WHY WE GIVE

UGMTC Donors

We give to Union Gospel Mission on a monthly basis because it is a faith-based program that does so much good for those in need! And because it has several different programs under its umbrella of care. We have toured the facility, and we are so impressed with the staff and the assistance they provide to our neighbors in need.

We also donate clothing for both the men's and women's programs. It does the heart good knowing it will be put to good use.

—Bridget and Dewey Berglund

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

Change a Life for Eternity!

For less than $50, a man, woman, or child in need of shelter and a second chance can receive a full week of hot meals, a safe place to sleep, and godly counsel and care. Could you spare $50 a month to impact a life for eternity? You can begin your monthly giving in one of three ways:

1. Create a monthly giving plan **online** at **ugmtc.org/donate**
2. Complete the enclosed 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!

A FULL WEEK OF FOOD, SHELTER, & CARE FOR $50

At UGMTC, Fifty Dollars Can Transform a Life

In today's economy, a drive-thru meal for a family or "a few items" on a Target run can easily add up to more than fifty dollars. At Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities, fifty dollars covers the cost of a full week of meals, seven nights of safe shelter, and free access to showers, toiletries, clothing, and biblically based counsel.

At the Mission, it is often said that hope begins with a meal. Imagine the difference a full week of hot food, kindness, mental-health counseling, and chapel messages proclaiming the healing Gospel of Jesus Christ can have in a life!

Please give today.

Thank you!

Photo courtesy of Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities.

1926: Bethel Hotel Begins

In 1926, the Mission purchased land adjacent to its building on 8th Street and Wacouta to build a four-story addition, including a new Bethel Hotel to shelter and care for up to 336 men each night. "A place where the doors never close," the Bethel Hotel offered a dormitory, 96 rentable rooms, and a restaurant serving inexpensive meals.

Now located at 435 University Avenue East in St. Paul, the doors of the Bethel Hotel remain open to men seeking shelter and a second chance. More than 325 beds, bunks, and cots are available each evening for men in need. Three hot meals are served daily, and chapel services are held each night. The Mission's Housing Plus program, housed within the Bethel Hotel, also continues to offer programming and affordable rooms to men in need of help and a temporary home.

MESSENGER

UNION GOSPEL MISSION TWIN CITIES

AUGUST 2022 OUR MISSION IS CHANGING LIVES

"Housing Plus is for guys like me who are in a jam. I was in trouble, and there it was."

Frank served as an altar boy as a child and skipped meals regularly so the food could be given to the poor. As an adult, he restored cars to give to nieces and nephews and led addiction recovery groups at treatment centers across the Twin Cities. Then, he became the one in need of generosity and grace—something he found in Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities' (UGMTC) Housing Plus program.

A serious medical condition ended Frank's career as a cook in downtown Minneapolis. No longer able to pay rent and other expenses, Frank moved in with his brother's family until he could find an affordable place of his own.

"I felt bad about living with family, and missed my independence," Frank said. "My doctor gave me information on social services, so I called a lot of places. This was the last facility I got a hold of. I talked to a man at the Mission who told me about the programs and said to come when I was ready."

Frank was struck by the kindness of each person he encountered at UGMTC. "I came to campus in February. I parked in the handicapped place, and a young women came out and asked what I needed. She helped me right away. Then the guys that helped me get into the dorms put me on the bottom bunk because they didn't want me climbing with my medical condition. They were already looking out for me."

After a brief stay in UGMTC's dorms, Frank moved into an individual Housing Plus program room—available for a minimal monthly fee. "Housing Plus is for guys like me who are in a jam. When I was in trouble, there it was—praise God!"

"My family was able to help me to a point. And when I came here, it was like the people here became my family. They cared for me and looked out for me."

Resources offered to men staying at UGMTC have also blessed Frank. "I was surprised to learn the Mission provides three meals a day, has a place for men to clean up, and supplies you with whatever you need. There's even a place to get clothes, boots, gloves, and anything else needed. I didn't know places like this existed."

