

"In the name of Jesus, the Dubuque Rescue Mission is a community offering hospitality, spiritual hope, food, shelter, clothing and job development to those in need."



Dubuque Rescue Mission

FALL
2025

Our leadership team:

- **Rev. Samuel Felderman**
Executive Director
- **Jeff Lenhart**
Advocacy & Outreach Manager
- **Rachel Boeke**
Program Manager
- **Will Pearsall**
Resident Manager
- **Carrie Gildersleeve**
Garden Manager
- **Kim Miller**
Store 1 Manager
- **Nicole Danti**
Store 2 Manager
- **Grant Cashman**
Transitional House Manager
- **Luke Benson**
Accountant
- **Michael Staver**
Chef-in-Residence
- **Clarissa Klostermann**
Food Systems Coordinator
- **Alan Johnson**
Case Manager
- **Brian Willing**
Warming/Cooling Center Manager
- **Hannah Grove**
Care Coordinator



"All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ..."

-- Rule of Benedict, 53.1

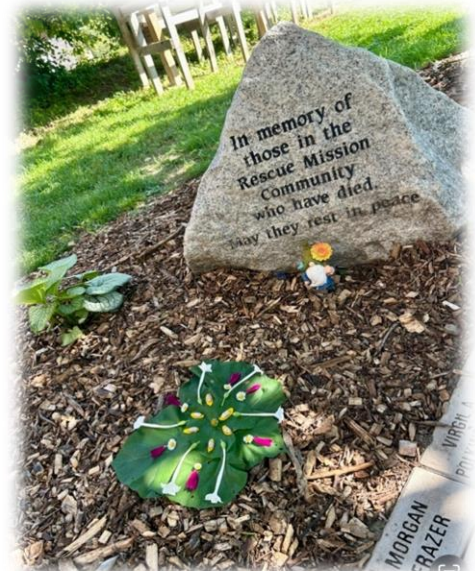
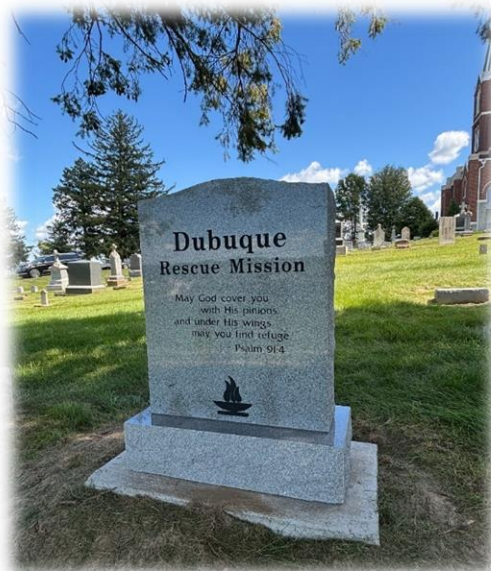
www.dubuquerescue.org

Eternal rest, grant them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the departed, through your mercy, rest in peace. - Book of Common Prayer pg. 502

In the first week of July, under care of hospice, one of our residents passed away in his sleep. Our resident had not had an easy life and an unexpected diagnosis of a terminal illness quickly derailed any hopes he had of getting back on his feet. The Mission did everything we could to make his final days comfortable and with the support of hospice, we strove to provide him the very best to care for until his final breath.

While it is our greatest hope and wish that those whom we serve will be able to return to "life as normal," that is simply not always the case. The National Alliance to End Homelessness reports that adults over 50 are the fastest growing group of people to be experiencing homelessness. * Between age, health concerns and housing shortages, there is a reality that for some of those who find shelter with us, we may be their final home.

On the 19th of August, members of the Mission community and local clergy gathered in our garden to dedicate a memorial space in which the lives of residents (cont. on page 2)



“Abide With Me”

— by Henry Francis Lyte

Abide with me: fast falls the
eventide;

the darkness deepens; Lord, with
me abide.

