

MESSENGER



HOLIDAY 2023

OUR MISSION IS CHANGING LIVES

Thanks to you...

**PAUL HAS
HOPE THIS
Christmas!**



DON'T MISS... **2** Celebrating the HOPE of Christmas

2 3 Ways YOU Can Help this Christmas!

3 "I know God has plans for me."

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

The HOPE that Comes from Christ

Don't you just love the words of John 1:14? "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us."

As we rejoice over the miraculous birth of our Savior, it's such a blessing to know God fills our hearts with joy everlasting—today and every day. His faithfulness sustains us through every circumstance and His grace offers renewal in our lives, as well as in the lives of the people we serve.

It is a wonderful time of year to reflect on our calling to welcome everyone to the Mission with kindness, compassion and dignity—and our commitment to walk alongside each person as they grow.

Thanks to your generosity, we're able to share the "good tidings of great joy for all people" during the holidays and throughout the year. Your fervent prayers and ongoing support help restore hope, transform lives and wrap local men, women and children in God's loving embrace.

Just like Paul, whose story we've shared on page three, God still works miracles in the lives of people all around us. This Christmas, I hope your heart overflows with peace, joy and love as your blessings abound.



Blessings,

Pam

Pam Stegora Axberg,
CEO

3 Ways YOU Can Help this Christmas!



1. VOLUNTEER

We depend on faithful volunteers every day. There are many ways you can help! Come serve a meal, mentor a resident, assist with children and more. Visit volunteers.ugmtc.org to find out more.



2. DONATE GOODS

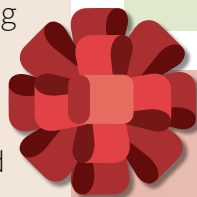
Check out our most urgently-needed items online at ugmtc.org/needslist. You can quickly and easily purchase and donate our most-needed items from our Amazon wish list, too. They will even deliver the items directly to the Mission! Simply scan the QR code here with your phone or visit Amazon.com/registries and search for "Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities."



3. MAKE A GIFT

Your financial gift will help provide immediate and long-term support for the men, women and children who come to us in their time of need. Give generously online at give.ugmtc.org or on the **attached reply card** to help our neighbors experiencing hunger and homelessness today!

Thank you for making this our best Christmas celebration yet!



"Remember me with favor, my God, for all I have done for these people."


-Nehemiah 5:19 (NIV)

You have been a blessing this Christmas!

As we prepare our hearts for the miracle of Christmas, we want to thank you for your gifts and prayers for our hurting neighbors. You have been a blessing! **This year alone, friends like you have given generously to share God's unending love by providing:**

- 213,691 nourishing meals
- 112,633 nights of safe shelter
- 1,428 Chaplain service appointments
- 4,968 mental health service appointments

Thank you for helping meet the needs of people in our community who are hurting and experiencing homelessness. *Have a wonderful Christmas... and may God bless you!*



“I know
God has
plans
for me.”

The one time Paul let his guard down, he was hurt. He grew up watching his mom jump from one husband to another, so it was scary for him to give people a second chance. But when his wife and the mother of his kids made a mistake and asked Paul to take her back, he agreed.

Perhaps that’s why it hurt so much when she made the same mistake again. They got divorced, and Paul was devastated... emotionally and financially.

“I gave my wife everything we had to make sure my kids had a roof over their heads, and I became homeless,” he says. “I was completely lost. I felt like my whole world had crashed down.”

Paul slept on a cot in his church for a few weeks before deciding to come to Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities. He needed time and space for his heart to heal following the breakup of his marriage, and he needed help building a new life that he could share with his kids.

The Mission gave him that... and more.

In addition to recovering from the trauma of his divorce, Paul joined our ACTS Training Program and

started growing closer to God. Through that, he found a new path for his life as a full-time pastor. He plans to start attending seminary soon. He also wants to get a house and see his kids more often.



“At the Mission, I feel my
spirit renewed.”

Now, Paul is excited about his future—but no matter what it holds, the Mission will always be part of his life.

“The Mission gave me a support system. When I leave, they still want me to be in contact and stay friends. That means a lot to me.”

Paul has hope this Christmas—and he wants to thank YOU for supporting his journey toward a new life. “I don’t look at myself as a failure anymore. I’ve learned to let go of the past, so I can move forward.”

SAVE THE DATES

Upcoming dates to make an impact:

November 16:

Minnesota's "Give to the Max Day"

November 28:

Giving Tuesday

December 31:

Last Day for Year-End Matching Challenge

A Story of Hope

When a family who had been living in their car moved into our Naomi Family Program, Director Heidi Hall saw pure joy on the faces of the children. "They were each getting on the beds, giggling and shouting for joy." She recalls overhearing: "I get my own bed!"... "We don't have to wait to go to the bathroom!"... "I can fit in the closet!" That's hope—a warm welcome and safe shelter for a family in need.

As we enter the winter months, would you join us in ensuring no families have to sleep in their car? And ensuring our neighbors have food and safe shelter?

Give online at ugmtc.org, or add your gift to the reply card and send it back today.

Share Hope AND A Christmas Meal...

It's hard to have hope when you're struggling with hunger or homelessness. **YOU can make this Christmas a time of celebration for our neighbors in need with your gift to help them today!**



\$2.82
for 1 hot meal



\$18.42
for 1 night of
safe shelter

**CAN GIVE
SOMEONE**



Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!

