

CrossRoads

Spring 2010

New Life Center

“...As you did it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you did it unto me.”
—Matthew 25:40

RIVER’S RISING, SHELTER’S OVERFLOWING

As our community faces the challenge of another year for potential flooding, we at the New Life Center are facing a similar dilemma. As homeowners ponder how to prepare and protect themselves for another flood, we are wondering how we can create more space for people who have nowhere to turn. In the Old Testament, God told the people of Israel, “There will always be poor people in the land” (Deuteronomy 15:11); and in the New Testament, Jesus said, “the poor you will always have with you” (Mark 14:7).

What is more important in these references to the poor is that God commanded His people to care for those who are in need. We as a community have a responsibility to care for our neighbors, whether they are facing the floodwaters or if they are in need of shelter, food, clothing and the other necessities of life. Poor does not necessarily mean people who are living in poverty, but rather a state of being.

It shouldn’t surprise us that Jesus would begin the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-11) with “Blessed are the poor in spirit.” Could this describe those of us who face the rising waters? People who are feeling desperate and powerless against the forces of nature could be described as “poor in spirit”. People who cannot provide for themselves adequate shelter against the elements; people who cannot access food for themselves and their families; people who do not have the resources to purchase decent clothing for themselves or their children surely qualify as the “poor in spirit”.

It has been our privilege to reach out to those who fit this description. We are currently serving between 95 and 100 people each night in our shelter and feeding many more. The primary programs of the New Life



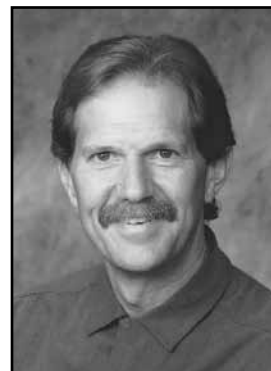
Center address the immediate needs of homeless and destitute people. Our mission staff offers and provides material, physical, emotional and spiritual help to everyone who comes through our doors.

We are blessed to have professionals from other community organizations such as the Family Healthcare Service, Southeast Human Service Center, Cass County Social Services and the Veterans Homeless Healthcare Program who provide assistance to our residents. These are all localized services helping local people facing homelessness and helplessness to get on their feet and rebuild new lives.

The New Life Center is dependent on your prayers, your gifts of time, in-kind and financial donations to bring hope through this ministry to the rising numbers who are requesting help. (See statistics on page 2). The New Life Center is always open, 24 hours every day of the year and we ask that you would remember to pray for our staff, especially during these trying times. Through YOU all our needs are provided for and we thank God for each of you.

“...unto the least of these.” –Matthew 25:40

Dan L. Danielson, CEO



The New Life Center is not an independent ministry! It's not that we are part of some larger corporation, on the contrary. The New Life Center is still not independent. In fact, the Center is very dependent.

We are dependent on God.

Through the gifts of godly and compassionate people, our function is to carry out His desires with the support and commitment of those who help sustain this ministry with their finances and time. We at the Center are simply stewards of the donations we receive. This makes YOU an active participant in the ministry to the poor and needy of our community.

When Christ directed His disciples to minister to the poor, He told them where the needs were greatest. His directives were simple, give food and drink to the hungry and thirsty; give shelter and clothing to the strangers; look after the sick and visit those in prison. These instructions are followed

each day at the New Life Center as evidenced in the statistical information on this page.

However, your ministry through the New Life Center does more than provide meals to the hungry and beds to the homeless. What this ministry really does is provide, "new life" for people who were hopeless and helpless. Some people look at the chaos in the lives of the men, women and children who come to the New Life Center and say it seems hopeless. But that is not how Jesus Christ sees them or us.

By your support of the Center, you restore joy and give people a future and hope. Thank you for your prayers, your financial support and for helping us give encouragement to those whose lives are touched with Christ's ministry of rescue.

2009 SERVICE STATISTICS

January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009

Lodgings = 31,460 Average 87 nightly in shelter
Meals = 95,220 Average 260 meals prepared daily
3 meals served daily Monday through Friday
2 meals (brunch and supper) served Saturday and Sunday

People from the community eat at the New Life Center, as well as shelter residents.

Family Services = 790 families

This represents the fastest growing number of people served at the New Life Center besides shelter residents. Families include: 1279 adults and 379 children under 18 years of age. Family services include: free clothing and furniture; household items; meals; emergency Traveler's Aid. All provided to the individual at no cost.

Free Clinic: 958 shelter residents received medical attention.

The New Life Center Thrift Store provided 2796 individuals with clothing, furniture and other household essentials at no cost. These people were either referred to the New Life Center by other social service organizations or were staying in the New Life Center residential program.

940 unduplicated individuals stayed in the men's shelter.

Total individuals served in 2009 = 4,694.

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR NEWLY RENOVATED WEBSITE AT

WWW.FARGONLC.ORG

AND JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST FOR UP TO DATE INFO

What's in a Name?

Did you know that the New Life Center and the Fargo Union Mission are one and the same? When the mission moved from its previous location in downtown Fargo in 1968, the name for programming was changed to "New Life Center." The legal name is still Fargo Union Mission, Inc.

Prayer Breakfast Cancellation

Due to this year's spring flood prediction, the New Life Center's Women's Auxiliary has sadly decided to postpone this year's Prayer Breakfast and Evening Desert event. As you may recall last year's flood resulted in the cancellation of many local events, as well as the Prayer Breakfast. There were a host of logistical challenges that resulted, such as refunding tickets, re-calling publicity efforts and spreading the word of the cancellation. In addition, the speaker and venue were inconvenienced and impacted financially.

