

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHLANDS RESCUE MISSION

# VOICE of Grace

Winter 2012

Serving 21 Counties in North Dakota and Minnesota



Now that she's back on her feet, Tonya says, "I'll bring donations to the Mission, things like clothing, and I know they'll be put to good use. I'll stay connected and care about what happens there."

## Putting the Pieces BACK TOGETHER

Tonya's story of homelessness begins like many others. At 48, she lost her job and couldn't find another. She applied for what seemed like hundreds. But a year went by and nothing panned out. She'd gone through all her savings and she was desperate.

A friend told her there were jobs in North Dakota. So she applied for one in Grand Forks and was hired over the phone. Now she needed to relocate right away—she was living in Georgia. But she had no money for a deposit or a long stay in a hotel, and she didn't know anyone here in the city. She found Northlands Rescue Mission on the Internet, but was hesitant about coming to a homeless shelter.

"I called and talked to the staff before I came. I prayed about it and God comforted me." She knew it was the right thing to do while she saved money to get her own place. "I felt comfortable because it was a Christian organization."

Not long after Tonya moved in, a heart condition landed her in the hospital and she lost her job. Her hopes for quickly becoming independent again were dashed. She was grateful she had a home here at the Mission while she regained her strength and slowly put the pieces of her life back together.

"Ever since I stepped into the Mission, I've been blessed," Tonya says. "It's a safe and comfortable place to live and they offer three meals a day. They gave me a sack lunch when I was working, and they even jump-started my car when it wouldn't start!"

Recently Tonya's disability assistance was approved, and she believes that's due, in part, to our caseworker's help with the paperwork. We also helped her find affordable housing and provided household items for her apartment.

"The Mission changed my entire life," Tonya says today. "I wouldn't have my apartment or furniture or an income if it wasn't for them. And all the extra things like sack lunches and laundry detergent—all those pieces got me back on my feet."

With your ongoing prayers and financial support—and God's guidance—we'll continue to empower men and women like Tonya to rebuild their broken lives, one piece at a time. Thank you for your heartfelt generosity!



**Northlands  
Rescue Mission**

WHERE HOPE BEGINS

420 Division Avenue  
Grand Forks, ND 58201  
(701) 772-6600  
www.northlandsrescuemission.org



Executive Director David M. Sena is grateful to artist Jackie Uthus who donated half the proceeds from her November Art Show to help men and women at the Mission rebuild their lives.

## Because You Gave

Your generous contributions allowed us to meet the needs of those hungry for food, shelter and compassion.

### January - November 2011

Meals served **88,895**  
Nights of shelter provided **35,575**

## One Day Only...

On Valentine's Day, Dakota Medical Foundation will Match Your Gifts to Northlands Rescue Mission!



**Giving Hearts Day**  
Hosted By: www.impactgiveback.org  
24 Hour Online Fundraising Event  
2.14.12

Dakota Medical Foundation (DMF) has selected Northlands Rescue Mission as a participant in their 2012 Giving Hearts Day, a 24-hour online fundraising event. On February 14—Valentine's Day—DMF will match contributions of \$10 or more made to Northlands Rescue Mission through a special website.

Please be our valentine! To make an online contribution to Northlands Rescue Mission and have it matched, go to [www.northlandsrescuemission.org](http://www.northlandsrescuemission.org) on February 14 and click on "Giving Hearts Day."

## Dear Friends,

When we see someone panhandling on the side of the road, we naturally want to fix their lives. However, no one wants to be "fixed." They want to be empowered to fight homelessness and hunger—to win the victory—themselves. That's why we don't, as the saying goes, give people fish, we teach them to fish. That happens on a daily basis as our staff teaches those in our care to listen well and to be respectful of others. We show them a smile goes a long way—honesty even further. Their instruction continues with life-skills classes on budgeting or conflict resolution. It happens too when mentors spend time in Christian fellowship with our residents.

It thrills me to see former guests making it on their own. Recently I mentioned to a resident who had just moved out that he could always count on the Mission if he needed a meal. He told me emphatically, "No." He wanted to do it on his own. And he has. That's one kind of "no" I'm always glad to hear!

Teaching and enabling men and women to repair their broken lives is impossible without our volunteers and donors like you. Your contributions not only provide meals, clothing and lodging, but also opportunities that allow once-dependent individuals to live stable and productive lives. Together, we can empower men and women to fight their hunger and homelessness in Jesus' Name. Every time we help someone, we want them to see the hands and feet of people who love them as Jesus does. You are one of them. God bless you for your partnership and support.