When other helpers fail and
comforts flee,

Help of the helpless, O abide with
me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little
day;

earth's joys grow dim, its glories
pass away.

Change and decay in all around I
see.

O thou who changest not, abide
with me.

I need thy presence every passing
hour.

What but thy grace can foil the
tempter's power?

Who like thyself my guide and
strength can be?

Through cloud and sunshine, O
abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to
bless,

ills have no weight, and tears no
bitterness.

Where is death's sting? Where,
grave, thy victory?

I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my
closing eyes.

Shine through the gloom and point
me to the skies.

Heaven's morning breaks and
earth's vain shadows flee;

in life, in death, O Lord, abide with
me.

and staff who we have lost over the years could be remembered. Prayers were said, stories shared, hugs were exchanged, and together we reaffirmed to one another our commitment to care for those in need at every stage of their journey, including at the end of their lives and beyond.

Working with the Brannon Monument Company and St. John's Lutheran Church in St. Donatus, the Mission has not only been able to put in remembrance garden with stones etched with the names of those and we have lost, but we have also been able to put up a grave marker in the St. John's cemetery. Four souls whose remains are in the care of the Mission will be interred there, with space for others as the need arises. Because of the generosity of St. John's Church, we will be able to ensure that those in need will be buried with dignity and respect and because of the kindness of the Brannon Monument Company, their names will not be forgotten.

Facing the reality of potentially more health concerns amongst our residents and those for whom we care we at the Mission, have recently created a new position of care coordinator, which is specifically designed assist our more elderly and infirm residents as they navigate their health challenges and seek more effective and sustainable housing options. If you are so moved, I would invite you to consider donating to allow us to fully fund this position to ensure that we are able to give the support needed to those for whom we care.

May you be blessed, this day and always,

Rev. Samuel Felderman

[*https://endhomelessness.org/blog/paint-by-numbers-older-americans-and-homelessness/](https://endhomelessness.org/blog/paint-by-numbers-older-americans-and-homelessness/)



A recent count found the highest number of homeless individuals in Dubuque and Delaware counties since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Held overnight on July 30–31, the count recorded 41 people living outdoors in Dubuque County and nine in Delaware County. Organized by the East Central Intergovernmental Association, the count helps guide outreach and federal funding. Experts say the rise in numbers is likely due to factors like inflation, mental health needs, and job loss, and stressed the importance of finding solutions to make homelessness temporary.

In addition to ECIA and CSEI staff and board members, the count team included representatives from Dubuque Police Department, our own Rev. Samuel Felderman, The Sisters of the Presentation, Hawkeye Area Community Action Program and Area Substance Abuse Council, along with Dubuque City Council Member Katy Wethal.



KITCHEN UPDATE:

Clarissa Klostermann is the Mission's Food Systems Coordinator. In the beginning stages of reimagining food at the Mission, she is interested in reducing our food waste and incorporating more local food into the approximately 2000 meals we serve each week. If you are interested in partnering in these revisioning efforts, please email her at clarissa@dbqrescue.org.



In addition to our regular services, the Mission team is always working on a mix of projects to maintain or improve our physical spaces and equipment. In recent months we:

- Created an office on the third floor for our Resident Manager Will, which allows for a comfortable and confidential space for meaningful conversations with residents.
- Emptied a storage room in the lower level of the building and made upcoming plans to outfit it as an office for the garden team so they will have space to gather, have meetings, process and store produce, etc.
- Added baby changing stations to the public bathrooms by our dining room so parents have a safe and clean space to change diapers.
- Applied for a grant to purchase an ice machine for the kitchen, as we currently do not have a way to make ice. We'll hear back this fall on whether we receive the grant!
- Replaced some missing shelves in our upright fridges and freezers, allowing us to use more of the space instead of only being able to stack food at the bottom.
- Added content to our website with additional information about services we offer and how to support us. Check it out at dubuquerescue.org!

