WHY I GIVE

Kristy Orison | Monthly Donor

"I had been praying for God's direction as I searched for a place to give to. Then, I received a UGMTC newsletter in the mail, and I read about the Mission's life-changing programs. My prayers had been answered.

I believe in giving monthly tithes and offerings, and this is a part of that. After I toured UGMTC, I was even more on board and felt the need to up my giving.

You can never outgive God! Give and it shall be given to you. To those whom much is given, much is expected!"

Kristy Orison
Donor since 2020

THE EASIEST WAY TO GIVE:

Set up a Monthly Donation

By creating a recurring, monthly donation, you can impact those in need every day! There are three easy ways to start your monthly giving:

1. Create a monthly giving plan **online** at **ugmtc.org/donate**
2. Complete the attached form with your desired monthly donation amount and **mail** to:
   Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities
   376 Western Ave N
   Saint Paul, MN 55103
3. **Call us** at **651-789-7558**.
   We would love to talk with you!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY

Through a Recurring, Monthly Gift

One of the easiest ways to impact the lives of "the least of these" every single day is through a recurring monthly gift to Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities.

A gift of only $6.81 provides food and vital care for a person in need for a full day—including three meals, clean bedding, fresh clothing, and chapel services.

For 120 years, the Mission has offered hope to those lacking the most basic necessities: their next meal; a dry, warm place to sleep; and someone to offer a smile and heart-felt kindness.

Join us in blessing our neighbors in need each day through a **convenient, monthly giving plan.**

Thank you!

1902: The Mission Begins

Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities opened its doors on December 1, 1902, to minister to dock workers, lumberjacks, and laborers flooding into St. Paul. The original vision for the Mission remains true today: to be "first, last, and all the time a soul-winning society, a haven for shipwrecked souls."

STAY CONNECTED

MY GIFT FOR MEALS AND CARE

- ☐ **PAM**, I'm enclosing a **one-time gift** to provide meals and care for people facing homelessness.
- ☐ **PAM**, I'm enclosing a **monthly, recurring gift** to impact lives at the Mission every day.

Credit Card: Visa | MasterCard | AmEx | Discover **Card Number:** _____ _____ _____ _____

Exp. Date: _ _/_ _ **CVV Code:** _____

- ☐ **$45.40 to feed and care for 20 people.**
- ☐ **$90.80 to feed and care for 40 people.**
- ☐ **$124.85 to feed and care for 55 people.**
- ☐ **$_____ 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. Or give online at ugmtc.org. Gifts received above a specific need level are used for Mission programs where the need is greatest. QUESTIONS? Call us at 651-789-7558.

N422-2022

MESSENGER

UNION GOSPEL MISSION TWIN CITIES

APRIL 2022 OUR MISSION IS CHANGING LIVES

THIS PLACE SAVED MY LIFE

"Am I being the man of God my mom would want me to be?"

"A year-and-a-half ago, I would've tried to steal my mom's meds. Instead, I was able to be her caregiver her last week of life. And she was able to see me sober."

Raised in a Christian home and attending a private, Christian school as a three-sport athlete, John hoped to continue playing football in college. But shoulder and knee injuries his senior year ended that dream.

John figured that if he couldn't play sports, he would party. That decision launched a long cycle of addiction, stealing, jail time, treatment, and relapse.

Eventually, John lost his car, phone, and wallet, and—banned from his parents' house—had nowhere to go. "I had nothing."

Not knowing where to turn, John called home. "I begged my mom, 'Please, let me stay at the house for two weeks. I'll get into treatment somewhere.'"

It was there, at his parents' house, John first encountered hope. His girlfriend's father, Mike, and another UGMTC volunteer named Bruce—both Christ Recovery Center (CRC) alumni—came to meet him.

"My life is in shambles. I can't use anymore, or I'll go to prison—or die. I have jail time looming over me. I don't have a clue what I'm going to do, and I'm completely scared out of my mind. But something happened that day. I had this overwhelming sense that everything's going to be okay."

Not long after, John enrolled in CRC.

"At first, I was just existing. I wasn't doing any of the work with God that was suggested to straighten out spiritually."

Then, around Christmas 2020, John's girlfriend, Dante, relapsed in her battle with drug addiction and died within a month.

"That was a breaking point for me. That's when I started following suggestions and putting stuff on paper—seeing my selfishness and self-centeredness, asking for God's help, and then straightening out the wrongs I made in my past."

One of the most meaningful ways John made amends was by providing direct care for his mother during her final days of life.

"The last week my mom was alive, I took care of her 24/7. I felt her last heartbeat and heard her last breath. If I hadn't come to CRC, I wouldn't have had that experience."

John is honoring his mother's life by following God and helping others. "I trust God, but it simplifies things to ask, 'Am I being the man of God my mom would want me to be?'"

"I wish I could reiterate to people trying to get sober that it's so worth it. I had to go through what I went through to get to where I am. I'm grateful for it today. And you know what? It's great. Life's great."

FULL CIRCLE:

From Resident to Volunteer

Bruce arrived at UGMTC with no place to live, no money, and an addiction to drugs and alcohol. Now sober, he volunteers at the Mission to help other men find their way to freedom and new life.

If you visit UGMTC's Men's Campus, you might see Bruce standing outside, laughing and talking with the guys who live there. Bruce can be found at the Mission two to three times a week, lending support to those who have decided to do the hard work that leads to healing. In the summer, CRC residents enjoy going camping with Bruce.

Approximately seven years ago, Bruce was one of the men who came to the Mission in need of sobriety and a new path.

"When I arrived at the Mission, I was a run-of-the-mill alcoholic-become-drug addict. I was spiritually sick, irritable, discontent, and restless. What I had was a disease of selfishness and self-centeredness. Now I'm full of joy on any given day, no matter my circumstances."

One suggestion Bruce received when he enrolled in the Christ Recovery Center program was to attend daily Bible study. Another was to befriend people at the Mission and be helpful. "It wasn't until I learned to help others that I got to experience the true joy of God."

Bruce says living at CRC was one of the happiest times of his life. "I think I was chosen to be an alcoholic—thank God!—because the amends I've been able to make with my mom and my family have been tremendous, and the fellowship I have here is priceless."

That fellowship, combined with the transformation he sees in men's lives, motivates him to continue giving his time at the Mission. "To watch guys recover, watch their eyes open up, and watch their kids coming back into their lives as they get healthy again—or healthy for the first time—that's pretty powerful."

JOIN US IN CHANGING LIVES: VOLUNTEERS.UGMTC.ORG

A MESSAGE FROM
PAM STEGORA AXBERG, CEO

Thousands of Volunteers Make What We Do Possible.

As we observe National Volunteer Month, we are reminded how critical volunteers are to the work we do at UGMTC. Volunteers make an immeasurable impact at the Mission—and make our work possible.

More than 4,000 people give their time, heart, and energy to serve at the Mission each year. It is not exaggerating to say we couldn't provide the breadth of service and care we do if it weren't for our amazing army of volunteers.

From serving meals, to folding piles of laundered bedding, to talking with residents hungry for heartfelt connection—volunteers come alongside us to minister to those who stay here. Three meals a day, 365 days a year, are provided to people experiencing homelessness because faithful volunteers step into our kitchens to serve every day. And, we know that hope begins with a meal.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve." We see greatness in the service of our volunteers day after day.

Likewise, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." What our volunteers do at the Mission every day is sacred. We are deeply grateful for you.

Blessings,

Pam Stegora Axberg