For His glory,

David M. Sena  
Executive Director



## Food and Shelter are Just the Beginning

Once men and women who were formerly homeless, or who have been released from incarceration, have regained their strength and feel safe and secure in our care, we help them prepare for independent living through courses described below. While many of us may take these life skills for granted, the classes are essential refreshers for those who have been living on the streets or imprisoned for years and want to restore the missing pieces of their lives.

- *Healthy Living*—discovering the basics of personal hygiene, good nutrition and physical fitness
- *Cooking*—learning to follow a recipe and prepare wholesome meals
- *Financial Management*—evaluating income and expenses to set and manage a budget
- *Cleaning 101*—cleaning and caring for their own home, including laundry and other essentials of household management
- *Employment 101*—creating resumes, locating job opportunities and polishing interview skills



# Putting the Pieces BACK TOGETHER

No one plans to be homeless. Yet last year alone more than 700 men and women turned to Northlands Rescue Mission for shelter

and basic necessities—each one burdened by tragedies and hardships that have shattered their lives:

Divorce ... domestic violence ... legal problems ... bad decisions ... lack of job skills ... eviction ... bankruptcy ... and more.

Through our ministries of *rescue*, *relief* and *life transformation*, our goal is to help homeless and broken individuals put the pieces back together.

**Rescue**—Our first step is to remove men and women from their homeless situations by providing lodging in a safe and comfortable facility, where we also ensure they have suitable clothing and proper nourishment. In addition, we serve daily meals for residents in our shelter and the homeless on the streets, as well as distribute food boxes for struggling families and take-home bags for school-age youngsters.

**Relief**—Next, we provide assistance in obtaining birth certificates, driver's licenses and other legal documents required to find work and housing, along with referrals to resources for managing special medical or legal issues. This provides the foundation on which men and women can work to build lasting change.

**Life Transformation**—Finally, we encourage our guests to complete their life transformations through our **Re-Entry Program** or our **Recovery Program**. Men and women who are homeless, battle addiction or have been released from incarceration complete long-term residential curriculums, equipping them to become stable and productive members of our community. Church membership and community service are encouraged, and assistance with furniture and other household goods help men and women re-establish their homes and begin their new lives.

## Volunteer Spotlight



Meet Sadie Sondeland

Like most 17-year-olds, Sadie Sondeland (second from right) is busy. A senior at Valley-Edinburg High School, she plays on the volleyball team. She also teaches first- and second-grade Sunday school classes at Trinity Lutheran Church in Edinburg and serves as the leader of her youth group, Crossroads Youthfellowship. In her "spare time" she makes time for Northlands Rescue Mission.

Sadie stepped up to coordinate a bike-a-thon at her church—a fundraiser for the Mission—when the original organizer wasn't able to complete it. The event raised \$800. Her youth group presented the contribution to the Mission when, at her suggestion, they came to serve a meal. "It's really an eye opener for youth to see that people, even in North Dakota, don't always have enough money to pay for their food," Sadie says. "We're all so fortunate, and sometimes we don't actually realize it. By giving to others, I've learned to be a more compassionate person. I truly understand how giving impacts other people's lives. Northlands Rescue Mission is an amazing place that helps so many people in so many ways!"

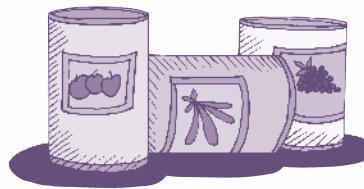
Sadie says her youth group plans to volunteer at the Mission in the future, and we'll welcome them again with our gratitude!

## WARM HEARTS with these Winter Drives

Gather your friends, family, congregation or coworkers and help us meet these urgent winter needs!

### Medicine Chest

Over-the-counter medicines like non-alcohol pain relievers, cold and flu medications, Benadryl, cough drops, sinus medication, antacids, foot powder and creams are needed on a daily basis. We invite you to hold a drive for these items, and we'll provide them as needed to help our guests stay healthy throughout the winter.



### Kids + Bridging the Gap

Through this program, the Mission provides backpacks filled with healthy food items for students in grades K through 12 who may not get the nutrition they need on the weekends or when classes aren't in session. Your drive for fruit or vegetable cups, soups, boxed meals/mac and cheese, juice boxes, pudding cups and fruit snacks will help us bridge the gap until youngsters return to their classes.

