many activities that students can enjoy at the Mentor Center. The center also provides internet, laptops, transportation, and snacks.

"We try to meet the students where they're at and work with them on whatever it is they want to do on that day," says Mentor Center Coordinator Robin David. *"We provide academic support, mental health support, technical support, whatever the students need."*

This "meet-all-needs" philosophy is what led to a partnership with Northlands Rescue Mission. In February, the Mission began providing food for Mentor Center students: fruits & vegetables, pasta, canned goods, treats, and more. A pantry area and refrigerator was set up in the center. When students left for the day, they were welcome to choose food items to take home. Not only did this food provide students with much-needed nutrition, it also became a learning opportunity.

"What's been fun for us and for the students is that we've been able to make the food part of our enrichment programming," says Robin. *"Students get to learn how to prepare and eat different kinds of food. We were able to make smoothies with one group. Some really nice moments happened, too. We'd get a food shipment in, and the students would be excited to talk about the kinds of things they were seeing that were a part of their own cultural background."*

The center temporarily closed at the end of June. By that time, 219 students had visited the center more than 2000 times. It was discovered that many students who visited the center saw a boost in grades and school attendance.

"[The Center] has taught me to come out of my shell," said one student.

"I could get help and feel wanted [there]," shared another.

The center was so successful that it will reopen at the start of the next school year. At that time, the Mission will continue sending food for students to bring home. We cannot wait to continue assisting a program with such obvious benefits for young and developing students. Thank you for helping to make that possible!



It is truly a blessing to be part of a community with so many opportunities to help others. By supporting the Mission, you make a difference for our homeless clients, but also for many others. Please know that your impact reaches many people in many corners. You may have given a hand up to the next person who walks by, without even knowing it!

A Letter From:

Sue Shirek, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for persevering. Thank you for standing by the Mission when times have been tough, when fear has been great, and when uncertainty and discord have been so prevalent. Through all the hard times, and for almost 80 years, you have stood by the work of the Mission, and we are so thankful for your support.

Covid has made life very challenging for all of us, and we are all tired. Yet, we move forward with faith and hope. A friend of mine sent me a text today with a scripture verse from Hebrews 6:19. *"Now we have this hope as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul. It cannot slip and it cannot break down under whoever steps out upon it."*

Your support gives people the gift of hope, hope for a better future, hope for a stable life, hope that there are good people who care about others and who are willing to give them a chance.

Together, we will continue to meet the needs of our clients. With your help, we hope to feed 2200 students each week this year in the Backpack Program. With your help, we are working towards a spectrum of addiction services for clients at the Mission that extend to when they are housed in the community. With your help, we are providing assistance to people who are facing eviction, people who need a meal, people who need groceries, people who just need your support.

With your help, lives can change. Thank you, and God bless you.

In Christ,



Sue Shirek

2021 STATS



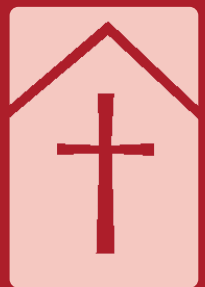
Families have received **1729 food boxes** from the Mission this year. The **Mobile Food Pantry** has served **593 households** in 4 counties.



352 clients have received shelter, food, clothing, and social support. Homeless clients had a bed to sleep in for a total of **5558 nights**.



More than **120 clients** have left the Mission for **stable housing**. The average stay for a client is just 28 days, down from 86 days in 2017!



*The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love. - Psalm 103:8*

Addiction Support without Barriers

When an individual arrives at Northlands Rescue Mission, they may bring along very few physical possessions. Yet, many of our clients are carrying something when they walk through our doors. Childhood trauma, addiction, PTSD, physical or mental disabilities, or one of many other afflictions that make life unimaginably difficult. Financial barriers and limited access to resources only magnify these issues. That is why we do everything we can to connect our clients with existing community

resources and set up opportunities in a way that makes them feel achievable rather than impossible. Earlier this year, we partnered with a local mental health care provider to offer one such opportunity for clients dealing with addiction.



