

**JOIN US FOR
GRATITUDE DAY**

It is especially at this time of year that we feel deeply grateful for everyone in the Tasks community that keeps us thriving and making a difference. We want to thank our clients and their families who inspire us each day as well as our staff, board, and all of the supporters and partners who make our work possible.

With this in mind, we thought about how we wanted to celebrate the upcoming holiday season and decided on having a Gratitude Day. We hope you will join us on December 18th for a holiday break. It's our way of showing our appreciation to everyone in the Tasks community for all you do to keep Tasks strong.

With thanks,

Karen Johnston
Executive Director

YOU'RE INVITED!

TASKS GRATITUDE DAY
Join us for lunch and holiday cheer.

Wed., December 18th
11am-1pm

(stop by anytime)

Tasks Unlimited
2419 Nicollet Avenue South,
Minneapolis

PLEASE RSVP BY 12/13/19
by emailing jtorresestrada@tasksunlimited.org or by
phone at 612-767-2083.

**NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN NORTHEAST
MINNEAPOLIS**

We are excited to share with you the official opening of our drop-in center in Northeast Minneapolis. This marks a step in reaching our goal of expanding our services and reaching more people and areas in need in the Twin Cities.

NOOC

Our **Northeast Outreach & Opportunity Center**, known as **NOOC** (*pronounced / nuk/*), is a cozy corner in NE Minneapolis where adults experiencing or at risk of homelessness can come for comfort, a meal, resources and supports to help end the cycle of homelessness.

Led by our new Homeless Outreach Program Manager, Mark Sutherland, the center brings Tasks Unlimited services like job placement, mental and chemical health support, and housing opportunities to folks in need. We also look forward to providing additional services at the drop-in center as we become more established in the area.



If you know someone in the NE area who may be in need of our services, please reach out to Mark by phone at 612-986-7894 or by email at msutherland@tasksunlimited.org or join us at the hours and location below.

NOOC HOURS & LOCATION:

8 AM - 3 PM
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS



ELIM CHURCH
685 13TH AVE. NE
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55413
Ring doorbell when you arrive.
Bus tokens available for participants.
On bus lines 17 and 30.



In partnership with Hope Avenue and sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Help us celebrate our 50th Anniversary in 2020 -
keep an eye out for details in the coming months!

MEET GREG - FROM SHELTER TO WORKING AND ACHIEVING

Greg was sleeping at an emergency shelter when he went with a friend to Tasks' partner, Elim Church, one Sunday morning. His friend had heard of Elim's Hope Avenue where each Sunday people in need can come for a meal, clothes, resources and support. That Sunday Greg met Tasks Unlimited's Admissions Counselor, Jon. Jon told him about Tasks' employment and housing programs and they made an appointment for an intake. When Greg was coming back for his appointment it started raining and he arrived cold and soaked. He still remembers the kindness he experienced when Jon and Elim staff gave him some dry clothes to change into before the interview began.

That day, Greg learned that he could join Tasks' Jobs Training Program and receive pay while working his way to a regular position with Tasks' janitorial service, Tasks Unlimited Building Services. The program also included support in groups and on the job. He started the program while he was still staying at the shelter.

Greg had worked in construction for 17 years, including on the Green Line. But he injured his back and began to struggle with depression, alcohol and

drugs. From the time he went to the shelter, getting back to work was his top goal, but he could only work four hours per day and he found that most jobs he could get were low wage and without benefits. Tasks, he says, was different because of the retirement and health benefits he is eligible for as a Tasks employee, and the support he receives on the job.

“They are with you 100 percent. They don't give up on you...They say ‘you can do this.’ And you don't have that at many jobs. It's like ‘hey, you either get it or you're out.’ They're not like that here. It's like their purpose, they would not be serving their purpose if you walk away.”

Now, six months later, Greg is living in his own apartment and is a week away from graduation. He's also looking forward to another major milestone in January 2020—“one year with no alcohol, no street drugs, and no tobacco.” He has set a new goal of gaining a position at one of Tasks' federal agency work sites.

“[Working at Tasks] really has sustained me, and being able to be in the mental health program here and the support that they give me. It's really been a good support for me.”

Tasks new opportunity center, the NOOC, is located in space at Elim Church and is a place where people who are homeless can come to find the information and support they need to start on a new path.

