

JUST **\$1.96** CAN CHANGE A LIFE



Imagine: A fresh start, starting with a meal for just \$1.96.

It might seem like a long way off, but Easter will come soon.

That means our kitchen staff is busy planning for another Easter dinner. They know that our students, residents, and guests will sit down for a hot meal that represents not just nourishment, but an extra special message that the doors to a new life can open up to them thanks to YOUR gifts.

The door to further education. And mental health support. And job training. And financial management skills so our students don't return to the streets.

That's an amazing transformation YOU make possible. Give your most generous Easter gift today. Thank you!

Thank you for caring for hungry neighbors.



3 WAYS TO GIVE

 UNION GOSPEL MISSION
77 NINTH STREET EAST
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

 Visit us online at ugmtc.org and give right away.

 To give by phone, please call 651-789-7558.

STAY CONNECTED



My EASTER GIFT to feed hungry people

YES! I want to help transform lives of people experiencing homelessness this Easter. Here is my gift to provide hot meals, safe shelter, and other vital care:

- \$39.20 to feed and care for **20** people at Easter.
- \$78.40 to feed and care for **40** people at Easter.
- \$107.80 to feed and care for **55** people at Easter.
- \$_____ to feed and care for as many people as possible.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Email address _____



Easter dinner: \$1.96! Give today!



THANK YOU! Please make your tax-deductible check payable to Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities. Mail it with this form in the enclosed envelope to P.O. Box 64389, St. Paul, MN 55164-0389. Questions? Call us at 651-789-7558. Give online at ugmtc.org. Gifts received above a specific need level are used for local Mission programs where the need is greatest.

N221-2021



MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2021

OUR MISSION IS CHANGING LIVES

STEPPING INTO HOPE

You helped Charles get through three 'doorways' to find a brand-new start

What do you do when doors of opportunity open up in front of you?

If you're Charles, you walk right through them to see where they lead! Thanks to you, he has a new way of living because of three doors that YOUR gifts opened, just in time for Easter.

Door One: When Charles arrived at the Mission, someone opened the door to our transitional housing building and said, "How may I help you?"

This kind greeting felt like a rush of fresh air to Charles, who was going through a difficult situation at the time.

"I was angry, bitter, and frustrated at what was happening to me," Charles says. "I wanted revenge and to go back to my old life, but I knew that wouldn't help me move forward."

Inside this first door, Charles received meals and safe accommodations in our emergency shelter. He felt encouraged for the first time in months.

But Charles wanted something more. That's when he came through the second door that your gifts provided.

[Continued inside](#) ▶



**"I was angry, bitter, and frustrated."
— Charles**

Use the reply form provided or put your gift to work immediately at www.ugmtc.org.

77 Ninth Street East
St. Paul, MN 55101
For more information, visit ugmtc.org

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“STEPPING INTO HOPE” (continued from page 1)

Door Two: The Mission’s Discipleship program took Charles further in his journey to hope. Here, he gained the tools to return to work, earned his general education diploma, and studied God’s word.

“I wanted to give up so many times,” Charles admits. “But the staff encouraged me. They told me I had it in me to walk out of here a changed man.”

Just two weeks after finishing his GED thanks to your gifts, Charles got his first job in five years. Right away, he started saving for the future, putting into practice solid financial principles learned in the program.

Here, he learned more about the value of home ownership. That’s why he went through the final and most important door of all!

Door Three: Recently, Charles became a homeowner for the first time, moving into an updated story-and-a-half home just a mile from the Mission.

Thanks to you, he now walks through the door into his first home.



From homeless to homeowner, THANKS TO YOU!

From homeless to homeowner, that’s what you did for Charles. “This place tells people it changes lives,” Charles says. “It sure changed mine!”

HAVE A HEART FOR MEN AND WOMEN IN NEED



It’s February—that means it’s the month of love! Show you have a “heart” for the homeless this month. Here’s how:

♥ **PACK A BAG OF HOPE.** Fill your cinch sack (or two or three!) with care items such as a comb, shaving cream, toothpaste, or socks. Include a Ticket of Hope from the Mission that provides contact information for meals and programs at the Mission. Leave it in your car and hand it out when you see someone in need on the street. Need bags? Contact Bev Stethem at bstethem@ugmtc.org to order Bags of Hope you can fill with your own items. Tickets of Hope may be ordered online at ugmtc.org/ticket.

♥ **VOLUNTEER.** Opportunities to serve meals safely at the Men’s Campus are available during COVID-19! Connect with men facing homelessness and offer hospitality and encouragement. Visit volunteer.ugmtc.org to see current openings.

♥ **PRAY!** Pray for our new CEO, Pam Stegora Axberg. Ask the Lord to give her wisdom and guidance to lead Union Gospel Mission into the next season of our ministry. Pray that our students find hope and healing through the Mission. And pray for strength and creativity for our tireless staff.

You open up doorways to hope



Pam Stegora Axberg, CEO

Have you ever crossed a threshold and forgot the reason you came into the room? I have! Doctors call it The Doorway Effect. Our brains reset when we walk through doorways in preparation for a “new episode” in life.

That’s the power of doors: they can provide new beginnings.

When someone comes for help here at Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities, he or she has the chance for a “do over” in life.

You provide pathways to new beginnings

That’s what happened with Charles in this month’s feature story. He took a brave step by coming for help. The hospitality your gifts provided started him on the journey to hope that led to homeownership for the first time. What a miraculous transformation.

Best of all, you led Charles to the Savior who says:

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.” (Rev. 3:20)

As we look toward Easter, thank you for giving us the opportunity to openly share the love of the God who knocks with all of our guests and students.

Your gifts make our students’ and guests’ lives better and open doorways to hope.

Pamela J. Stegora Axberg

EASTER PANTRY EMERGENCY

YOUR HELP NEEDED TO RESTOCK FOOD CUPBOARDS

This Easter season, we expect to serve about 58,000 meals. And on Resurrection Sunday, we plan to offer a special holiday meal to anyone who comes here. Your gift today will help provide ham or beef, vegetables, rolls, and dessert to people with nowhere else to go. Help restock our food pantry so all of our guests can sit down to a nutritious meal that will fill bodies and souls.

EASTER IS APRIL 4 THIS YEAR. PLEASE RUSH YOUR GIFT TODAY SO OUR KITCHEN STAFF HAS EVERYTHING THEY NEED.

GROCERY LIST

- BEEF ROAST
- POTATOES
- VEGETABLES
- DINNER ROLLS
- DESSERT
- MILK AND COFFEE

