Dana came to Northlands Rescue Mission in late August of last year. He is originally from Milwaukee, but health issues, difficulty finding work, and a hostile environment caused him to leave the area. Dana met with our social worker and took the necessary steps to apply for housing. He returned to Milwaukee for medical reasons, but when the call came to proceed with the housing process, he was ready. Dana is a skilled cook and barber by trade. Unfortunately, he had to quit cutting hair because of health problems. Dana has undergone multiple operations on his spine; he has trouble moving around and performing strenuous physical tasks.

"It takes its toll...I can cut two or three heads and next thing I know my whole body is seriously sore. Now, I have other issues with my lower back and lower spine. Arthritis in my spine, my hips, and my knees...one of my goals is to get my medical stuff back on track. And the only way I can really do that is to be stable."

When you are out on the street, your focus is on surviving. Your priorities become finding food, shelter from the cold, and a place to sleep. When these basic needs are met, it becomes possible to address the problems that led to that situation and move forward. At Northlands Rescue Mission, Dana found the help he needed to work through his troubles. He had a warm bed, three meals a day, social support, and help creating a plan for the future.

Dana is not lazy. He is not dangerous, and he is not powerless. He has faced unexpected obstacles and been put in difficult situations. Despite this, Dana is friendly, agreeable, and focused on bringing stability to his life.

We are happy to say that Dana has now successfully moved into his own apartment. This is the kind of outcome that we work toward for all our clients at Northlands Rescue Mission.

"They caught me coming out of the MRI, when I got the phone call. I was on my way back to Northlands Rescue Mission before I hung the phone up."

Your generosity and support of the Mission has given Dana and others like him the grounding needed to get back on track. Thank you for making a difference.
Dear Friends,

Happy 2019 to you all! God has blessed every one of us at the Mission and we want you to know how thankful we are. God is bringing positive change to people’s lives every day and we are so thrilled to see His plan come to fruition.

It is such a powerful thing when you can see hope come alive in people’s eyes, in their hearts, and in their lives. The intangibles of hope, forgiveness, mercy, grace, and the love of our Father are not quantifiable, but they are so important for people who are discarded, forgotten, self-loathing, ashamed, or hurting. God’s love is a healing balm that has changed so many people.

That love is shown at the Mission by the kind words and works of the people who care about the Mission and share in wanting to make a difference in the lives of others. We count you among those people. You have shown our clients that their lives have value no matter how messy or damaged they are. You have shown them that they are not forgotten or invisible. Thank you for reaching out and being open to accepting someone where they are in life.

As we move into a new year, we want to keep welcoming God into the Mission. We could not do this work without His guiding hand leading the way. We also could not do this work without your help. We thank you for your support, your prayers, and your kindness.

We are blessed to count you as our partners, friends, and family in doing this important work and we wish you the best in 2019.

In Christ,

Sue Shirek

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Mission of Hope Banquet - A Recap

The 2018 Mission of Hope Banquet and Silent Auction was held on October 29th at the Alerus Center and was a great success! Tickets sold out and we packed the house with 83 tables. Jimmy Fortune, a notable country and gospel artist, helped to make the evening incredible as our musical guest.

We want to thank everyone who attended or sponsored the event, and those who participated in the Silent Auction. See insert for complete list of sponsors...

It takes approximately $149 per hour to keep the Mission running. This benefit raised $145,745 – enough to cover 41 days of operating costs! This money goes towards food, clothes, bedding, and necessities for clients, building utilities and expenses, staff compensation, community outreach, and many other essential functions. Thank you for helping Northlands Rescue Mission provide a safe place and a step up for homeless men and women in the area.

Join us on February 14th, 2019 for Giving Hearts Day

Giving Hearts Day is a 24-hour giving event for hundreds of charities in North Dakota and northwest Minnesota. Donations of $10 or more are matched up to at least $4000.

Donating for Giving Hearts Day is easy. Just go online to www.givingheartsday.org on Feb. 14th and search for Northlands Rescue Mission to make your gift.

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God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. - Hebrews 6:10