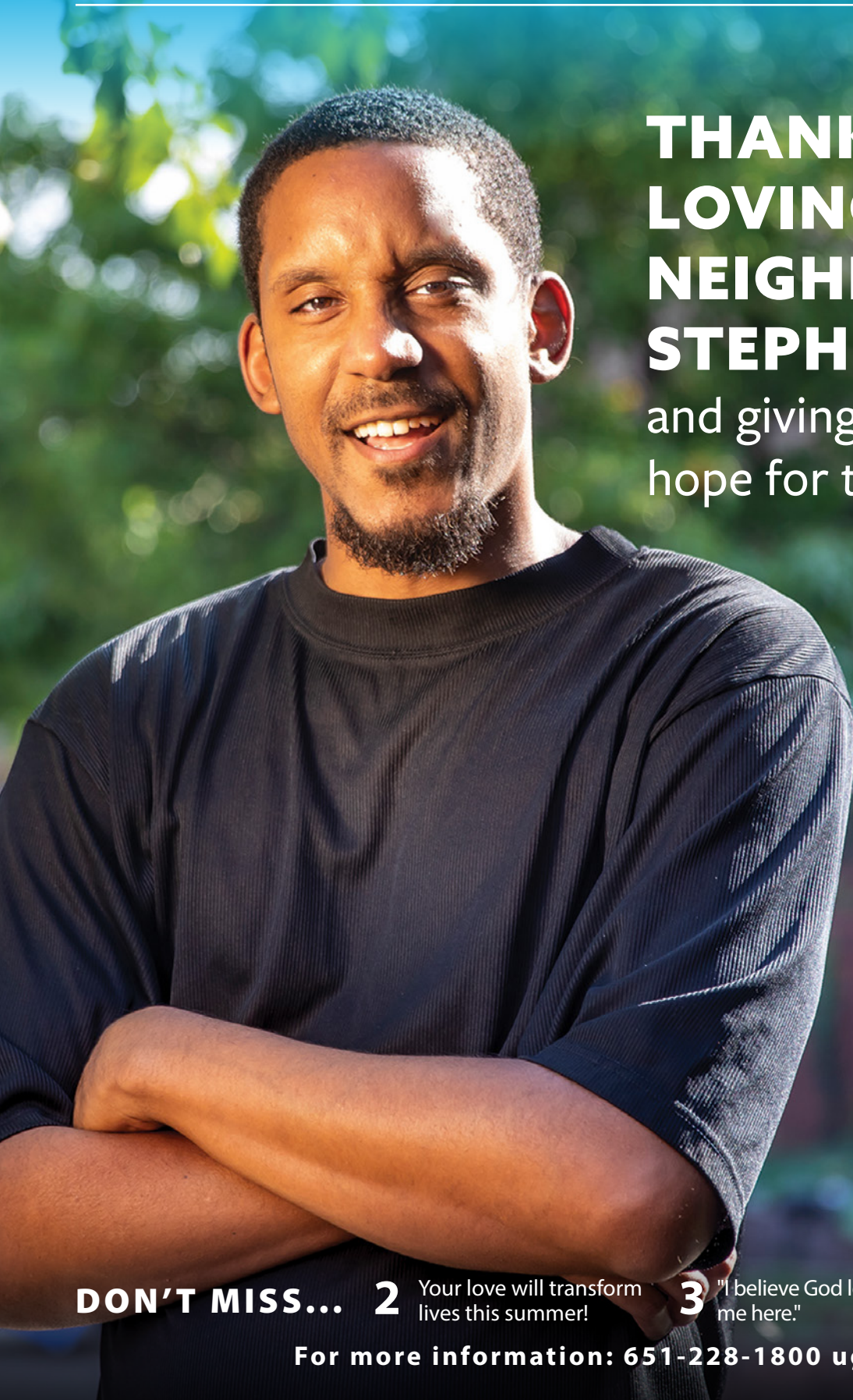


MESSENGER



SUMMER 2023

OUR MISSION IS CHANGING LIVES



**THANK YOU FOR
LOVING YOUR
NEIGHBOR,
STEPHEN,**
and giving him
hope for the future!



DON'T MISS... **2** Your love will transform lives this summer! **3** "I believe God led me here." **4** Help your neighbors beat the heat this summer!

For more information: 651-228-1800 ugmtc.org



A meal for \$2.27 is an easy way to
LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!



**A Message from
PAM STEGORA AXBERG**

**Thank you for loving
your neighbors!**

Summer is upon us! As Minnesotans, we love flocking to a lake to cool off and spend time with loved ones. I see the same desire in those who come to the Mission—a place to escape the heat and gather with others.

The summer months are especially challenging for our struggling neighbors. Those living on the streets face stress and health risks due to the heat. Parents already struggling to pay the bills have the added burden of additional childcare costs and more meals to serve while school is not in session. When energy costs increase, rent is harder to pay.

