MESSENGER

UNION GOSPEL MISSION TWIN CITIES

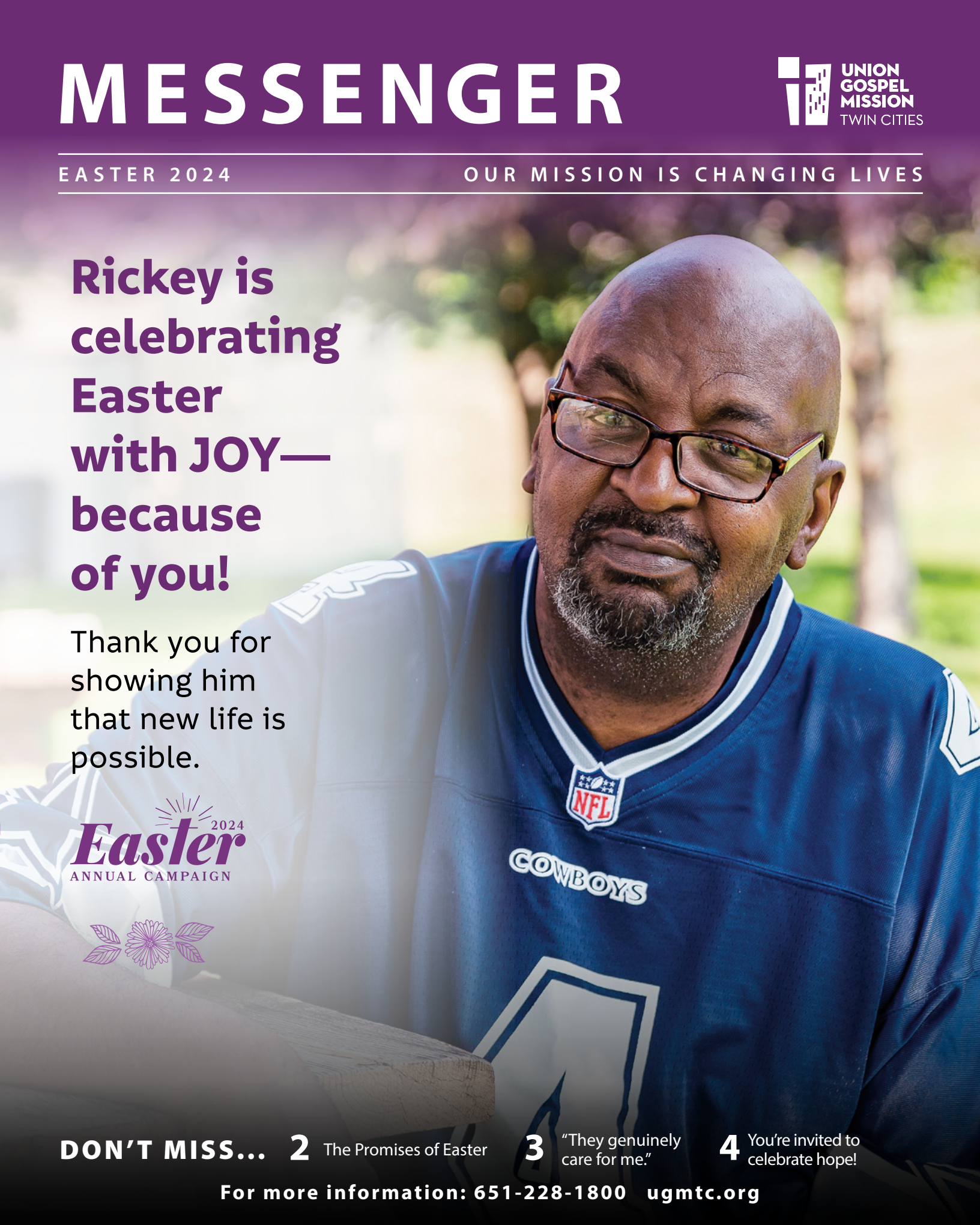
EASTER 2024

OUR MISSION IS CHANGING LIVES

Rickey is celebrating Easter with JOY—because of you!

Thank you for showing him that new life is possible.

2024 Easter ANNUAL CAMPAIGN



DON'T MISS... **2** The Promises of Easter **3** "They genuinely care for me." **4** You're invited to celebrate hope!

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

A Message from PAM STEGORA AXBERG

THE PROMISES OF **EASTER**

Have you ever seen the wonder on someone's face the first time they understand the significance of Christ's death and resurrection? It's one of my favorite things about Easter at Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities. It's a privilege to be a small part of their story, as our guests and residents celebrate the promises of joy and hope this season brings.