Clients gather here each Wednesday.

Every Wednesday, clients are invited to sit in our conference room for a 30-minute zoom call with a licensed addiction counselor. During this time, participants are welcome to share issues, ask questions, or discuss difficulties related to addiction. The counselor, in turn, connects participants with local support programs and shares strategies to help break addictive thinking patterns.

The meetings are inclusive and informal. Anyone may join on any given Wednesday. Some meetings may have just two participants, some may have ten or more. The important thing is that clients are given the chance to share their story and receive support free of charge or special qualification.

If you have followed our communications over the last year, you likely remember a former client named Jason. With the help of the Mission, Jason overcame his own addiction. His success gave him the desire to help others dealing with addiction, and he has been instrumental in bringing this addiction support program to the Mission. He plays a crucial role in recruiting participants, and we are happy to say that he is working towards becoming a certified recovery peer advocate.

Addiction support at the Mission is a small initiative at present, but it is designed to be scalable. We are exploring options to expand counseling sessions and provide partial funding for treatment programs outside of the Mission. As one of the many people who make this program possible, we cannot wait to share future developments with you!



Jason helps recruit clients for the support meetings.

Thank You, Grantors!

Grantors continue to be an important source of support for the Mission, providing funds for everything from Backpack Program food and air mattresses to maintenance projects.



Funds for Backpack Program Food



Funds for 40 air mattresses - a big help for clients moving into housing!



Work laptops courtesy of the Myra Foundation



Funds for Backpack Program food - enough for a week's worth of meals for 400 elementary students!



Provided enough food to keep 50 children fed for an entire school year through the Backpack Program!

View current needs, upcoming events, client stories, and more online at: NORTHLANDSRESCUEMISSION.ORG

Phone: 701-772-6600

Address: 420 Division Ave. Grand Forks, ND 58201

CHECK US OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA:



**AUGUST 30 -
SEPTEMBER 2**



**NORTHLANDS RESCUE
MISSION PRESENTS**



**Back
the
Pack!**

FOOD DRIVE FOR GRAND FORKS STUDENTS



NEEDED ITEMS:

- Ramen Noodles
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Juice Boxes/Pouches
- Instant Oatmeal Packets
- Applesauce/Fruit Cups
- Fruit Snacks

Look for tagged items at any
Hugo's location in Grand Forks!

HUGO'S
FAMILY MARKETPLACE

DROP-OFF LOCATION
**Alerus Center Ticket
Office (Entrance #1)**
1200 S. 42nd St.
8AM - 5PM



Donations:
\$100 FEEDS A CHILD
IN THE BACKPACK
PROGRAM FOR AN
ENTIRE SCHOOL
YEAR!

FOR MORE INFO VISIT
NORTHLANDSRESCUEMISSION.ORG



SAT. SEPTEMBER 18th

**WALK, RUN, OR RIDE TO
SUPPORT HOMELESS MEN,
WOMEN, AND FAMILIES**

Register online at northlandsrescuemission.org/HomeRun



5K Run/Walk



100K Bike Ride



25-Mile Bike Ride



**MISSION
OF
Hope**
NORTHLANDS RESCUE MISSION

Banquet & Online Auction
Thursday, November 11th, 2021

Alerus Center - Grand Forks, ND

Dinner & Program at 7:00 PM

Online Auction opens November 9th

Bid on more than 100 packages: home decor, sports memorabilia, family packages, date night packages, and more! Auction registration is **FREE**.

Tony Drees



We are honored to welcome Gulf War veteran, Purple Heart recipient, and former Grand Forks resident Tony Drees to speak at this year's Mission of Hope Banquet on Veteran's Day!

TO REGISTER, OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT US ONLINE AT

northlandsrescuemission.org/banquet