



Here at the Mission, we encounter a seemingly endless stream of new opportunities to impact hunger and homelessness in our region. Folks reach out to us all the time with ideas for new partnerships and services. That's part of what makes this work so exciting. If we think we can do more, let's talk about how to make it happen!

Last year, we made a big push to expand the Backpack Program to more schools and students. The result is that we are now feeding more than 1000 students each week at nine elementary schools in Grand Forks. This could not have happened without some creativity and valuable support. On that note, we'd like to share the story of one big boost to that effort, from United Lutheran Church.

Inside this Newsletter:

- Client Updates
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- Upcoming Events
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Once a month, volunteers from United Lutheran gather in the church basement. In front of them are tables full of food items, arranged in a neat line. The volunteers will spend the next hour or so packing more than 200 meals into bags. Those meals are for students at Phoenix Elementary School, which is just across the street from the church.

The congregation has done this many times over the past 16 months, sending nearly 2000 meals to their neighborhood students in need. These packing events draw many different people from the church, according to Janiel Bollman, who is the chair of the Outreach and Wellness Ministry.

"Moms and dads bring their kids. Seniors in our congregation come. Our pastors come," says Janiel.

This effort started after United Lutheran asked the Mission about new ways to make a difference. After some conversation, United Lutheran agreed to take over a piece of the Mission's Backpack Program, which provides weekend meals to elementary students. The church even offered to raise their own funds to purchase the food products!

"We estimated what it was going to cost, told the congregation what we wanted to do, and asked for donations," says Janiel. "And people responded."

This isn't the first time the church has done something to help their neighborhood school.

"They're right across the street, so we want to be supportive," says Pastor Karla Coen-Tuff, who has been with the church for more than twenty years. "We started having conversations with the school and asking, 'What do you need, and what are the stories of your families?' And we've been able to do several things."

"One of the things that the principal expressed to us was that kids would go over these long holiday breaks, and without the lunch program he worried about their supplies at home," says Pastor Karla. "So we started filling these backpacks with enough foodstuffs to last through the Christmas break, and we would send them home with anybody who wanted them."

The church also ran a summer lunch program for students and community members during the month of August.

"We started serving lunches at noon when they held the summer school program [at Phoenix]," says Pastor Karla. "We had maybe 200 people on the lawn from the neighborhood and community all having lunches together."

The church also puts together an Angel Tree each year so that congregation members can donate clothing and items for Phoenix students. They even prepared special snack packages for students during the height of the pandemic.

This level of involvement is nothing new for folks at United Lutheran. They've been finding creative ways to give back to the community for years.

"[We have] a real desire to be a neighborhood church," says Pastor Karla. "We're always looking for where God is calling us next."

Right now, the church is gathering funds to help LaGrave on First residents purchase groceries.

In April, they held a bread auction and raised nearly \$2000 for residents of Ukraine.



United Lutheran, continued from Page 1...

Pastor Karla and Janiel also look forward to the return of United Lutheran's summer gardening program.

"We have kind of an urban garden here where we have all kinds of fruits and vegetables," says Pastor Karla. "Everything [from the garden] is just free for the taking."



"There are no qualifiers," says Janiel. "People can come if they have a need, and we get quite a response. The demand has really gone up, and I imagine this summer it'll maybe be a little bit higher. We even have congregation members who bring in stuff from their own gardens."

There's no doubt that United Lutheran has another summer full of good works ahead. As far as the Backpack Program goes, Pastor Karla and Janiel hope that what they're doing might inspire other churches to help in similar ways.

"It would be really cool if other churches stepped forward and we could expand this [program] and grow it," says Pastor Karla. "All of the schools in Grand Forks have kids and families who have needs. To get [this program] to all of our schools is a really worthwhile goal, and it's exciting to be part of that."

"Now with the cost of things, there will be an even greater need," says Janiel. "I hope we can inspire other churches to take some of that need on."

The Mission is truly blessed by the wonderful support we receive from churches across the region. Your prayers, your time, and your donations are deeply appreciated. We'd like to extend a special thank you to everyone at United Lutheran for enthusiastically adopting a piece of the Backpack Program.

If your church, club, coworkers, or family would like to get involved with the Backpack Program, please reach out to Korrin at (701) 772-6600 ext. 215 or email korrin@jointhemission.org. God bless!



How are they doing?

Let's check in with our clients whose stories we shared recently!



Michelle is now living in her own apartment. Since moving out, she's stopped by the Mission several times to volunteer. Michelle's next goal is pursuing a college education!

Heather and Adam are settled into their new townhouse. They've now saved up some money and are feeling more hopeful about the future. Heather recently stopped by the Mission to say hi!



Bryson is still living and working in Grand Forks. He's enjoyed adding things to his new apartment and says he now has all the furniture he needs. "Everything is going alright!" Bryson tells us.

Many clients build a support network while staying at the Mission, which helps them stay housed once they get housed!