Did you know the Bible tells us to love our neighbor in *eight* different verses? It can be hard to know how to love those who are coming from hard places. At UGMTC, we have trained, loving staff and programs that holistically care for our residents—body, mind, and soul. This is loving our neighbor—really seeing others as made in the image of God, just like us. We love our neighbor when we meet physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. And YOU make that possible.

Thank you for your continued generosity! **We could not do this without you.**



Blessings,

Pam

Pam Stegora Axberg,
Chief Executive
Officer

**YOUR LOVE
will transform lives this summer!**

Your gift today provides:



43,399 meals



26,117
nights of shelter



hundreds of
hygiene items



adult education and
job-skills training



chaplain support and
faith formation

**DON'T FORGET OUR NEIGHBORS
THIS SUMMER... SHOW YOU CARE
WITH YOUR GIFT TODAY!**

**LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR**
98-DAY SUMMER CAMPAIGN

Give now!
ugmtc.org



Support our Summer Campaign to restore hearts & rebuild lives!

**JOIN OUR
COMMUNITY OF HOPE**

You're invited to join the monthly giving society of supporters for UGMTC—Community of Hope! This dedicated group of donors provides steady, reliable support that allows us to continue our holistic programs and services. When you **give monthly**, you contribute to the stability so desperately needed by our guests and residents.

Even a small monthly gift can go a long way in the work God is doing through the Mission. Your monthly gift creates a sustained impact on the lives of those we serve. Together, we can bring hope and transformation to those experiencing homelessness in the Twin Cities.

Make an impact alongside others—become a monthly donor today. Simply complete the back of the enclosed reply card or sign up online at ugmtc.org/community-of-hope.

“I believe
God led
me here.”



Stephen was raised in a rough and impoverished neighborhood. But that was only part of the young boy's early challenges. “I was born with a speech impediment, and I stutter,” he shares. “And growing up with that was hard.”

He was constantly teased, so he rarely spoke. As a result, he became shy and withdrawn, found it difficult to make friends, and dropped out of school.

But through it all his mother was his advocate, and with her love and encouragement he earned his GED and got his first job at age 18. “It was at a movie theater and it was really good,” he says, feeling life was finally looking up.

Then, tragically, his mother passed away... and everything changed.

Lonely and depressed, he began using alcohol for emotional support. “Every day I was drinking and smoking because of the emptiness,” he says. Soon he struggled to hold a job, and often had no place to sleep. Finally he realized where his life was headed. “I didn't want to end up like so many of the people where I grew up,” he says. When he heard about the Mission's Christ-centered program, he asked for our help to get his life back on track.

Stephen says he had always believed in God, “but I was confused about where He was leading me.” In

our care, he read and studied the Bible, embraced the guidance of our faith-based staff, and excelled at the life-skills and education we provided.

“
Now I am excited for my future!
”

He is also growing stronger, spiritually and emotionally, through associations with other residents seeking to walk with the Lord. “I've made some good relationships and they will be a good reference for me,” he says, describing the acceptance and friendships he's never had before.

Now in the final phase of our program, Stephen is maintaining his sobriety, working and saving money, and preparing to return to school. His goal is to grow more spiritually mature, become financially stable, and one day have a family of his own.

Stephen is thankful for the way you have answered God's calling to love your neighbor as yourself—and have helped him learn how to love himself. “God is blessing me with things I prayed for years ago,” he says. “Now I'm living for Him.”

“Serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” - Galatians 5:13b-14



Help your neighbors **BEAT THE HEAT** this summer!

You know how hot it can get in the Twin Cities in the summertime... now imagine being out on the streets in this heat. **Our neighbors who are homeless are at risk of heat stroke, dehydration, or even death—especially those who are the most vulnerable**, like seniors or women with children.

But this summer, YOU can help! You can show our neighbors who are hurting that they haven't been forgotten by providing them with essentials such as:



**Cool water to drink
& nourishing meals**



**Refreshing showers
& safe shelter**



Clean clothes & socks



**Sunscreen &
hygiene items**

In addition to these basics, you'll welcome them to the Mission where they can recover and rebuild their lives. Opportunities for medical care to treat health challenges. Professional mental health counseling to heal from past trauma. Classes and job-skills training to promote independence. Care for preschool children while moms receive support. Everything they need for healthier, more stable lives!

To see how you can help meet our neighbors' most urgent summer needs, visit ugmtc.org/needs!



You're helping care for bodies and minds

Men and women come to the Mission with a variety of challenges, and we're committed to addressing their unique needs. For some, that means a warm meal and safe place to rest. Others struggle with addiction.

And many arrive with mental illness and trauma from their past.

That's why—in addition to helping people heal physically—we also help them heal psychologically. **We offer professional, Christ-centered mental health counseling, referrals to community partners, and other resources for long-term recovery.**

It's just another way your gifts and prayers help address the complex issues of poverty and homelessness in the Twin Cities. Thank you for your support!

Want to learn about other life-changing services you help provide? Read about our programs at ugmtc.org/programs today!