

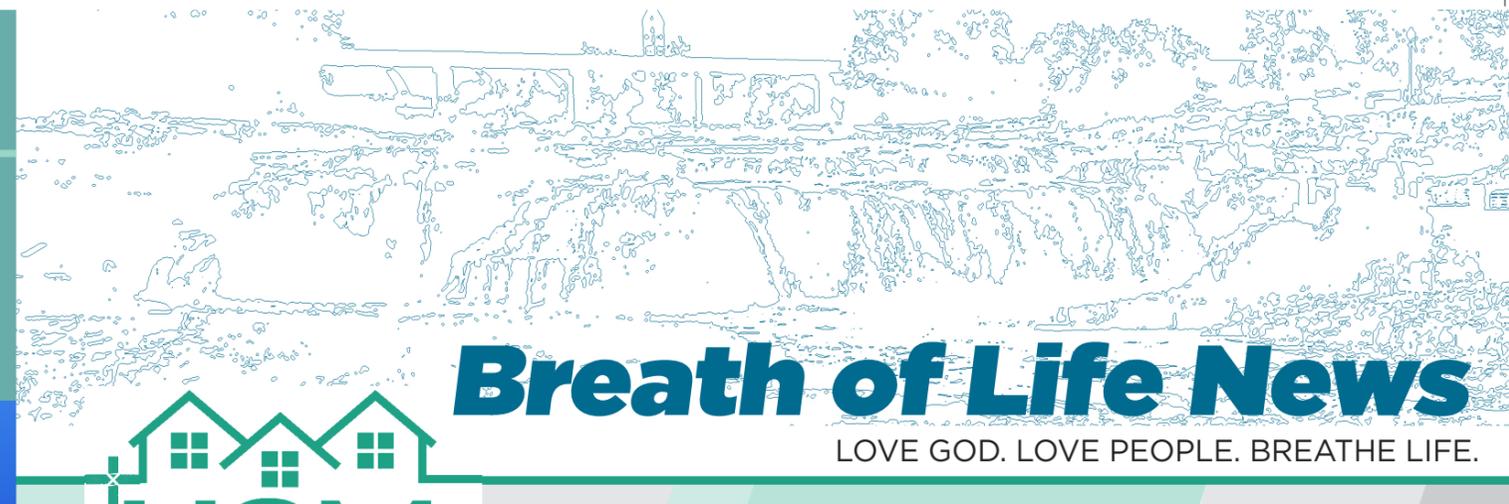
Ways to Get Involved at UGM

Visit ugmsiouxfalls.com or email elly@ugmsiouxfalls.com to learn more.

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|---------------------|---|
| February 14 | Share The Love with Miss South Dakota Contestants |
| February 25 | Abide Worship Sioux Falls with Circuit Riders |
| February 1-March 17 | Love Match Campaign to raise \$122,000* |
| March 11 | Spiritual Development Lunch & Learn |
| March 17 | UGM's 122 Anniversary |

*A generous donor will match a portion of every gift you give!

Scan code to RSVP!



UGM Urgent Needs

- Trash bags
- Bleach
- Hamburger and nonperishable food items
- Totes for storage
- Neosporin and bandaids

Guest Program Needs

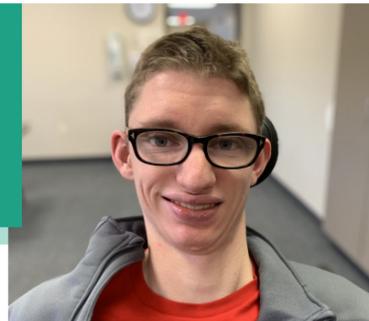
- \$20 pre-paid VISA® cards
- \$10 restaurant gift cards

Thrift Store Urgent Needs

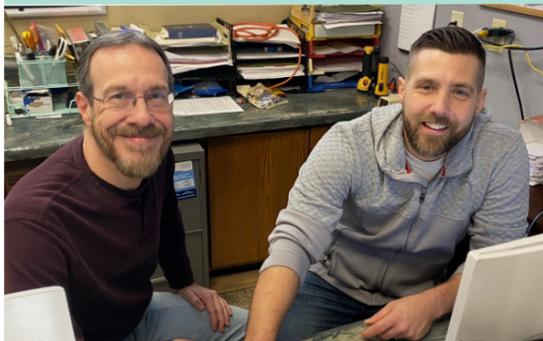
- Men's jeans, size 28-36, black needed for work
- Steel-toed boots and shoes for career program
- Adult backpacks
- Winter coats, gloves and hats,
- Carhartt-style gear such as overalls, coveralls, thermal underwear
- \$12 Sioux Area Metro 10-ride passes
- Phone chargers

Thanks to a partnership with Teachwell Solutions, Will Roths became UGM's first intern, December 15! Will is assisting our Marketing Team with digital media projects. A student at Southeast Technical College, Will is creative and hardworking. He enjoys horseback riding, cooking, art and spending time with family.

Welcome to UGM, Will!



When David Vrooman, CEO of Allstar Technology, learned of UGM's need to replace our old database system, he jumped in to help. Within days, the company provided a new custom database program that tracks and stores client, thrift store and business data. "The love of this ministry makes a difference in our community every day," Vrooman says. "That's exactly the kind of generosity that makes us proud to serve the Sioux Falls community," notes Eric Weber, UGM CEO.



