Mulligan Classic Sponsors:
The Mulligan Classic golf tournament and the Market at 1908 were successes, raising thousands of dollars to support homeless men and women!

2019 STATS

Mission Events

JOIN US ON SAT. SEPTEMBER 21st
SUPPORT HOMELESS MEN, WOMEN, AND FAMILIES

5K Walk/Run Along the Greenway
25 Mile Bike Race

Choose your event! Afterwards, join us for food, live music, & a fill-the-backpack Program food drive!

Register Online Now at mulliganclassicmission.org/runner

An anonymous donor is contributing to the Mission for top Home Run finishers...

First Place - $1000 donation given to the Mission under your name!
Second Place - $500 donation given under your name!
Third Place - $250 donation given under your name!

If you would like to support the Mission by contributing to a silent auction basket, please contact Cindy at (701) 772-6600 ext. 211 or email cindy@jointhemission.org.

MISSION OF Hope
Support Banquet & Silent Auction

Join Us on Nov. 4th

Please join us for our annual Mission of Hope Support Banquet at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks.

Learn about the important work happening at the Mission, hear from guest speakers, and bid on more than one hundred packages in the silent auction.

Individual tickets ($55) or table sponsorships are available online at northlandsrescuemission.org/banquet or by calling (701) 772-6600 ext. 200

Warm a Neighbor, Feed a Neighbor Coat Drive & Feed

More than 28,500 bags of food were distributed through the Backpack Program during the 2018-19 school year.

More than 800 volunteers have put in nearly 2200 hours of volunteer service in 2019 so far.

So far this year, more than 130 clients have experienced positive housing outcomes.

In a newsletter, we typically share the story of one of our clients. These are men and women who have faced circumstances ranging from domestic violence to medical emergencies, from mental health issues to unexpected job loss and everything in between. One way or another, they have found themselves with nowhere else to go. And however different their stories, they all have connected with the Mission and are working to improve their lives each and every day.

Yet, the full story of the Mission goes beyond our clients. It touches our volunteers, donors, and friends who give selflessly and who strive to create positive change in this community. We’d like to share the story of our good friend Jaime, who has turned hardship into hope, not just for himself but for those around him.

In May of 2017, Jaime had a good-paying job and a nice truck that he had saved up for. Jaime felt confident about where he was at, and he knew that he was on the right track in life. Then one day, everything changed in an instant. Jaime was hit while driving through an intersection. His truck was totaled and his ankle was broken in the accident. Jaime needed immediate surgery, and two screws were put into his foot. This left him unable to walk well or put much pressure on the foot at all. Unfortunately and understandably, it affected his ability to work. Jaime was unable to maintain his job position, and he became unemployed. Jaime now had no car and no income. The things that he had worked for were gone, through no fault of his own. It wasn’t fair.

Unable to work or pay rent, Jaime became homeless. He fell into a deep depression. For a bit, alcohol was one way of coping. But before long, Jaime realized that he had to take action. He connected with vocational rehab, and they set him up with a job interview in Fargo. He knew he had to make it there.

With no truck and no money for a bus or taxi, Jaime did the only thing he could – he started walking. Limping along the interstate, his foot pounding, Jaime reached out on social media and asked somebody...anybody...for a ride. Then it began to rain. “I was so upset with life...so upset with the world," Jaime told us. After four hours of this, someone finally responded to his request for a ride. A man picked Jaime up and drove him the rest of the way to Fargo. After dropping him off, the man returned with a vehicle for Jaime. He had one request. “Pay me back for it when you get that job,” the man winked. And then he was gone. Jaime did get the job, and he began rebuilding his life.

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Once Jaime had paid for the car, he began looking for ways to give back. We are blessed that he found Northlands Rescue Mission, and he has come in every month for a year to make breakfast burritos for the clients. This is done selflessly, out of his own pocket. Some days, Jaime wakes up at two or three in the morning to begin preparing a meal. Even more meaningful than the food, however, is the humanity that Jaime brings to our clients. He loves sitting down and connecting with them, listening to their stories and sharing his. For a group of people who are often stigmatized and treated as lesser, this is powerful.

Jaime hasn’t stopped at helping Mission clients, however. For the last year, he has been organizing a coat drive for our community. He is bringing churches, businesses, and individuals together for the event, called Warm a Neighbor, Feed a Neighbor. The coat drive is happening right now, and we’d like to ask you to support this endeavor. You’ll find more information about the drive below.