We'd appreciate it if you could deliver your donations to 420 Division Avenue, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Let us know you're coming and we'll give you a tour! For more information, please contact our volunteer department at (701) 772-6600, ext. 215, or visit [www.northlandsrescuemission.org](http://www.northlandsrescuemission.org).



# Campaign Deadline Extended to January 31



More than 900 Mission friends and partners joined in support of our programs and services for the homeless and poor for our **Mission of Hope Banquet and Silent Auction** on November 3 at the Alerus Center. While event donations of \$90,000 moved us closer to our \$600,000 goal, overall campaign contributions totaled \$412,973 as of December 21. Therefore the fundraiser has been extended to January 31, 2012.

Reaching our goal is critical as winter weather is driving more people than ever to our doors. Since November we've been sleeping an average of 120 men and women every night, placing bedding in our dining room when the numbers spike higher. We estimate it costs at least \$4,200 per day to provide 120 or more shelter guests with clean towels and bed linens, three good meals, individual case management and other specific needs. If our financial goal goes unmet, we know days—even months of services—may not be covered!

We pray the deadline extension will give you an opportunity to contribute to the campaign if you haven't already, or to make an additional gift if you feel led to do so. Please give today, in the envelope provided, and help us begin the new year in a sound fiscal position.

We're grateful for all who shared their evening and generosity with us during our **Mission of Hope Banquet and Silent Auction**, including these kind sponsors:

## Platinum

HB Light & Sound  
Tom & Lori Campbell  
Sadie's Couture Floral and Event Styling

St. Michael's Catholic Church  
Steve & Bobbi Hansen  
Tim & Sandy Crary

John & Connie Tupa  
Ken & Judy Schuster  
McFarlane Sheet Metal  
McKinnon Music Productions  
Raymond J. German, Ltd. Attorney at Law  
Roger & Sheila Weinlaeder  
State Farm Insurance – Sharon Opdahl  
Women's Pregnancy Center  
US Bank

## Gold

AE2S  
Charles & Mary Weingarten  
Ebenezer Lutheran Church  
Edgewood Management Group  
Jack & Joey Muus  
Scott & Sue Stinar

## Silver

Brad Hopkins  
Brady Martz & Associates PC  
Candy Vigen  
Charles Christianson  
Dahlstrom Motors  
Dakota Supply Group  
Hepper Olson Architects Ltd.

## Doing Your Taxes Can Help the Hungry

While doing your taxes is unavoidable, here's a way to put a positive spin on this taxing task! **H&R Block** will donate \$25 to Northlands Rescue Mission for every new customer who chooses to have his or her taxes prepared at any of their participating locations. At \$1.99 per meal, that contribution could help the Mission feed 12 hungry people!

Here's how the program works:

1. Go to [www.northlandsrescuemission.org](http://www.northlandsrescuemission.org) and click "H&R Block's Referral Program."
2. Download the referral form and take it to a participating H&R Block office when you're ready to have your taxes prepared. For a list of participating offices, go to [www.hrblock.com](http://www.hrblock.com).
3. Northlands Rescue Mission will receive \$25 from H&R Block for your efforts.
4. Feel good knowing you helped Northlands Rescue Mission help others!



## Mission Offers Free Estate Planning Seminar

For 70 years, Northlands Rescue Mission has been blessed with faithful donors who give generously to help sustain our programs and services for homeless men and women. Many desire to perpetuate their charitable giving beyond their lifetime. Because sound estate planning is so important to the future well-being of your family and the charities you care about, the Mission has arranged for the **German Law Firm** to present a free estate-planning seminar specifically for our donors who are farmers, business owners and landowners. This two-hour session is packed with information to help ensure your farm or business is passed to your beneficiaries without risk of losing it to pay taxes and without the need to sell. You will also be eligible to receive a free consultation with an attorney at the German Law Firm at no obligation to you.

### You may choose from these dates and locations:

Thursday, February 2, 7 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn  
Saturday, February 4, 9 a.m., Alerus Center  
Sunday, February 19, 2 p.m., Thief River Falls Evangelical Free Church

To reserve your place, simply call (701) 738-0060 or register online at [www.raygerman.com](http://www.raygerman.com). You may also check the box on the reply card for more information. We hope you'll plan to attend!