Some of the projects on our wish list which we'll be getting quotes on and applying for grants for include:

- Install a handicap button on the front door to make our entrance accessible.
- Add shower stall dividers to the bathroom in our third floor residential area which currently has an open concept shower room.
- Replace ceiling tiles in Thrift Store 1 which were damaged by a water leak.



"You go from here to stand with the demonized so that the demonizing will stop, and you stand with the disposable so that the day will come when we stop throwing people away. For no kinship, no peace, no kinship, no justice, no kinship, no equality. You go to the margins not to make a difference, because then that's about you. You go to the margin so that the folks at the margins make you different."

~~ Father Gregory Boyle

12th Annual Global Homeboy Network Gathering

Los Angeles, CA

~~Jeff Lenhart, Advocacy & Outreach Manager, Dubuque Rescue Mission

Last year, I was fortunate to attend the annual Global Homeboy Network Gathering, sponsored by Homeboy Industries, the world's largest gang intervention organization, founded by Father Gregory Boyle. This year, I was able to return!

The mission of this annual gathering is to **work with organizations from across the globe to create therapeutic communities that offer job skills training, cost-free programs & services, and social enterprise employment. Their goal is to assist other organizations as they provide marginalized men, women, and youth with tools they need to change their lives and become productive members of their communities.**

This 2 ½ day gathering sells out each year, as 500 people from all over our world travel to LA for this truly inspiring event! I'm so amazed at the palpable energy during this gathering of like-minded individuals and organizations. While incredible stories are being told from people who have been given a 2nd chance at life, I swear you can probably hear a needle being dropped on the ground, along with gasps from individuals, hearing from individuals who were facing life-term sentences of incarceration, appealing those sentences, then being given a chance to improve their lives at Homeboy Industries.

Aside from learning about the powerful work that Father Greg and his team does, we also learn from other organizations from around the world during break-out sessions throughout the day.

One interesting session that I had the pleasure of attending was the founder of a non-profit organization in Visalia, CA: Salt + Light. Adrienne Hillman talked about how she started the organization, and then their Neighborhood Village Manager, Henry Leon, also spoke about his struggles, and how he was able to rise above them!

Salt + Light's mission is to transform the lives of their Central California neighbors at risk of or experiencing homelessness by fostering community and belonging. They offer dignified housing, essential case management services, purposeful work opportunities, and outreach programs rooted in dignity and radical hospitality.

This organization is a first of its kind in California, in which they offer whole-person care and vibrant daily life that restores dignity, purpose, and belonging. To learn more about them, please visit: www.saltandlightworks.org

It's amazing learning what individuals and organizations are doing across our world to help those that need a home!

COMPASSION IN ACTION!



Thank you to everyone who came out for our first Farm-to-Table Fundraiser Dinner! On Saturday, August 23rd we gathered at New Hope Farm for an evening of connection, food, and music, all in support of expanding services for people in need. We look forward to hosting again next year!

On August 4th & 5th, Pastor Nichole Robson at St. Peter Lutheran Church and the team at Lord of Life Lutheran, came to the Mission to sort 6,000 pairs of Bombas socks that we received as a generous donation, and they also helped prepare and serve lunch!



Susan Bechen (pictured), and Michelle Arensdorf from the MercyOne Mobile Medical Unit, come to the Mission twice each month to provide help to individuals, but more than that, they understand the human connection that each person needs and deserves!



Dubuque Rescue Mission

P.O. Box 147
398 Main Street
Dubuque, IA 52004-0147

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



SCAN to Donate!



Dubuque Rescue Mission

In the name of Jesus, the Dubuque Rescue Mission is a community offering hospitality, spiritual hope, food, shelter, clothing, and job development to those in need.



Dubuque Rescue Mission Thrift Store #1

398 Main Street

563-583-3343

HOURS:

Mondays – Fridays

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturdays

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Dubuque Rescue Mission Thrift Store #2

998 Central Avenue

563-587-8164

HOURS:

Tuesdays – Fridays

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Saturdays

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

We can pick up your furniture donations, also!

