MESSENGER

UNION GOSPEL MISSION TWIN CITIES

HOLIDAY 2026 OUR MISSION IS CHANGING LIVES

BERNARD HAS *hope* THIS *Christmas*, THANKS TO YOU!

DON'T MISS... 2 12 Days of Giving Back 2 Share the gift of hope! 3 "Now I see the light."

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

A Message from
PAM STEGORA AXBERG

Sharing the gift of hope this *Christmas*

On the night of His birth, Jesus' family was turned away because there was "no room at the inn." I find it so profound to think that they experienced the same fear and uncertainty our guests face when they have nowhere else to turn.

Here at Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities, we are committed to welcoming and caring for every person who is hurting who comes through our doors. Yet many of our guests and residents have endured years of homelessness, poverty and hardship that have left them feeling forgotten and alone.

During the holidays, friends like you share God's compassion and remind them they are seen and deeply valued. Your gifts to provide hot meals, safe shelter and recovery support become meaningful expressions of God's love and care in their lives. Above all, you give the gift of hope and a second chance during these dark winter months.

This Christmas, I invite you to share love and grace with neighbors in need—like Bernard, whose story you'll find on the next page. Through your generosity, you'll open a door when so many others are closed to them—and let them know that there is room for them here.

Thank you, and may God bless you throughout Christmas and into the New Year.

Blessings,

Pam

Pam Stegora Axberg
Chief Executive Officer

12 DAYS OF GIVING BACK

What better time to experience the joy of giving than the Christmas season! It's also a wonderful time to teach children the importance of giving, or to partner with a friend or family member to give back.

Get inspired to share the blessing of Christmas with these ideas for **12 Days of Giving Back:**

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3
Sort Donations at Home	Donate Clothes	Donate Winter Gear
DAY 4	**DAY 5**	**DAY 6**
Write a Christmas Card	Create a Care Package	Help Serve Meals
DAY 7	**DAY 8**	**DAY 9**
Pack Bags of Hope	Volunteer to Lead Chapel at UGMTC	Invite a Friend to Church
DAY 10	**DAY 11**	**DAY 12**
Fundraise at Your Church or Work	Pray for Guests at UGMTC	Share an Encouraging Word

To learn more about ways you can share the peace and hope of Christmas with UGMTC guests and residents, call **651-228-1800** or visit us online at **ugmtc.org**!