Housing Plus participants are required to attend church regularly or enroll in a support group outside the Mission. Frank found a church in downtown St. Paul that he attends every Sunday. He also goes to weekly Bible study and life-skills classes as part of his Housing Plus requirement. "Being able to go to the Bible studies—I like it. And it's what these guys need. You need to learn to care about each other. You need to care about yourself."

Frank is saving money for future independent living. "We're allowed to stay two years, but I hope to get an apartment before that."

In the meantime, he continues to live a life of service and generosity. In his brief time at UGMTC, he has become someone other residents and shelter guests talk to. "I feel good about that—just helping somebody else and giving them encouragement." Frank also donated his electric guitar and amp to the Mission.

"I played my guitar until I developed neuropathy. I decided to give it to the Chapel because I feel so appreciative. I thank God for bringing me here. It's such a beautiful place."

MEET PAUL LEWSADER

Paul Lewsader serves as Housing Plus program manager for men at the Mission's Men's Campus

† ***When did you join the staff at UGMTC?***
I began serving as the Housing Plus program manager in January 2022. Before that, I was a program director at a Christian-based outpatient treatment program that offers housing to men struggling with mental illness and chemical dependency issues.

† ***What is Housing Plus?***
It's a transitional housing program at UGMTC for men and women who have a job or other form of income and don't require a lot of programming—for addiction recovery, for instance—but need help to get on their feet. There is a Housing Plus program for men on the Men's Campus and for women at the Naomi Family Program residence. We currently have 16 guys in the program on Men's Campus, with a goal to serve 30 men.

† ***What does being enrolled in the Housing Plus provide?***
Housing Plus participants can stay with us for up to 24 months (or longer, depending on the circumstances of the resident). They get three meals a day and can select free clothing from our warehouse once a month. Participants can also get free, on-site mental health therapy. Each man in the program has his own room. There are two sizes of Housing Plus rooms available on Men's Campus—small and large—for different levels of very affordable rent. We just finished remodeling the rooms on the Men's Campus, including painting the walls, tiling the floor, and replacing old furniture. We also replaced the air conditioning units; they needed it!

† ***Are Housing Plus participants required to attend classes at the Mission?***
Yes. Bible studies and life-skills classes are central to the success of the program. Participants learn about boundaries, budgeting, anger management, and emotional intelligence—a course we're piloting for Housing Plus. Another course, the Genesis Process, combines Scripture and psychology to help the men overcome barriers they may face in their lives. The residents are also expected to go to church or a community support group while here to encourage them to build relationships in the community—a strong support network they can lean on when times get tough. They also meet with me monthly for a financial review. Our goal is for men to successfully transition back into society, so they are required to save a minimum of $35 a month.

† ***What do you find most meaningful about your work?***
I enjoy my work because I recognize what God has done in my life; it's an opportunity for me to love on others and give back. My family has a history of mental illness and addiction (including myself), so it's only by the grace of God that I didn't end up in a similar situation as the men and women we serve at UGMTC. Because of my personal and family history, I believe this is where God has called me to be.

WOULD YOU SERVE A MEAL? VOLUNTEERS.UGMTC.ORG

A MESSAGE FROM PAM STEGORA AXBERG, CEO

We believe Jesus can make people whole.

Union Gospel Mission Twins Cities' mission is "to provide Christ-centered, discipleship-oriented pathways and programs that restore dignity and wholeness to men, women, and children."

The programs offered at the Men's Campus and in the Naomi Family Program do exactly that. Scripture-based discipleship from a team of outstanding chaplains, Christ-centered counseling from licensed mental-health professionals, and life-skills courses and groups are only a few of the pieces in place to set hurting people on the path to freedom.

UGMTC's Housing Plus programs, designed to help men and women experiencing homelessness transition to permanent housing, are no exception. There are countless reasons why people lose their housing or cannot find an affordable place to live. When this is the case, our Housing Plus program can stand in the gap—and do much more than merely provide temporary housing. Spiritual care, mentorship, financial accountability, practical living skills classes, and provision of basic necessities come together to bring hope and healing as residents work toward finding a permanent home.

We know Jesus can make people whole. We are honored to come alongside people in need as He does, and are so grateful to you for helping us do so.

Blessings,

Pam Stegora Axberg