

Acts of Kindness & Mission Updates



Scarves:

Sherry Trottier from Minnesota hand-knitted five beautiful scarves for our female clients. Each one had a little note inside with caring words for the recipient. Incredibly thoughtful, and incredibly warm too!



Bags of Blessings donation:

The Messiah Lutheran Church in Roseau donated 53 bags filled with personal hygiene items and 3 boxes of brand-new clothing. That was a big help as we were putting together Christmas gifts for all our clients this year!



Homemade Pizza:

The High Plains Men's Ministry group have been helping out the Mission for close to a decade now. They visited again during the holiday season to make homemade pizza for our clients and community members. Delicious!



Thanksgiving Dinner:

Around 300 people attended our annual Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. For those who couldn't make it, our Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels program brought dinner right to their door. Thank you to the numerous community members and local businesses that helped provide food for this event!



Bags of Blessings:

This Christmas, each of our clients received a warm quilt and two bags full of nicely wrapped gifts. The gifts included useful personal care items and new clothes, donated by generous organizations and individuals in the area. Our clients were incredibly grateful; seeing the looks on their faces when "Santa" handed them their gifts made it all worth it!

We couldn't include every act of kindness here...for more updates and inspiring stories, follow us on social media!

2018 STATS



488 clients stayed at the Mission



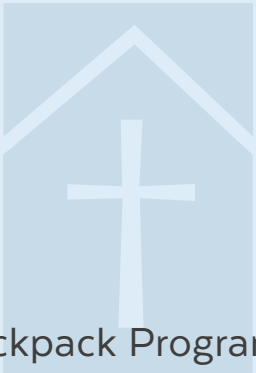
17,358 nights of shelter provided



215 clients exited to positive housing destinations



768 meals distributed per weekend through the Backpack Program



**Northlands
Rescue Mission**
WHERE HOPE BEGINS

2019
Winter Newsletter

"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."

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.

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.**

Mission of Hope Banquet – A Recap

A Letter From:

Sue Shirek, Executive Director

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



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.

*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***

Phone: 701-722-6600 • Address: 420 Division Ave. Grand Forks, ND. 58201

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