MESSENGER

UNION GOSPEL MISSION TWIN CITIES

EASTER 2026

OUR MISSION IS CHANGING LIVES

Erlyn's future is *Bright* this *Easter!*

Thank you for sharing hope in her darkest time.

Easter 2026

DON'T MISS...

2 A season of possibility

3 "I was able to heal and learn."

4 You're invited to celebrate hope!

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

A Message from Pam Stegora Axberg

A SEASON OF *Possibility...*

A lot changes this time of year. We're moving into a new season. Days are getting longer, and new life is springing up around us. It's a reminder that even in darkness, beauty and hope are just around the corner.

The Easter season reminds us of Christ's sacrifice... and the new life and renewal His resurrection brings. That same renewal is happening every day at Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities in the lives of the men, women and children who come to us in their darkest hour.

Each person who walks through our doors is writing their story of resilience and possibility, like Erlyn, whose journey you can read on page 3.

Through the support of friends like you, these men, women and children can rise above their circumstances and rebuild their lives. Because of your support, UGMTC goes beyond meals and safe shelter—providing wraparound services and holistic care. It's a place where people find faith that new life is possible.

Thank you for empowering our guests and residents along their journey from darkness to light... from despair to hope. Your generosity is a powerful reminder that renewal is possible—for every life, every season and every heart that dares to hope again.

Blessings,

Pam

Pam Stegora Axberg
Chief Executive Officer

How YOU Helped

Thank you for your impact in 2025! Friends like you joined together to change lives...

258,000+ meals served

126,000 nights of shelter provided

20,000 hours volunteered by people like YOU!

Thank you for caring for our neighbors who were hurting last year.

Now, let's make 2026 a year of hope for even more people in our community!

This Easter... EVERY MEAL MATTERS

Just $2.82 for a meal and hope for a new life!

Each meal served with love at the Mission is so much more than a plate of food. It opens the door to life-changing care and healing in our Christ-centered, holistic pathways and programs!

For just $2.82 each, you can provide a hot, nourishing Easter meal to someone in need... and share hope for a new life in Christ.

- Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.
- Give online anytime at **ugmtc.org.**

Easter 2026

"I was able to heal and *Learn.*"

Erlyn grew up with a large family and worked in her siblings' bakeries. However, her early years were not without trauma, which lingered into adulthood. "It affected how I communicate with people, my social life and being able to advance in school and relationships," she shares.

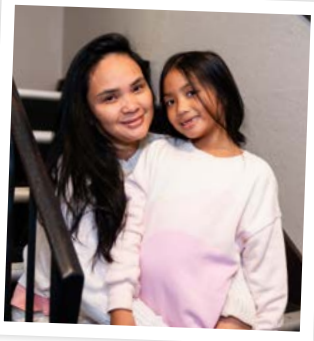
She went on to become a singer—a career she walked away from after her first child. "It's been a long time. I miss it," she says.

When Erlyn endured a financial crisis and didn't have a place to live, she and her young daughter came to Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities. They entered the Naomi Family Program, and Erlyn was filled with gratitude and relief for being accepted.

"I felt really blessed," she says. **"When you hit rock bottom and someone is willing to help you, it's a big deal.** I even asked my caseworker if I could give her a hug. I was in tears."

> *"The Mission allowed me to take care of myself and be spiritually connected."*

Through mental health care, daily support and community at the Mission, Erlyn has found fellowship and purpose. She's grateful for having people she can talk to, from other residents to her counselors, caseworker and chaplain. **"They help me reflect on who God has created me to be."**



Today, Erlyn has found joy returning to familiar work as a baker. As she looks ahead, she feels a calling to give back. "I want to be of service for the good of others," she says.

This Easter, Erlyn has a new direction for her life. Thank you for lighting the path forward for her to experience a future of hope and peace! "At the Mission, I was able to heal, express myself and learn. The prayers at Bible Study are empowering and inspire me to become better for myself and my family."

May we shine the light of Christ.

"In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." —John 1:4–5

Changes to Charitable Deductions

Did you know? 2 recent updates to tax legislation are making philanthropy more accessible to everyone—whether you itemize your taxes or not.

1. **If you itemize deductions, your charitable contributions can now be deducted after just 0.5% of your income, with a maximum cap of 35%.**

2. **If you don't itemize, you can deduct up to $1,000 if filing single or $2,000 if filing jointly for cash gifts.**

Your donations—no matter the size—have the potential to drive change, fuel hope and improve lives... all while offering meaningful tax savings. Talk to your tax advisor for more information about maximizing your charitable deductions.

Celebration of HOPE

You're invited to celebrate hope!

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Heritage Center

6155 Earle Brown Drive, Brooklyn Center, MN

Join our annual Celebration of Hope on **April 30**! 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 12 at **ugmtc.org/coh26.**

Spring Cleaning

Clean your closets and help neighbors in need!

As you declutter and refresh your home for spring, you can also help neighbors in need.

Donate gently used items.

Current needs include clothing, travel-sized hygiene items, shoes, bath towels and twin sheet sets. Your donations support UGMTC's programs and provide clothing for our neighbors experiencing homelessness. To view a full list of our most urgently needed items, visit ugmtc.org/donate-goods.

> *"Can we sit with our cups overflowing when so many are thirsty?"*
>
> —A UGMTC Donor when asked what prompted them to give

Drop off donations at 435 University Ave E, Saint Paul, MN 55130 or call (651) 228-1800.

Thank you!