



Dubuque Rescue Mission

Dear friends,

Spring is in full bloom at the Dubuque Rescue Mission as the seedlings of many of our winter efforts, both physical and metaphorical, are coming to light.

We further developed relationships with organizations offering long-term supportive housing, such as for individuals with a disability or individuals recovering from addiction, helping people break out of the cycle of poverty.

Staff completed First Aid/CPR/AED training at Northeast Iowa Community College, and we received two Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) via a grant program from Dubuque County Public Health Department.

Our greenhouse is bursting at the seams with seedlings for our organic garden and partner organizations. This will provide over 2,000 pounds of produce, which will be used in our free meal program.

With the growth of staff in recent years, we have formed four departments: Resident Life, Food Systems, Community Engagement, and Operations. Department directors work with Executive Director Rev. Samuel Felderman to provide support to our residents, staff, volunteers, donors, and guests. We look forward to collaborating with you in serving our community!

Sincerely,

Alyssa Zasada
Community Engagement Director

Enjoy our new look, thanks to local artist and designer Lyric Morris-Latchaw!

When we reflected on the work of the DRM in providing shelter, food, clothing, job development, community, and hope, a few central themes emerged: flourish and thrive, abundance, and rising together. We want to nourish each person who walks through our doors, and Lyric captured that beautifully in our new logo and branding!

Check out more of her work at studiolyric.com



News from the DRM Kitchen

- In the first quarter of 2026, more than 10,500 meals were served at the Dubuque Rescue Mission.
- New trays were donated by an anonymous donor.
- An up-to-date sanitization system was installed for the kitchen and dining room.
- Milk cartons are now being purchased from Prairie Farms.
- Hot breakfast is served up to 3 times a week.
- Brown bag lunches are now being offered for Saturday lunch.
- Two full-time staff, two part-time staff, and an average of 30 recurring volunteers make our 17 meals per week possible.



Event for Volunteers



Current and prospective DRM Kitchen volunteers are invited to attend a volunteer meeting on **June 23rd from 6:00PM – 7:00PM**, immediately following our dinner service at **398 Main Street, second floor**. All attendees are welcome to arrive early to have supper together in the dining room. We will cover volunteering and kitchen updates, provide space for feedback, and connect over the communal impact of recurring volunteers. Please contact clarissa@dbqrescue.org with any questions. We look forward to gathering together!

Applications Open: Summer AmeriCorps Position

The DRM Food Systems Department is looking for a summer AmeriCorps service member with Iowa Community Corps. This person will serve 300 hours over 10 weeks beginning June 5th. The position will be split between work in the DRM's urban garden and kitchen spaces. Goals for this service member include building garden capacity, encouraging and promoting volunteerism, and developing systems for streamlined produce preservation. The service member will earn a living stipend and an education award, participate in monthly professional development sessions, and work to increase food access alongside a statewide network of public health professionals. Applicants must be 18 years or older and pass a background check. Please contact clarissa@dbqrescue.org with questions and/or to apply for this position.





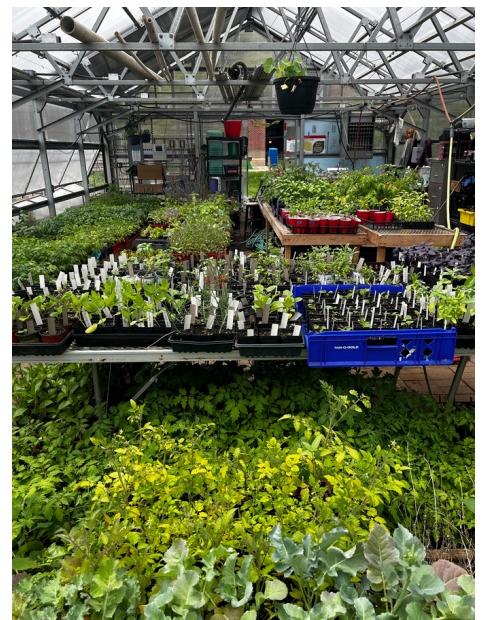
We have been busy bees over in the garden and greenhouse this spring! 1,300 onions have been planted, along with several brassicas, carrots, and lettuce. Several pounds of greens have already been harvested and enjoyed in our kitchen. Soon, with the help of 3 residents who are employed in the garden, the rest of our summer crops will be in.

Last year, we were able to create more space in the greenhouse by adding shelving purchased through a grant from Sustainable Dubuque. This enabled us to double our growing space.