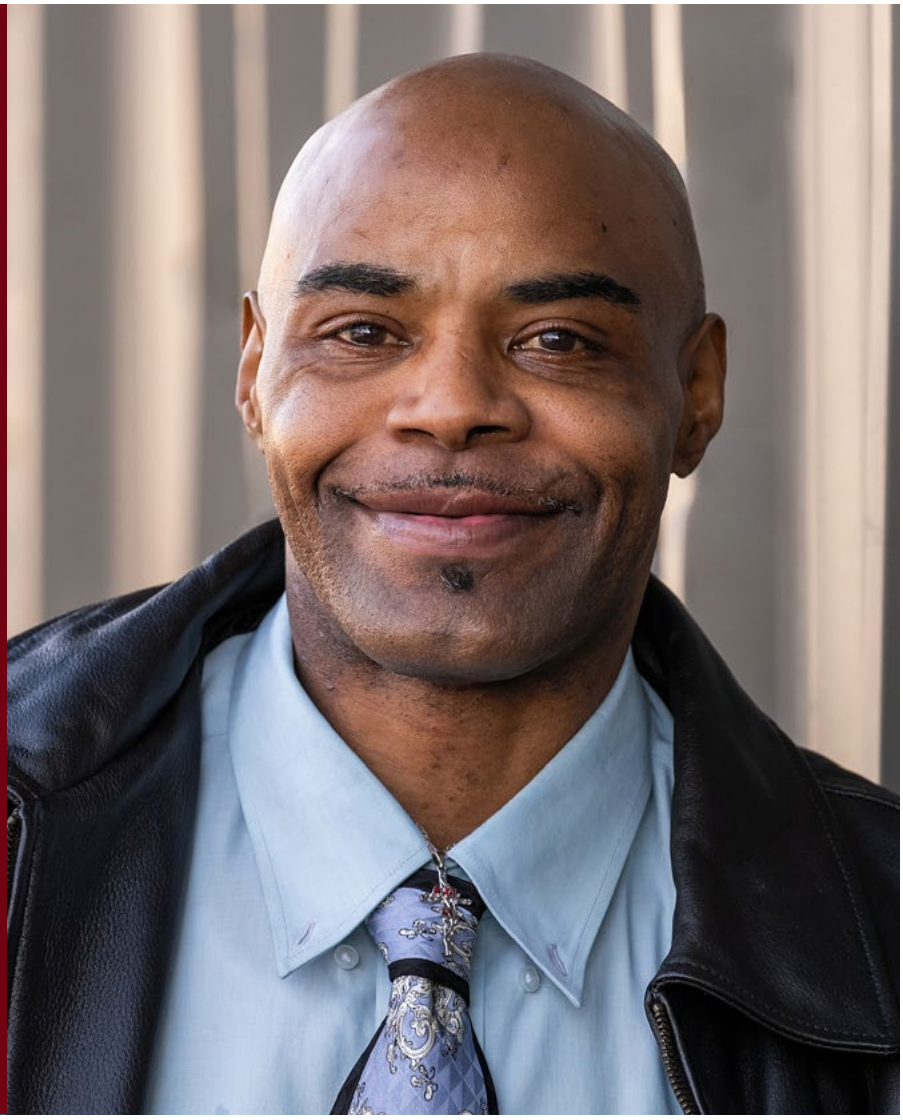
Give a meal. Share the gift of *hope!*

For our neighbors experiencing homelessness or hunger, Christmas can feel more lonely than joyful... **but YOU can share the gift of HOPE.** Just $2.82 provides a nourishing Christmas meal—and opens the door to recovery and a fresh start this holiday season.

$2.82 for 1 hot meal → **SHARES HELP AND HOPE** → **That leads to new life!**

Please send your Christmas gift today!

“I was in the dark. Now I see the *light.*”



For years, Bernard believed he could make it on his own.

After being incarcerated, he tried to rebuild his life—but decades of addiction and homelessness followed. He moved between treatment programs, sleeping wherever he could find shelter.

As the years passed, Bernard began running out of options. Ironically, the one place he never wanted to go was the place God had been preparing for him all along: Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities.

“I passed by the Mission for years and always thought I never wanted to come here,” he recalls.

But after hitting rock bottom, he walked through our doors and discovered the support and stability he’d been missing.

He arrived with only one bag with a few possessions, but friends like you provided him with meals, shelter, clothing and hygiene items. With time and space to focus, he began to think about his life. Through mental health care and education, he started to build a brighter future.

Today, Bernard is no longer running. He is working toward his GED, growing in his faith and discovering that hope was waiting for him all along.

> **“It is God’s plan that I’m here… and God doesn’t make mistakes.”**

“Before I came to the Mission, I was homeless… lost with no direction. I’ve got a chance at life again. I see myself as someone who is trying to do good with my life.”

This Christmas, Bernard is experiencing God’s grace at work in his life. Thank you for sharing the gift of hope with him! “If it wasn’t for UGMTC, I probably would be dead. I’m just grateful to be here.”

Give Relief from the Bitter Cold

Falling temperatures will put lives at risk this holiday season.

With average lows of 28º in the Twin Cities—and elements like snow and piercing cold winds—our unsheltered neighbors are at risk of hypothermia and life-threatening illnesses this winter.

You can give them relief from the cold at Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities:

- **Safe shelter** includes a warm bed and a roof over their heads
- **Hot food** offers comfort and nourishment to cold, weary neighbors
- **Winter clothes** like coats, clothing and boots are in high demand

To see our most urgently needed items, visit ugmtc.org/Needs

Tune in: 24TH ANNUAL 830 WCCO RADIOTHON

When: Tuesday, November 17, 2026, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Where: Live at the Mall of America rotunda, or tune in to WCCO 830 AM

It's time for the Interrupt Homelessness Radiothon in partnership with 830 WCCO! All day, residents, volunteers and staff will be live on the radio to share about how lives are transforming... thanks to friends like you. As one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, every gift makes a real difference for neighbors in need. Plan to listen throughout the day to hear the stories that you make possible!