You too are a part of our guests' and residents' stories, as you share God's love with them by providing nutritious meals, safe shelter and other services to change their lives.

Your faithful prayers and generosity help hurting men, women and children in our community find HOPE—hope for their future, and hope in the promises we celebrate at Easter.

Thank you for showing our hurting neighbors in need that you care about them—in their present circumstances, for their bright futures and for eternity. You show them they are loved. You restore their dignity, and ignite in them a desire to change their circumstances.

Together with God's faithfulness, you turn stories of pain into promises of new life in Christ.

Thank you... happy Easter... and God bless!

Blessings,

Pam

Pam Stegora Axberg
Chief Executive Officer

YOU changed lives last year!

Throughout 2023, friends like you joined together to make an incredible impact for our neighbors experiencing homelessness and hurt...

213,691
meals filled hungry bellies

112,633
nights of shelter kept people safe

And your compassion opened the door to other life-changing services, like education, mental health counseling and job-skills training.

Thank you.
What a blessing you are!

SHARE JOY THIS **EASTER**

Meet the needs of our hurting neighbors!

With Easter coming early this year, we need your help to welcome every man, woman and child who comes through our doors! YOU can meet their needs and fill hearts with joy...

22,500 meals—just $2.82 each!

12,156 nights of shelter

Mental health counseling and recovery programs!

Easter 2024
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.

Give online anytime at **ugmtc.org**.

“They genuinely care for me.”

Years of riding bucking bulls in the rodeo took their toll on Rickey’s body… but he loved it. He loved that he was really good at it, and he loved that it enabled him to travel and see the country—from Texas to Louisiana and even Montana.

But **Rickey’s love of the rodeo came at a cost.** He broke more than 36 bones during his career and was in near-constant pain, which he managed with medication. However, **the pain pills he took to make it through the day opened the door for illegal substances.**

He decided to leave the rodeo and pursue a career in culinary arts—but his drug use continued and got in the way of his success. He began experiencing homelessness. “I found myself wandering the streets, unable to work because I was too affected by my addiction.”

Eventually, Rickey reached a crossroads. After witnessing two friends die of overdoses, he realized he needed help to avoid the same fate, so he came to Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities.

“My biggest challenge was admitting I had a real problem. I realized I needed some serious help,” he says.

Rickey describes himself as being “spiritually bankrupt” when he arrived—but **as he joined our Christ Recovery Center and opened his heart to the Lord, he found strength to overcome his addiction.** He began thriving in his faith and in the sense of brotherhood he found with our other residents.

> “I didn’t realize it at first, but what I needed was God.”

“All of us here are fighting our struggles together. We come together as brothers and support each other,” he says. Now, he is attending a local church and working toward his dream of owning a restaurant.

Thank you for sharing God’s love with Rickey this Easter. His life has been renewed through the joy and hope of the Gospel! “The Mission is giving me the tools to stay strong when I leave… and if I ever need them, I know they’re just a phone call away.”

Our Commitment to YOU

At Easter, and all year, **you can count on Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities to follow Christ's example of serving our neighbors in need**... especially those who don't know where their next meal will come from, where they'll sleep at night or how they'll overcome impossible situations.

The generosity of dedicated friends like YOU makes it possible to continue our ministries in the Twin Cities!

So we want to share our commitment to you, to the guests we serve and to our community:

1. We will **honor and thank God** for His abundant blessings and share His provisions with our guests. Regardless of their struggles, each is made in God's image and worthy of dignity, compassion and love.
2. We will **boldly share the hope of the Gospel and extend Christ's love** to each person we serve.
3. We will **invite our supporters, volunteers and friends to meet the needs** of our community throughout the year, asking only for what we know our neighbors truly need.

You Give Hope This Easter!

"I value and respect myself so much more now."

"The Mission basically saved my life."

UNION GOSPEL MISSION TWIN CITIES

Celebration of HOPE

You're invited to celebrate hope!

Friday, April 19, 2024
Heritage Center
6155 Earle Brown Drive
Brooklyn Center, MN

Join our annual Celebration of Hope on April 19! Hear how friends of Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities like YOU have cared for neighbors in need in the Twin Cities. Don't miss this must-attend event as we celebrate God's gift of hope... and its power to restore lives here in our community!

Register by April 3 at **ugmtc.org/COH24**

God's Promise of Joy

"If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love... These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." - John 15:10-11