We are hosting a plant sale at the greenhouse this spring (May 16), and along with our community partners St. Luke's and VIATS, we started several thousand seedlings in the last couple of months alone! Even with the extra shelving, we managed to max out our growing space and had plants covering every surface. While we enjoyed the abundance, we are looking to custom build additional shelving for an estimated cost of \$2,000. If you are interested in donating towards this project, please reach out to carrie@dbqrescue.org.

This year, with a grant from Sustainable Dubuque, we have added drip tape irrigation to our main beds and built a new compost tumbler system. We are looking forward to our best growing season yet!

By Carrie Gildersleeve
Garden Manager



Top: Garden Assistant Grace leading compost sifting during Days of Caring.

Middle: Greenhouse filled with plants for the plant sale and our garden.

Bottom: New drip tape irrigation, thanks to Sustainable Dubuque.



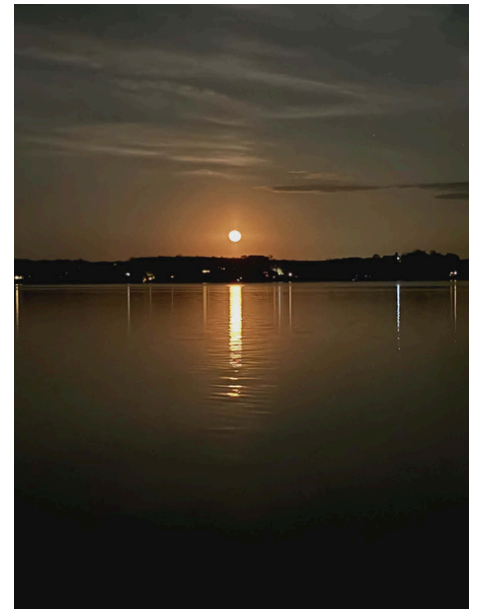
Professional Development

Thanks to generous support, I recently attended “Building Bridges: Collaborative Living In Polarized Times Through The Practice of Nonviolent Communication” in Green Lake, Wisconsin. Together in an emergent community with members from around the world, we learned and practiced skills to create a more compassionate and peaceful culture, in our lives at home, work, and in our communities.

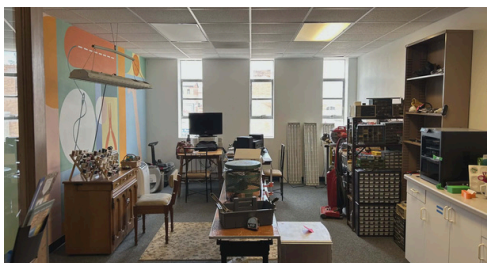
We practiced speaking from the heart, being deeply present, and listening nonjudgmentally. I hope this study and practice will help us at the DRM to be better prepared to transform conflict, create resilience in our relationships, and build a community where everyone’s needs matter and are met collaboratively. Please see me if you would like to practice giving or receiving empathy by listening for feelings and needs in our conversations, or maybe we can play a game of empathy poker with our new feelings and needs card deck! I am honored and humbled to be entrusted with this learning, and I hope for it to transform our communications among staff, residents, and the broader community. Stay tuned for a possible Nonviolent Communication practice group coming to the DRM!

In upcoming news, Resident Life Director Will, Case Management Coordinator Al, and I will be traveling to Des Moines for three Mondays in July for a free training in motivational interviewing offered by Easter Seals. According to Psychology Today, “motivational interviewing is a counseling method that helps people resolve ambivalent feelings and insecurities to find the internal motivation they need to change their behavior. It is a practical, empathetic, and short-term process that takes into consideration how difficult it is to make life changes.” Change is hard, but when we can find the internal motivation to make changes and have external support from our community, amazing growth and healing are possible!

By Hannah Grove
Care Coordinator



Full moon over Green Lake



Seeking Repair Shop Volunteers

Are you a hands-on creative, carpenter, upholsterer, jeweler, sewer, electrician, engineer, or all-around-handyperson with a desire to give back?

Then join our volunteer team at the Repair Shop & Recycle Center! We’re looking for volunteers to do one or two 2-hour shifts per month: 9-11am Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday.

To schedule a shift, email Stephen at repair@dbqrescue.org

Gratitude and Thanks



Thank you to students from Church of the Resurrection who chose Dubuque Rescue Mission as one of their Lenten charities!

Pictured with Rev. Samuel Felderman.

For Dubuque Days of Caring, volunteers from local businesses helped in our thrift stores, garden, and kitchen to give back to community and make a difference!



