HOW DO THEY SURVIVE?

Meals and Care for Just $5.88

Your gifts save lives in the winter. Without you, men and women go to desperate measures to stay alive and warm. Our guests have told us a few of the ways they have survived the arctic chill of winter nights:

- † Breaking into any building they can find
- † Sleeping under bags of discarded clothing behind a thrift store
- † Riding the metro transit train all night long
- † Sitting in a 24-hour restaurant until they get kicked out

Three Ways to Give

① Send a Check

Send a check to
Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities
376 Western Ave N
Saint Paul, MN 55103

② Give Online

Visit us online at **ugmtc.org/donate** so we can put your gift to work right away.

③ Call Us

Give us a call at **651-789-7558**.
We would love to chat with you!

DON'T LET A HOMELESS NEIGHBOR SLEEP OUTSIDE TONIGHT

$5.88 provides 3 meals and other care

In January in Minnesota, no one should be sleeping outside. Our bitter temperatures make this proposition downright deadly.

Even those who use a propane heater in times like these put their lives in danger each year because of fires. People have lost their lives when propane has set flammable tents or sleeping bags aflame.

Your gift of just $5.88 will provide a day of hot meals and a warm and safe place to sleep. When a guest comes and learns about our life-changing pathways to get off the streets for good, they might just find the hope of new possibilities in the new year.

Give what you can today toward meals and care for homeless neighbors out in the cold.

Thank you!

STAY CONNECTED

MY GIFT FOR MEALS AND CARE

PAM, here's my gift to provide meals and other vital care to people facing homelessness during the winter months. I'm sending

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

Name_____
Address_____
City _____
State_____ Zip _____
Email address _____

UNION GOSPEL MISSION TWIN CITIES

THANK YOU! Please make your tax-deductible gift 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.

N122-2022

MESSENGER

UNION GOSPEL MISSION TWIN CITIES

JANUARY 2022 OUR MISSION IS CHANGING LIVES

WINTER THREATENS THE HOMELESS

"I owe my life to the Mission."

That's what Paul says. Many times he faced death's door from gunshot wounds, suicide attempts, and even drug overdoses.

In his last days on the streets, Paul lived under the Lafayette Parkway bridge next to the Mission through the winter – another life-threatening situation.

"I didn't have a tent, just a sleeping bag and blankets," Paul recalls. "I walked through stores to keep warm during the day. Sometimes, I had to bring all of my belongings with me. When I humbled myself enough, I went to the Mission for meals. Mostly, I relied on drugs to keep going."

When Paul came to Christ Recovery Center (CRC) for help, he found it hard to conform to others; as he had gotten used to living on his own without accountability. Slowly, his heart began to soften and he began to see the reasons behind the requirements asked of him.

Paul now has a strong sober network on which he can rely to stay healthy all year long. The care given loved him back to life.

YOU invested in Paul's life through:

- Hot meals
- Warm shelter
- A caring community

"The Mission took care of me for a long time," Paul says. "They are my family, the only one I've got. They're the best people I have ever met."

Thanks to the Mission family, Paul has been sober for 15 years and is living the life that God intended for him. These days, he thrives on giving back to others. Whether it's a ride to a store for a neighbor or leading recovery retreats at the CRC, Paul thrives on giving back to others. His dangerous days of facing death's door – and living on the streets in winter – are long behind him.

"To be here today is a miracle," **PAUL SAYS.**

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Jazi Strikes a Chord with Residents

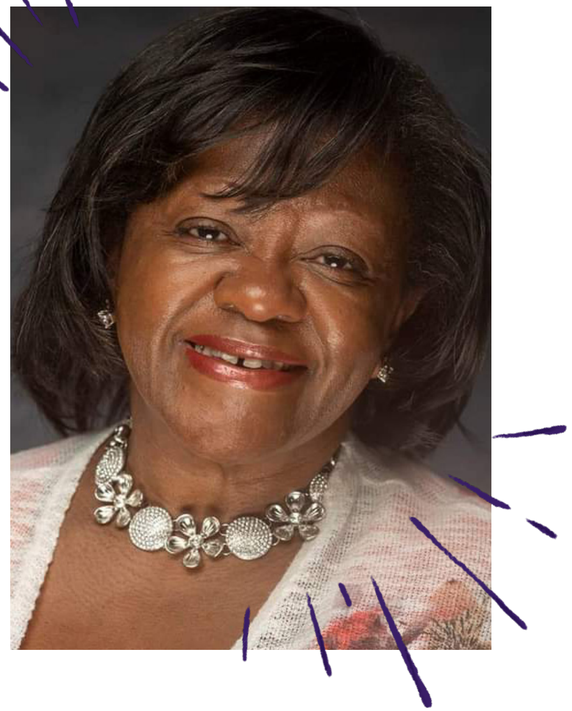
Do you hear that jingling? It must be Jazi (Janet) coming in the door wearing tinkling bracelets. But it's not just her jewelry that makes an impression. As a volunteer for the Naomi Family Program, Jazi trumpets her faith, passion, and experience to women at the Mission as she helps them find a way out of homelessness.

An ordained minister, Jazi helps our residents understand their identities in Christ, through a weekly class, and assists with worship at the Men's Campus occasionally. She believes learning to follow God is important for anyone facing the challenges of homelessness and especially for women without partner support.

"Serving single moms is personal to me," Jazi says. "I became homeless with my children after losing my corporate job. Homelessness is a scary place to be for any mom, but especially for women who are single."

Jazi's love strikes a chord with our women residents, who are inspired by her strong faith. "I'm here to help women grow, blossom, and live their best lives," Jazi remarks. "This can only happen through faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I want to be a living testimonial that someone can take steps toward restoration. Being with them helps my faith to grow, too."

Thanks to Jazi for orchestrating something beautiful in the lives of our residents.



Interested in volunteering?

See current opportunities at **volunteers.ugmtc.org**.

A MESSAGE FROM
PAM STEGORA AXBERG, CEO

New Year, New Hope, Thanks to YOU

New Year's Day brings with it the hope of a new year. That's what your gifts provide at Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities.

These new possibilities mean a fresh start for someone like Angi, who arrived at our Naomi Family Program after suffering many setbacks and needing safe housing for herself and her two children. Though she came through the doors because she needed housing, she received so much more. Because of your generosity, Angi received meals, as well as support for her mental and physical health, education, parenting skills, and a caring Mission family that demonstrates Christ's love.

As we manage our season's harshest weather conditions, it is our hope and prayer that more people will come through our doors for a hot meal and a warm place to sleep. We hope they will notice the changed lives around them and decide that a new year can mean a new beginning for their lives.

Thank you for giving generously this month to save lives. Just $5.88 this month will provide a day of meals, warm and safe shelter, and other care.

Blessings,

Pam Stegora Axberg

Pam Stegora Axberg