



Northlands Rescue Mission

WHERE HOPE BEGINS

2023 Autumn Newsletter

Six years ago, an important change happened at the Mission. We made a full and honest commitment to a new housing program - one that would meet clients where they were at, encourage them, and give them agency over their future. The number of clients finding permanent homes through the Mission surged. This was a blessing. It was also, as we came to realize, an opportunity. By emptying beds, God had given us the capacity to do more.

Inside this Newsletter:

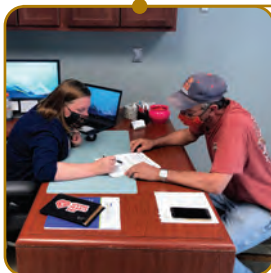
- A Letter from Sue
- Community Kindness
- Hope Realized Banquet & Auction
- ...and more!

For the past six years, we have embraced opportunities to reduce hunger and prevent homelessness for people previously beyond our reach. I hope you will enjoy revisiting some of the biggest milestones in this effort, all made possible through the grace of God and generous donors like you. Thank you.

MILESTONES

Late 2017

The Mission's **new housing program** begins. The result will be more than 1250 people housed in the next five years. The number of people staying at the Mission on a given night shrinks to 40 or less, down from 100.



November 2019

A **mobile food pantry** begins serving rural communities and people without transportation. It has reached more than 3300 households to date.



Summer 2021

In partnership with Agassiz Associates, a free, in-house **addiction support program** is made available to clients for the first time.

January 2021

Food box hours expand to five days a week. The Mission now distributes around 500 food boxes each month.

July 2022

The long-awaited **family shelter** opens. It has since sheltered 53 parents and children experiencing homelessness.



Winter 2022

The **Backpack Program expands** into every elementary school in Grand Forks, ensuring children have access to weekend food assistance no matter which school they attend. The program currently serves 1200 children each week.



August 2023

The Mission serves **10,000 meals** in a single month for the first time. The vast majority of these meals go to community members in need, helping them stay afloat during times of financial pressure and housing instability.

A Letter From:

Sue Shirek, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Hope Realized. That is the theme of our banquet this year, and it is our goal and our wish for every client who walks through our doors. The people we serve dream of a more stable life, a reunified family, a roof over their head and a safe place to call home. We want nothing more than for that to become their reality.

We ask our clients what they would like for themselves in their future. We use a person-centered approach to help each individual or family have some self-determination and ownership in the process of moving on from the Mission.

Although we see people struggle and face setbacks, we also see growth. We witness the change in people as they begin believing in themselves, forgiving themselves and seeking forgiveness from others. We see humanity restored. We see hope realized.

I encourage you to join us on Monday, October 16th at the Alerus Center as we celebrate stories of hope realized. You will hear firsthand from people who were clients of the Mission and are now living better lives. You will learn what brought them to the Mission, but more importantly, you will see the full and successful lives they now live beyond our doors.

We want you to see what your partnership means to the Mission, and more importantly, to the people whose lives are changed forever because of your generosity. God bless you all.

Sincerely,



Sue Shirek

2023 STATS



Families have received **3586 food boxes** from the Mission this year. We are serving nearly **6900 meals** monthly, most to community members in need.



The Backpack Program is supporting **1200 children** each week, the most ever. **Volunteers** have dedicated **3100 hours** of service to those in need. Thank you!



166 clients have left the Mission and moved into **their own homes**. Families with children have received **2500 nights of shelter**.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. [Romans 15:13]

Community Kindness



A Vision of Hope

The Grand Forks Optimist Club joined us for a big Backpack Program packing event. They brought a special guest too: the president of Optimist International, Bob McFadyen! Bob shared how the organization is investing in projects that help children around the world. "It's about restoring hope to these children," Bob told us. What a great vision!

Step in the Right Direction

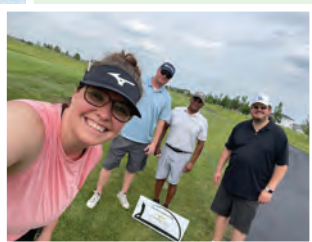
Our crumbling sidewalks and steps were becoming a safety hazard for clients. Opp Construction generously stepped in and repaired everything free of charge! Thanks to Greg Opp and the Opp team, things are back to running smoothly and safely.



USA Proud

In honor and remembrance of September 11th, Xcel Energy North Dakota spent their Day of Service hosting a packing event for the Backpack Program. They filled more than a week's worth of food bags for the children. In addition, their volunteer hours generated a monetary donation to the program!

Golfers teed off at the **Mulligan Classic** for a chance to win a trip to the Masters by getting a hole-in-one. Teams used mulligans and lengths of string to get the edge on a beautiful day at King's Walk. Thank you to everyone who came out - your day of golf kept Mission programs going strong this summer!



Moving for the Mission!

We saw some records broken at the 5th annual **Home Run**, including the

fastest women's 5k time, our first canine passenger in the 25-mile Bike Race, and the most overall participants yet!

We also welcomed motorcycle riders for a Poker Run through rural Minnesota. Thank you to everyone who joined to support the Mission's work housing clients. You've helped 250+ clients find permanent homes in the last year!

A special thank you to our sponsors:

Assessment & Therapy Associates of Grand Forks, Visit Greater Grand Forks, Throttle Addiction, Rural Psychiatry Associates, Apex Apparel,

iheartmedia



Thank you to our sponsors:



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:





MISSION
OF
Hope
NORTHLANDS RESCUE MISSION

Hope Realized

BANQUET & AUCTION

Monday, October 16th • Alerus Center in Grand Forks



*“It is with the grace of God that
I’m here...that I’m alive.”*

This year, hear real stories from the
people who faced homelessness, hunger,
and addiction...and overcame it all.

It takes a community to stop homelessness and hunger. So many of you
are a critical part of the work that happens at the Mission each year. Please
join us for an evening of fellowship at the Alerus Center as we celebrate
lives changed and *hope realized*!

Auction Viewing & Hors d’oeuvres at **5 pm** • Dinner & Program at **7 pm**

tickets (\$75 each/\$25 virtual) and information at
northlandsrescuemission.org/banquet

All proceeds support men, women, and families experiencing homelessness,
housing instability, and food insecurity. Thank you and God bless!



Online Auction opens Oct. 12th!

Browse and bid on 100+ packages:
home décor, date nights, sports
memorabilia, trips, toys, and more!
Auction registration is free
(banquet ticket not required).

Scan to join the
online auction
FREE

