



CHW Helps Client to Find Housing and Financial Stability

Union Gospel Mission CHWs help clients in accessing essential resources to gain housing and basic necessities.

Union Gospel Mission is the largest emergency shelter in the Sioux Falls Area, providing shelter and meals for an average of 125 men, women, and children each night. The CHW program assists individuals and families within the shelter in navigating Social Determinants of Health needs and coordinating a transition from homelessness to housing.

CLIENT BACKGROUND

A client came into the UGM CHW program who was dealing with multiple health concerns, including cognitive delay, depression, and diabetes. He also had a significant need for grief counseling. Due to his cognitive delay, the client had not been able to secure employment and could not independently complete paperwork.

Additionally, the client had been under the care of a legal guardian and representative payee who lived across the state and was very uninvolved with the client's support.

SERVICES PROVIDED

The CHW was able to contact the legal guardian over the phone and learned that the guardian was uncertain how to effectively support the client's needs. Consequently, the guardian directed the client to Sioux Falls to be connected to resources, but without a plan or guidance, the client spent 13 months homeless.



CHWs/CHRs are often a resource not only for the client, but for family/caregivers who aren't sure where to turn.

**- ROACHELLE WILLIAMS, CHW,
UNION GOSPEL MISSION**



The CHW guided the client through completing an income-based housing application and connected him with Vocational Rehabilitation, improving his prospects for employment and quality of life.

CLIENT SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

The client has successfully secured stable housing and connected with an employment coach through Vocational Rehabilitation and LifeScope, which has opened avenues for the client's vocational growth and personal development.

Additionally, the client applied for continued case management via the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the CHOICES voucher program. He continues to attend open office hours with the CHW, taking opportunities for ongoing education in essential life skills, and he has been managing his health well.

However, the client's guardian and representative payee's limited involvement in his long-term household and financial stability has raised concerns. Unfortunately,

the payee/guardian has failed to assist in maintaining housing and, as a result, we're working with the client again. We are now also assisting him in connecting with tribal courts to get a new, local guardian assigned, and we are helping the client address the eviction he now has on his record. CHWs are able to continue to work with clients to monitor their safety and stability and to provide additional supports as needed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In addition to being the largest emergency shelter in the Sioux Falls Area, the Union Gospel Mission also provides a resident addiction recovery program and provides an average of 900 food boxes to the community poor each week. To learn more about Union Gospel Mission, visit <https://ugmsiouxfalls.com/>.

This CHW success story was submitted by Heather Craig, Human Resources and Director of Arts for Union Gospel Mission, heatherc@ugmsiouxfalls.com.



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