Please check our website for more information regarding the cancellation, as well as information concerning an upcoming event featuring the scheduled speaker, Ellie Lofaro.

New Life Center Foundation

In 2009, the New Life Center Foundation was established to support the continuing work of the ministry. Gifts to the foundation are made in the form of cash and securities or through a deferred gift instrument such as a will or trust. The New Life Center Foundation is a pool of assets invested to provide income and capital appreciation. The principle provides long-term financial stability and its income will perpetuate lifetime support of the New Life Center. You can leave a legacy in providing for the needs of homeless and hurting people in our community. For more information, call Dan Danielson at 701-235-4453.

Two Organizations Will Help Increase Your Donation

The Feinstein Foundation will again divide \$1 million among hunger-fighting agencies. The Foundation will match a percentage of contributions made to the New Life Center from now through April 30. Donations can include cash, checks and food items.

Minnesota Foodshare is an effort by the Second Harvest Food Bank of Minnesota and the Great Plains Food Bank to increase donations to local feeding organizations by partially matching any financial contributions and in-kind donations of non-perishable food items during the month of March.

Please consider making a donation during this timeframe. Call the New Life Center at (701) 235-4453 for more details. This is a great opportunity to see your donation increased!

Thrift Store Donations Needed

Immediate Needs

- Furniture of all kinds
- Pots, pans, dishes, utensils
- Gently used clothing for men, women, children

Your donations to the Thrift Store benefit needy people who are referred to the store by community agencies. Household items, clothing and basic necessities are given to those in need at no charge. Your donations also generate income for the New Life Center by offering shopping opportunities to the public. The Thrift Store provides free donation pickup and donation tax receipts.



New Life Center Thrift Store

1902 3rd Ave. N. • Fargo, ND 58102

Hours: Monday to Friday—9 AM to 5 PM

Saturday—9 AM to 1 PM

For information, call: 701-235-4453

Detach and mail in enclosed envelope with your gift to New Life Center

Yes, I/we want to have our gift increased during the March/April Minnesota Foodshare and Feinstein Foundation program.

Amount Enclosed:

\$25 \$50 \$100 OTHER _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I/we prefer to donate by credit card.

Visa Mastercard

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ CID/CVV # _____

3 digit code on back of card

Authorized Signature _____

Mail To: New Life Center

PO Box 1067

Fargo, ND 58107-1067

Your credit card information is held in the strictest confidence.

Fargo Union Mission, Inc.
New Life Center
1902 Third Avenue North
Fargo, ND 58102-1067

New Life Center Staff

Dan Danielson Chief Executive Officer
Stacy Danielson Assistant Director
Claire Coffey Administrative Assistant
Craig Canales Chaplain/Advocate
Dale Konrad Warehouse Supervisor
Robert Bartole Shelter Supervisor
Keith Sheppard Shelter Supervisor
Timothy Mahoney Shelter Supervisor
Charles Pedigo Shelter Supervisor
Don Pearson Physical Plant Manager
Esther Vogel Thrift Store Clerk
JoAnn Hancock Thrift Store Clerk
Wanda Hall Thrift Store Clerk
Janet Colton Thrift Store Clerk
Carol Lundin Thrift Store Clerk
Ricarda Salazar Thrift Store Clerk
Julie Wiese Head Cook
Michael Guyton Breakfast Cook
Jeffrey Imlach Kitchen Staff
Richard Ness Donations Driver
Robert Branscum Donations Assistant
Tom Radtke Maintenance
Clay Danielson IT

Community Agency Support Staff

Nathan Viton Veterans Administration
Todd Brossart Veterans Administration
Sara Wiederholt S.E. Human Service Center
Kathy Watson Family Healthcare Center

Board of Directors

Executive Committee

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Jack Sand Vice President
Robert Remark Treasurer
Dan L. Danielson Secretary

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Dr. Hiram Drache Ralph Jose
R. Tod Gunkelman Marge Lorentzsen
Paul Korsmo Dr. Ron Peterson
Karen Lundstrom Earl Stegman
Chuck Perkins

Women's Auxiliary Member Churches

Baker-Downer Presbyterian
Bethlehem Lutheran
Bethel Evangelical Free
Calvary Baptist
Calvary United Methodist
Christ the King Lutheran
Community Presbyterian
Dilworth Lutheran
Edgewood United Methodist
Elim Lutheran
Faith Lutheran
Faith United Methodist
First Assembly of God
First Baptist (Fargo)
First Congregational (Fargo)
First Congregational (Moorhead)
First Lutheran (Fargo)
First Presbyterian (Fargo)
First United Methodist (Fargo)
Glyndon Lutheran
Good Shepard Lutheran
Grace Lutheran
Grace United Methodist (Moorhead)

Hope Lutheran
Knollbrook Covenant
Liberty Lutheran
Maple Sheyenne Lutheran
Maranatha Free Lutheran
Messiah Lutheran
Metropolitan Baptist
New Hope Evangelical Free (Moorhead)
North Buffalo Lutheran
Olivet Lutheran
Our Savior's Lutheran
Peace Lutheran
Pontoppidan Lutheran
River Valley (Moorhead)
Salem Evangelical Free
Scandia Lutheran (Glyndon)
St. Mark's Lutheran
St. Paul's Free
Trinity Lutheran
Triumph Lutheran
Valley Christian

Women's Auxiliary Chairperson
Mary Akason - Messiah Lutheran



Charter Member Agency of
United Way of Cass-Clay

The New Life Center is open 24 hours a day; call (701) 235-4453
www.fargonlc.org

The New Life Center is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer and provides services to all individuals without regard to race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion or disability.