Where Friends Meet and Pray

Colton steps into the UGM Thrift Store on a cold January morning and gets a warm welcome from Ian, the store's director. Colton was recently released from jail and is staying at a nearby overnight shelter. He comes to the thrift store for clothing and other needs. Today he asked for two Bibles.

"When people see they can trust us, they open up," Ian explains. "UGM's mission is to meet the needs of our community with compassion and share the hope of Christ. Our priority is the relationships we build with clients."

The thrift store team pours all efforts into providing essential items to the homeless community. Prices are kept low for those struggling to make ends meet, and emergency assistance

is provided for those who can't pay at all. "Right now, it's coats, scarves, gloves and other items for cold weather. Rain ponchos are really important for people living on the streets because they keep their backpacks dry."

No matter who comes in—and Ian likens it to a wild west show at times—you are in a safe place, where you can share your faith, talk about your problems and even get prayer in the store's "prayer closet."

Recently, a Native American came into the store following his release from a 20-year prison stint. "He was stoic and a proud man," Ian recalls. "I asked if I could pray for him, and he let me, but it agitated his spirit and he began to pray in a confrontational way, like he was challenging me. But he came back for food and clothing,

to share news and to pray. I asked God to fill his heart. Several weeks later he asked for help with his drinking, and we prayed together. The next morning, he was at the door before we opened. He told me he was going to rehab! I sent him off with clothing and other items. Our prayers led him to get help with recovery!

"We provide the simple things and the environment," Ian says. "And the Lord works."



Colton shaking hands with Ian, the thrift store's director.

WINTER/SPRING 2022

INSIDE:
Meeting Needs, Sharing Christ
YOU Breathe Life!
Mental Health Matters
A Community Christmas!
Ways to Get Involved at UGM

Caring for the needs of the community with compassion while sharing the hope of Jesus Christ.



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Give or learn more: ugmsiouxfalls.com

Follow us!

From Eric Weber, CEO *Meeting Needs, Sharing Christ*



out to individuals of every age, race, culture and lifestyle in our community and share the life-breathing love of Jesus with them all!

That's why the UGM Thrift Store isn't a boutique store that's focused on fundraising. Instead, we want to be a place where people in the community can have needs met, whether those needs are for clothing, household goods, a kind word or some much-needed prayer. Instead of funds, we focus on breathing life into a community of individuals who often feel life has passed them by.

You are an important part of our community! You are the givers, providing material donations to stock our store ... food to fill

This newsletter could be summed up with UGM's Mission statement: Caring for the needs of the community with compassion while sharing the hope of Jesus Christ. The word "community" is what we are all about. We want to reach

our pantries ... working hands to surround our staff ... prayer to ignite our souls. Thank you for being such an important part of what Union Gospel Mission is and does! Thank you for meeting needs and pointing the way to Jesus.

God bless you in 2022!

Eric "Pineapple" Weber
CEO

P.S. Please consider partnering with us through our volunteer program—we need your help year-round! More people are in need than ever before! Remember to "Love Out Loud."



Mental Health *Matters*

It's no secret that addiction can destroy a person's mental health. Add homelessness, burned bridges, unemployment and abuse then throw in COVID, and you have a recipe for serious mental health issues!

In 2022, Union Gospel Mission's staff is taking effective training measures in mental health in order to recognize and address the needs of our clients more effectively. Recently, Todd Hill, Men's Center Co-director, attended a course for Mental Health First Aid Responders. "Simply put, I learned how to recognize when someone is having problems in their heart and mind, and to be a listener."

Todd says the course helped him understand that we just don't know what other people are going through until we listen. "It hit home that someone may be struggling with something, and it can turn into a bigger problem if that person doesn't have anyone to talk to, myself included."

UGM offers biblical counseling, art therapy, prayer and worship and lots of encouragement and love to our guests. "Galatians 6:2 says we are to carry each other's burdens, and in this way, fulfill the law of Christ," Todd says. "Learning about mental health is learning to carry each other's burdens."

YOU Breathe Life!

Here are the ways your compassionate gifts impacted the homeless and hungry of Sioux Falls.

January 1-December 31, 2021

121,995
meals served onsite

20,249
men given shelter

9,656
women and children
given shelter

1,915
people received counseling and
case management

1,540
people served at onsite
medical clinic

13,506
food boxes distributed



A Community Christmas!

More than 1,000 men, women and children were treated to a holiday feast, cookies, and new gifts of clothing, toiletries, toys and books on Christmas morning at UGM! Blankets were donated by Project Warm Up and the Mission's Lamplighter's Auxiliary.

"It was an incredible outpouring of generosity and love for the homeless and low-income families in Sioux Falls," says Elly Heckel, the Mission's communications director. "And over 100 volunteers chose to spend Christmas at UGM and help out. We couldn't have done it without them!"

For the first time, UGM teamed up with Reach Literacy to provide a brand new book for each child. "We were hoping for two or three hundred books, and people really came through," Elly says. "We are so thankful Reach Literacy joined our event."

From the staff and residents at UGM, thank you for bringing joy to Christmas 2021, and may God bless you in 2022.

Thanks to these community partners for supporting UGM equipment needs & capital projects!

