MESSENGER

UNION GOSPEL MISSION TWIN CITIES

FALL 2024

OUR MISSION IS CHANGING LIVES

Giving thanks for YOU

INSIDE: Tarekegn shares how your support changed his life!

DON'T MISS...

2 Join Our Thanksgiving Campaign!

3 "God will guide my future."

4 How Will You Get Involved This Fall?

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

NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

Join us in celebrating healing and hope!

The road to recovery is a long and difficult one, filled with obstacles and pain. But millions of Americans have successfully made the journey from dependence and despair to freedom and hope.

Each September, during National Recovery Month, tens of thousands of recovery programs around the country shine a spotlight on those who've transformed their lives, celebrating their bravery and giving hope to those still trapped in addiction.

Recovery Month also highlights new evidence-based treatments and recovery practices and honors care providers so that those still struggling with substance abuse will know where to turn for help.

This September, we're celebrating the courageous men and women who've walked the hard road of recovery here at Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities and transformed their lives.

We invite YOU to join us in the celebration!

To see the faces and read the stories of men and women who've found healing and hope at UGMTC, visit **ugmtc.org/recovery**.

NEW

HOW WILL YOU GET INVOLVED THIS FALL?

Donate essential items!

Help stock our kitchen with food items and provide protective clothing for our neighbors who are struggling. OR... host a donation drive and invite others to collect much needed items for our community.

To see our urgently needed items, visit ugmtc.org/donate-goods

Volunteer with us!

Sign up to serve a meal or share an encouraging message at a chapel service. There are many ways you, your family, friends or church can volunteer with us this fall!

To learn more, visit ugmtc.org/Volunteer

Start giving monthly!

Join other faithful friends who give monthly through our Community of Hope! Start giving monthly this fall to provide steady, life-changing support for our neighbors during our busiest season.

To learn more, visit ugmtc.org/monthlygiving

Donate now!
ugmtc.org

YES! I'll feed and care for my neighbors in need this Thanksgiving season:

- ❍ $25.38 to feed and care for 9 people
- ❍ $53.58 to feed and care for 19 people
- ❍ $76.14 to feed and care for 27 people
- ❍ $93.06 to feed and care for 33 people
- ❍ $_____ to help as much as possible

Any amount helps!

❍ **CHECK ENCLOSED** ❍ **BILL MY CREDIT CARD**

❍ VISA ❍ MasterCard ❍ DISCOVER ❍ AMERICAN EXPRESS

CREDIT CARD #

EXP. DATE | CIV/SEC #

PHONE #

EMAIL

Donate now! 651-228-1800 ugmtc.org

NAME

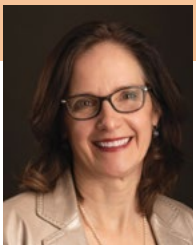
ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities
PO Box 64389
Saint Paul, MN 55164-0389

FAL24

Giving thanks for YOU this fall



A Message from PAM STEGORA AXBERG

Sometimes I wonder... what would become of the struggling neighbors Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities cares for if it wasn't for your compassion and generosity? I think of people like Tarekegn, whose story you can read on Page 3—his testimony is a powerful reminder of how God works through the gifts and prayers of friends like you to transform lives every day!

I thank God for how YOU are providing hope, help and healing to people who are hurting in our community. From the essentials of food, warm clothing and safe shelter... to safety and stability through our programs—with you beside us and Christ as our foundation—we can provide wraparound care and life-changing pathways this fall.

As we prepare to serve an estimated 51,000 meals to our hungry neighbors, I pray you'll continue to share your time, talent and gifts with the Mission, knowing God will use your blessings to restore hope in many lives.

Thank you for giving me—and countless guests at Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities—a reason to give thanks this fall!

Blessings,

Pam

Pam Stegora Axberg
Chief Executive Officer

YOU'RE MAKING GOALS AND DREAMS POSSIBLE...

At UGMTC, hopes and dreams come to life—thanks to friends like you! Because of your prayers and support, men and women in our recovery programs look forward to brighter futures.

"Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities gave me the skills to get out there in the workforce again, and enabled me to build my character and confidence back. I am so thankful."

-Gene, a resident in our Christ Recovery Center

"I am thankful for the Mission because it changed my outlook on life. I realized I can do things I didn't think were possible before."

-Angel, a resident in our Naomi Family Program

Thank you for believing that everyone deserves the opportunity to build a better, more fulfilling life!

To find out more about how you're helping transform lives, visit ***ugmtc.org****.*

Join Our 2024 THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN

51,000

Meals Needed this Thanksgiving Season

This Thanksgiving, countless guests will gather at our tables. Many are alone... longing to overcome homelessness and addiction... wishing they could reunite with their families.

For just $2.82, YOU can provide a meal to nourish their bodies and lift their spirits. Your gift welcomes someone who is hurting to our table and surrounds them with life-changing care:

- **Safe, welcoming shelter**
- **Warm clothing, coats and shoes**
- **Education and job-skills training**
- **Mental health care and faith formation**

Please help our neighbors in need this holiday season! Send your 2024 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today using the enclosed reply card and envelope OR online at **ugmtc.org**.

Meet Tarekegn—who is thankful for your support!

“God will **guide** my **future**.”

Tarekegn grew up in a Christian family in Ethiopia. He played guitar in the church choir. When he moved to the United States in 2005, his future was bright. He was naturally a hard worker, and he excelled in his job at the airport.

However, Tarekegn’s life took a turn when the pandemic hit. Like many airport workers, he lost the job that he loved. Forced to stay at home, he struggled with feeling a lack of purpose—and he was introduced to alcohol. As Tarekegn began drinking more and strayed further from his relationship with God, his life began to spiral out of control.

“I was going in the wrong direction. I developed an addiction that got me into legal trouble. But while in jail, I decided to read the Bible—and I felt God bring me back to life again.”

> “I’d never fallen so low in all my life. I had strayed away from God, but He is great. Now, my relationship is with Him.”

After being released from prison, Tarekegn came to Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities for a fresh start. He had lost his car, passport and other important documents in his struggles with addiction—but with the Mission’s help, he started to put the pieces of his life back together. He also renewed his relationship with God, which is now stronger than ever.

“I read the Bible, and I believe in Jesus Christ. My life is better. I’ve learned many things about how to save money and survive when I leave here. I want to go back to work and pray that God will guide my future.”

This fall, Tarekegn gives thanks for YOU and your incredible generosity. Your prayers and support have helped change his life. “I’m putting God first and learning how to better love myself. The Mission changed my life. I’m so thankful for this place.”