To the man who picked Jaime up and gave him a ride, thank you. Acts of kindness like this bring us closer together, and often have an impact far greater than one could imagine.
Every year, hundreds of people walk through the doors of the Mission. We feel that it’s important to look back and remember the individuals who have touched the lives of others in our community. This is the story of one such individual, named Neon Caldwell.

Neon was a client at the Mission several years ago. He had moved to North Dakota to work in the oil fields. Unfortunately, he was forced to leave his worksite after some friends caused problems while he was away. It was the middle of winter, and Neon turned to the Mission for help. During his time at Northlands, Neon was hardworking and well-liked, with a vibrant personality.

Each year, HB Sound & Light assists with the Mission’s annual banquet, and clients volunteer to help with the required setup. Neon was one of the volunteers who chose to help, and his friendly demeanor and sense of humor immediately endeared him to the HB staff. In addition to that, Neon was a great fit for event prep and tech work.

After the banquet, HB staff asked Neon if he would be interested in working for them. He said yes, and soon he was working nearly full time as a stagehand. “He really just clicked with the team,” says HB Festival & Marketing Manager Tricia Lunski.

“The thing with Neon, he just had such a huge heart.”

Neon worked with HB Sound & Light for a couple years, and he became as much a part of their family as anyone else. The fact that he had experienced homelessness did not affect how his coworkers saw him. He was simply a person, and people loved being around him.

In July of 2016, Neon was killed in a motor vehicle accident on a North Dakota highway. The terrible accident has pained Neon’s family, friends, and all those who he touched at the Mission and at HB Sound & Light. After his passing, the HB family held a memorial for Neon. They planted a tree to remember him by, and it is growing healthily today.

A plaque sits in the ground in front of Neon’s tree. Engraved in it are these words: “You know, walk the earth, meet people...get into adventures.”

“It is a quote from Pulp Fiction, one of Neon’s favorite movies.

“Family was always important to Neon,” says Tricia. “He was that guy who, even if he had nothing, would give up anything for anyone.”

We’d like to thank Tricia Lunski and the entire HB Sound & Light staff for sharing Neon’s story and for keeping his memory alive.

A Letter From:
Sue Shirek, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter and learn more about the people we serve and the work that we do. As you read about the circumstances that bring people to the Mission and the work we do with our clients to help them get back on their feet, we hope you are able to feel a sense of empathy for the struggles, fears, frustrations, failures, hopes, dreams and successes that they encounter while they are with us.

In this issue, you’ve read about an individual who is doing big things to give back to a community because of the hand up that was given to him. You will read about the impact that a Mission client had on the staff of a local business. The stories are true, and they are about the kinds of people who pass through the doors of the Mission every day: clients, volunteers, local business members…people like you and me. Yet, in as much as we are similar, we each have our own unique story, and we hope that our clients’ stories touch your hearts.

When you volunteer at a Mission event, when you keep us in your prayers, when you stop by the Mission to donate your garden produce or used clothing, etc., you become part of our story. We are honored and humbled by the decades of generosity that have helped the Mission serve others. We are proud to call you our friends, and we are blessed when we see our clients leave the Mission for a home of their own.

God bless you, and have faith knowing that when life is a struggle, there are people in this world who are good and kind and willing to help, and there is a merciful God who is always with us.

Blessings,

Sue Shirek

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching. - Hebrews 10:24-25

Thank you, Corey!

We would like to thank Corey Cleveland of United Valley Bank, who recently retired from the Mission Board of Directors after serving for more than thirteen years. During his time on the board, Corey helped guide the Mission with compassion and leadership. He oversaw the expansion of Mission services and a sustained effort to house homeless men and women in our community. We extend our sincere gratitude to Corey and wish him the best.

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Phone: 701-772-6600  •  Address: 420 Division Ave. Grand Forks, ND 58201

CHECK US OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

See current needs, upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and more online at: northlandsrescuemission.org
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Jaime is a testament to the power of hope. He has met hardship with hope, not despair. He has met challenges with resilience, not defeat. He has met life with kindness, not resentment.

Warm a Neighbor, Feed a Neighbor Coat Drive & Feed

The coat drive is running now through Aug. 29th! Drop off your new or gently used winter coats and gear at one of the following locations:

- Any GF/EGF Hugo’s, Scheels, Lowe’s, Grand Forks Public Library, or the Mission

On Saturday, Sept. 7th, coats collected during the drive will be distributed at the Gambucci arena, along with a free meal! The event runs from 10 am - 4 pm, and anyone is welcome to attend!