Thanks to an anonymous donor, we now have a cell phone charging station! You create your own PIN when putting your phone in a locker, so your device is secure while it's charging.

Phones are a vital way for people to connect with services and support networks, and this allows anyone to charge their device safely while using other services in the building like having a meal, taking a shower, or doing laundry.



Save the Date: Farm-to-Table Dinner

Mark your calendars for our farm-to-table fundraising dinner on July 29, 2026! Enjoy a beautiful evening with live music, silent auction, and locally-grown meal. Details to come: dubuquerescue.org



Services

Housing

Across our five shelter locations, we house around 80 homeless men each night. Shelter availability is first-come, first-served. Intakes for all of our shelter locations are done at 398 Main Street.

Meals & Garden

Our free meal program serves an average of 250 meals each day to men, women, and children in need. Located at 398 Main Street, second floor. Meal dates and times:

- Breakfast 7am-9am Monday-Sunday
- Lunch 11:30am-12:30pm Monday-Saturday
- Dinner 5pm-6pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

In our organic urban garden we grow over 2,000 pounds of produce each year, which all goes directly to our free meal program. The garden also serves as a peaceful green space for anyone, with the intention of caring for both the physical and mental health of our community.

Support & Job Development

Staff are available to assist with housing, medical, social security, and employment resources. Residents have the opportunity to work in one of our departments to develop job skills and save money toward their goals.

Thrift Stores & Repair Shop

Each purchase made at our thrift stores funds our services above. Items donated to our stores also offer opportunities for us to provide free clothing, furniture, and household goods to people in need.

Mission Store 1 (398 Main Street): Clothing, household goods, jewelry, and unique treasures.

- Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
- Saturday 9am-3pm

Mission Store 2 (998 Central Ave): Furniture finds, home decor, and vintage values.

- Tuesday-Friday 9am-4pm
- Saturday 9am-3pm

Our team at the Repair Shop & Recycle Center (998 Central Ave) can repair furniture, garden tools, power tools, small household items, electronics, jewelry, and small appliances. Repair costs are on a sliding scale: Labor + Parts + Shop Fee. Proceeds support the Dubuque Rescue Mission.

- 9am-11am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
- 10am-noon Saturday

Support Us

Donations to the Dubuque Rescue Mission help us offer shelter, meals, health support, job development, clothing, and other material goods to those in need.

Donations can be mailed in the enclosed envelope or submitted online.

Item Donations

As summer approaches, we are seeking donations of tents, wool blankets, bike locks, and bug spray. Donations can be brought to 398 Main Street, second floor, or ordered online on our Amazon Wishlist at dubuquerescue.org/donate



Food Donations

Our kitchen welcomes donations during business hours of baked goods, ground coffee, cereal, granola bars, and more. Donations can be brought to 398 Main Street, second floor. Find additional information about accepted food items at dubuquerescue.com/donate or email clarissa@dbqrescue.org.



Volunteer

If you're interested in becoming an ongoing volunteer (e.g. coming once a week), we have opportunities in our kitchen, garden, thrift store, and repair shop!

We also have opportunities for people interested in bringing a meal to serve or collecting items for a donation drive.

Learn more at dubuquerescue.org/volunteer



dubuquerescue.org/donate

IT COSTS
\$47.82
TO SHELTER AND FEED ONE PERSON EACH DAY.

Donate to support one day.

Together, we can make a big impact to care for the most vulnerable in our community.

An illustration of a brown cardboard box labeled "Donations" with various food items inside, including a bottle of dish soap, a container of cereal, a jar of jam, and a box of instant noodle cups.



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join Us for a Book Discussion

“Like most compassionate, thoughtful Christians, I knew that something had to be done, but I had no idea what.” – pg. 22

“Grace Can Lead Us Home” by Kevin Nye, Co-Founder of The National Faith Coalition to End Homelessness, is a powerful work that explores the power of community in the struggle against the rising tide of homelessness in the United States. Centered around the Christian message of grace and unconditional love, Nye explores issues of safe housing, mental health and substance use, while highlighting the power of solidarity, shared meals and celebration. Clear in its call and compassionate in its reflection, this book is a must read for anyone interested in deepening their understanding of the current homelessness crisis and how to faithfully and effectively respond.

On **July 15th at 2pm**, we will be hosting a book discussion on the **second floor of our 398 Main Street** location and would love to have you join us! We hope this will be a wonderful time of discussion and collaboration. If you would like to participate, please RSVP at info@dbqrescue.org. Light refreshments will be served.

