



Friends of the Mission, as you sit down to read this newsletter, I hope you are comfortable, healthy, and in good spirits. This year has delivered new challenges for all of us, but I pray you have found blessings in between. Please know that whatever the circumstances in your life, you are making a difference for someone in need through the Mission. God bless you for that.

### Inside this Newsletter:

- A Letter from Sue
- A Generational Gift
- Mission of Hope Auction
- Thanksgiving Meals
- ...and more!

**Family Matters:** Here at the Mission, we consider it something of a duty to stay aware of changing (or in some cases under-addressed) needs in our community. To this point, we have kept one demographic in our minds for several years: families.

We recognize the unique challenges families face when confronted with homelessness: a lack of shelter space, safety concerns for children, and an elevated cost of living, among other things. It has been our goal to better serve families for a while now.

We started on this by expanding our advocacy team in 2020, adding a dedicated family case manager. We began assisting families at risk of homelessness with things like transportation, temporary shelter, childcare items, and more. This was very successful, but there was still a

piece missing. We wanted shelter space where families could live safely together while receiving the same kind of specialized case management as our in-house clients.

Well, we are excited to announce that this missing piece is becoming a reality. As of July, the Mission has limited shelter space for families with children! So, what does this look like?

Instead of constructing a new building, the Mission is renting out real apartment units for families through a master lease program. Essentially, the Mission is the tenant and families live in a unit temporarily on behalf of the Mission.

*"A family comes into a fully furnished, fully functional home,"* says Nate Espinoza, Family Case Manager at Northlands Rescue Mission. *"It has more than just the bare necessities. The pantry is full of food, there are toys, blankets, cleaning supplies...everything they need."*

Having this type of living space comes with some crucial benefits. Families may stay together and won't have to deal with any of the safety or privacy concerns that come with a communal living space. The stigma of being homeless is also greatly reduced, as families in the shelter are living independently like any other family.

Of course, the family shelter comes with rules. There are regular visits from our advocacy team, and residents are expected to keep the apartment clean and functional. Much like our in-house clients, families are expected to set goals and work on a plan for permanent housing during their stay.

*"We check in with them every day,"* says Nate. *"We don't want these families to think we just put them on the backburner at a faraway location. We are actively working these cases."*

So far, the Mission has sheltered several families, and we hope to acquire more apartment units for this purpose in the near future. We can't wait to share some family success stories with you as the program evolves!

**As a Mission supporter, you are part of the reason families now have increased access to shelter. Our promise to you is to continue addressing the most important needs in our community in the best way we know how. I am confident there will be more exciting improvements to our services down the road. Thank you for being with us on this journey!**



# A Letter From:

Sue Shirek, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

This year, we changed our Mission statement to more accurately reflect the work we are doing in our community and region. It is now ***“Empowering people experiencing homelessness, housing insecurity or food instability to live more stable lives.”***

Our work at the Mission is focused on connecting people to the tools and resources that are available to them in order that they can set and achieve their own goals for housing, employment, and independent living.

We continue to expand our meal service, food pantry, mobile food pantry, outreach, shelter services, Backpack Program, and supports for people struggling with addiction and mental illness. We have also started sheltering families experiencing homelessness in apartment settings. This has made the experience of homelessness less traumatic for families and children, as the family unit remains intact, and they are not living in a shelter setting.

Our organizational focus on client empowerment allows our work to be client-centered and strength-based. We challenge our clients. We encourage our clients, and we support our clients in their pursuit of their goals.

When you join with us to support our work, you are helping to change the quality of life for everyone who accesses our services. Thank you for entrusting your financial gifts to our organization. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for being a blessing to the Mission and the people we serve.

In Christ,



Sue Shirek

2022 STATS



Families have received **4871 food boxes** from the Mission this year. The **Mobile Food Pantry** has served **1025 families** in 11 communities.



The Backpack Program is feeding **1129 children** each week. **Volunteers** have dedicated **3700 hours** of service to those in need.



Nearly **150 clients** have left the Mission for **stable housing**. More than half of all Mission clients achieve a positive housing outcome!



*Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us.* [Ephesians 3:20]

# A Generational Gift...

Countless times throughout her life, Leatrice O'Keefe felt called to help others. This came naturally through her faith and compassion, but it was also inspired by hardships Leatrice witnessed herself.

Leatrice's father, Arthur, was known to be a kind and loving man. He struggled at times, however. Alcoholism threatened to control his life. On several occasions, Arthur stayed at the Grand Forks Mission, where he received food, shelter, and support.