Current Needs

Your item donations matter! Clothing, hygiene products, and household items go a long way for homeless clients who may have very few personal belongings.

For a complete list of needs, visit us online! We are seeking:

- Backpacks
- Small appliances (e.g. microwaves, toasters)
- 3-in-1 shampoo/conditioner/body wash

Donations may be brought to our front office at any time.

If you need help bringing in items, please call (701) 772-6600 ext. 209. Thank you!

Rebecca dropped off a box of socks for Mission clients - a universal and unending need. Thank you, Rebecca!



Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. [Deuteronomy 32:2]

Community Kindness



HOPE Church packed **4000 bags of food** for the Backpack Program as part of their *Go! Event*. Then they donated \$4000 too! This was a real boost to the program, helping us serve 40% more kids than last year.



These lovely ladies from **St. Paul's Episcopal Church** made a surprise visit to the Mission. They brought a mountain of Backpack Program food, which we stacked in the lobby. We love our church neighbors!



Famous Dave's used their soft opening in Grand Forks as a fundraiser for the Mission. They made a donation at their grand opening ceremony, then treated us to a delicious brisket meal!



An anonymous donor sent a massive **Domino's Pizza meal** for our clients! It arrived in the middle of that tough late-winter weather and went a long way toward raising spirits!



Thank you, Volunteers!

We recently celebrated Volunteer Appreciation Week, recognizing the hundreds of volunteers who dedicate thousands of hours to giving back each year. All of the work we do at the Mission could not happen without you!

Featured here (clockwise from top left): the Sacred Heart Catholic parish has dedicated nearly a decade of help to the Mission! UND senior Taylor has assisted with stats and special events for 3 years. You already read about United Lutheran's work with the Backpack Program, but their help is so nice we featured them twice! Our "Wednesday Ladies" have devoted 7500 hours to running our "Rescued Treasures" thrift store over the past 10 years.

Rapid Rehousing & Homelessness Prevention for Women

Would you be surprised to learn that the Mission served 70 homeless women last year? Women aren't the stereotypical picture of homelessness, yet many women find themselves in just that position each year. Often, women have their own unique challenges to escaping homelessness. That's why we take extra care in designing our support programs to fit both male and female clients!

We are delighted to have the support of the Women's Fund in this endeavor. The Women's Fund seeks to "provide ideas, energy, and resources so that women and girls are empowered to achieve economic, social, and political equity" in the Grand Forks/EGF region. They recently awarded the Mission a grant for the purpose of housing female clients through our Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention program.

This program involves helping our clients transition into permanent supportive housing as quickly as possible. This may involve providing short-term rental assistance, covering utilities, or otherwise supporting a client until they are in a position to sustain themselves. It has been shown that clients who are housed have an easier time addressing other factors that may have led to their homelessness. Thank you to the Women's Fund for helping us end homelessness among our female clients!



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

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:



GIVING HEARTS DAY 2022

Thank You!

God bless you all for your incredible response on Giving Hearts Day. Together we raised an astounding \$94,000! These funds will be used throughout the year to feed families and connect homeless clients with resources for employment, housing, mental health support, and more. Your support comes at a critical time when we are all feeling increased pressure at the grocery store and at the gas pumps. We are so grateful for your help preventing and addressing homelessness in our community. ♥



Upcoming Events



Mulligan Classic

Thursday, June 9th
King's Walk Golf Course

Grab friends or coworkers
and golf for a good cause!

\$125/Individual

\$480/Four-person Team

Register at
northlandsrescuemission.org/golf



SAT. SEPTEMBER 17TH

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

Choose your event!
Afterwards, join us for lunch,
live music, and awards!



5K Walk/Run



50/100k Gravel Bike Ride



25 Mile Bike Race



Register Online Now At
NorthlandsRescueMission.org/HomeRun

**AUGUST 22nd -
AUGUST 26th**



Back the Pack!

FOOD DRIVE FOR GRAND FORKS STUDENTS



**NORTHLANDS RESCUE
MISSION PRESENTS**

Last year you helped us expand the Backpack Program to 9 schools and more than 1000 children per week!

Please consider collecting food items & donations so we can keep fighting child hunger next school year.

NEEDED ITEMS:

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

MORE INFO AT
NORTHLANDSRESCUEMISSION.ORG

DROP-OFF LOCATION

TBD

INFO ONLINE SOON!



**Northlands
Rescue Mission**
WHERE HOPE BEGINS

80 Years!

Did you know that our founder used to run a gospel radio broadcast out of Cando, ND? How about that the Mission has had three different locations? Ever wonder how the Mission survived the flood of 1997?

In honor of our 80th year, we are sharing interesting tidbits about the Mission's origins and impact since the doors opened in the 1940s. Check our social media pages every Tuesday for a piece of history. *Thank you for being part of the Mission's ongoing legacy!*