Congratulations, Greg!



give TO THE **MAX** 

NOV. 14, 2019

Give to the Max Day (GTMD) is a great day to show your support for Tasks Unlimited! It is a 24-hour giving event across Minnesota.

Donations made on www.givemn.org/Tasksunlimited on Nov. 14th will qualify us for additional prize drawings, like \$500 Golden Tickets given every 15 minutes and/or \$6,000 Power Hour prizes!

Join us on **THURS., NOV. 14, 2019** for GTMD19 and help us continue to change lives by providing housing, employment, and mental health and recovery services for people with serious and persistent mental illness!

Learn more about Give to the Max Day by visiting www.givemn.org/gtmd and find Tasks Unlimited at www.givemn.org/Tasksunlimited.

TASKS CLIENTS GET CREATIVE

We were thrilled to collaborate with the arts organization COMPAS this year to bring opportunities for Tasks clients to participate in the arts. COMPAS Teaching Artists held 8-week residencies in printmaking, collage making, and photography: Lucy Rose Fischer taught collage-making at the Senior Lodge, Katrina Knutson taught printmaking at the Transition Lodge, and Mica Lee Anders taught photography at sites around the Twin Cities.

We celebrated the results at our Art Expo on October 29th at The Wedge Table in Minneapolis. Thank you to all the Tasks clients, staff, supporters, COMPAS artists and staff, family members and friends who came to support our Tasks artists. Participants spoke about the insights and skills they gained, and new relationships they made. And the artwork was amazing! Congratulations to all the participants. We hope to bring more arts opportunities to Tasks in the future.



During the Art Expo, Jermaine, a recent Transition Lodge graduate, shared how much he enjoyed the art residencies. Jermaine had several pieces of artwork on display, including the cover photo for Tasks' 2020 calendar, which featured client photos from the photography art residency.

Jermaine has shared with staff how his time at Tasks has helped him to gain the confidence to try new things.

In addition to reaching financial and employment goals, including graduating from Tasks Jobs Training Program, Jermaine has proved to be a model peer and friend.

We are happy to have Jermaine as a Tasks employee and lodge resident.

Congratulations, Jermaine!



This activity was made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



2ND ANNUAL BRIDGE FOR TASKS FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS

Thanks to the contributions of many, the second annual Bridge for Tasks fundraiser raised over \$2,705 for our Client Emergency Needs Fund. The event was held Mon., Oct. 7th at Church of St. Patrick-Edina. Forty participants played bridge at \$45 per person, which included games, a raffle, and lunch.

This was all possible due to our tireless co-organizers, *Emily Carlin* and *Phyllis Johnston*, and our many sponsors. Their efforts and financial donations ensured that 100 percent of funds raised will go to help people with mental illness. Thank you to our co-organizers, our volunteers that prepared and served food, *Dolores Lucas* and *Carol Kerr*, and *Betty Weingartner* and *Pat Fournier*, who paid for the rental of the space.



This year we incorporated a raffle into Bridge for Tasks and raised \$510 in raffle ticket sales.

Special thanks to everyone who bought tickets and our raffle prize sponsors:

Dan's Nicollet Car Wash, Sunnyside Gardens, Christos Greek Restaurant, Minnesota Orchestra, Bunny's Bar & Grill, Cahill Bistro, Ike's Food & Cocktails, Bobby & Steve's Auto World, Queen of Cakes, and Feldman Imports.

We are thankful to all the attendees, volunteers, and sponsors who made this event a success—yet again!



OUR AMAZON WISHLIST & DONATE USING AMAZONSMILE

Check out our Amazon Wishlist for our greatest needs. Items purchased directly from our wishlist on Amazon will be delivered directly to Tasks Unlimited and distributed to clients and programs with the most need.

<https://amzn.to/2PPEXeF>

You can also shop and donate using AmazonSmile. When you do your regular shopping on Amazon use the link below and AmazonSmile will donate to us!

smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7087205

Shop using the link above or search for Tasks Unlimited, Inc. to ensure we receive your donation.

HELP US SAVE MONEY BY GOING DIGITAL!

Sign up for our electronic newsletter by emailing development@tasksunlimited.org and we'll set you up to receive news, event information, and our newsletter electronically!

Our **mission** is to provide supported employment, housing and mental health services for people with mental illness so that they achieve a full life with the rights and responsibilities of adults in our society.

living. working. achieving.