Leatrice O'Keefe

Leatrice must have felt her father's pain, and she was grateful for the support he had received. Throughout her life, she made many charitable contributions to the Mission. Homelessness and substance abuse, which often go hand-in-hand, became important issues to her. Wanting to make a lasting difference, Leatrice designated the Mission as a beneficiary in her will.

So it was that the Mission was paid a recent visit by Leatrice's four daughters: Maureen, Katie, Kerry, and Gigi. They brought with them a \$10,000 check – a gift from the Leatrice O'Keefe Estate. The sisters were excited to share Leatrice's story, and it was heartwarming to meet this family who have clearly inspired much compassion in one another.

Leatrice's gift will help support the Mission's in-house addiction support program, giving our clients a safe, welcoming environment to open up about their addiction. We have already seen positive effects for many of our clients in this program: hope

restored, commitment to sobriety, and a newfound motivation to escape homelessness.

Leatrice lived a life of selflessness, and though she has passed, her compassion will be felt for a long time to come. This gift will give countless clients the opportunity to overcome addiction and homelessness. With each person who finds success at the Mission, positive effects will trickle down to their friends, family, and community. A generational gift, indeed.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the O'Keefe family. Thank you for inspiring us, and for using this gift to empower a new generation.

*There's more to the story! Visit us online to read a letter written by Kerry, which shares more about Leatrice and her motivation to help others: [www.northlandsrescuemission.org/gift](http://www.northlandsrescuemission.org/gift)*



Sisters Gigi (left), Kerry, Maureen, and Katie share a story and a gift

The great thing about blessings is that they come from all over. That certainly describes our partnership with the CPPS Heritage Mission Fund, operated by the Sisters of the Precious Blood in Dayton, Ohio. On several occasions, the Sisters have recognized a critical need and, from 1000 miles away, responded with incredible compassion and generosity.



The CPPS Heritage Mission Fund supported general Mission operations with a \$10,000 grant, and they have now committed \$15,000 to feed local students through the Backpack Program. We are beyond grateful!

## Thank You, Grantors!

The creation and expansion of our addiction support program has been one of the most exciting developments in recent years. Clients have found great value in a judgement-free space to share their stories, practice addiction treatment strategies, and connect with addiction professionals.

This program could not continue without critical support from organizations like NDAD. We received the 2022 Gibbens Memorial Grant to extend the program, making the Mission the first 2-time recipient! A huge thank you to NDAD for their ongoing support.



**NDAD**  
helping others to help themselves

View current needs, upcoming events, client stories, and more online at: **[NORTHLANDSRESCUEMISSION.ORG](http://NORTHLANDSRESCUEMISSION.ORG)**

**Phone:** 701-772-6600

**Address:** 420 Division Ave. Grand Forks, ND 58201

**CHECK US OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA:**







## 80th Anniversary Banquet

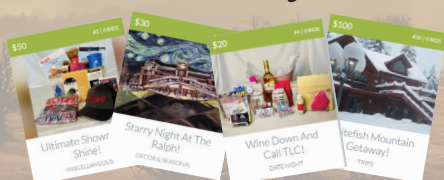
Thursday, November 17th

Alerus Center - Grand Forks, ND

...enjoy dinner, speakers, Mission history, browse auction items in person!  
Virtual/in-person tickets available at [northlandsrescuemission.org/banquet](http://northlandsrescuemission.org/banquet)

### Join the Mission of Hope Online Auction!

**100+  
Packages**  
Credit Card/  
Ticket NOT  
required.



Nov. 15 - 17th

Scan to  
register FREE



### featuring Tony Hoffman

Former BMX pro, Olympic coach, and TEDx speaker Tony Hoffman has dealt with his share of adversity.

Homelessness, addiction, prison...Tony overcame all these things to achieve his dreams. His path to recovery proves that anyone can escape addiction with the right support and determination. You won't want to miss Tony's story at this year's banquet!

## THANKSGIVING Community Dinner

Call to reserve meals:  
**(701) 772-6600 ext. 209**

Leave your full name, address, phone number, and number of meals needed

## Free Meals Will Be Delivered NOV. 24TH (GRAND FORKS & EGF)

### THANKSGIVING DONATIONS NEEDED:

Please bring to our front office.  
Thank you and God bless!



Frozen turkeys   Canned Corn   Cranberry Sauce

### Thank you to our Mulligan Classic & Home Run sponsors:

Absolute Refrigeration  
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BeMobile Verizon  
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