

**give**  
TO THE  
**MAX**  
Nov. 19, 2020

It's that time of the year again! Early giving bonus gifts start November 1, so if you're reading this, early giving is in full swing!

Give to the Max Day (GMTD), a 24-hour online giving event across Minnesota, is Thurs., Nov. 19th. Each gift of \$5 or more qualifies us for prize drawings and an additional chance to win big! Donate online at:

**WWW.GIVEMN.ORG/  
TASKSUNLIMITED**

As COVID-19 continues to impact everyone's lives, please join us on #GTMD20 and help us provide direct financial assistance for those clients most impacted by the crisis.

Follow us on Facebook for reminders and more:

**WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/  
TASKSUNLIMITEDINC**



## GRATITUDE



2020 has reminded us of how much we have to be grateful for. The toll of the pandemic for Tasks Unlimited has been not only financial but deeply personal. We lost a beloved, longtime client to COVID-19 and our hearts go out to his family and all who knew and loved him. Many others in our community have had their lives disrupted. Many staff and clients have been in quarantine, in some cases more than once this year.

Through it all, we've been reminded of why Tasks Unlimited is going so strong after 50 years. Our dedicated janitorial and mailroom employees have worked every day keeping their workplaces clean and safe. Our staff has adjusted how and where they work to keep meeting our clients' needs as we expand telehealth capacity. Our lodges flourish due to lodge members helping and supporting each other, and our supporters have responded generously to calls for masks and donations to help lessen the impact of the pandemic for the agency and our clients.

We can't thank all of you enough for your support. As we look toward 2021, you remind us of why the future is bright.



*Karen J. Johnston*

Karen Johnston  
Executive Director



## TASKS MEETS STANDARDS® WITH CHARITIES REVIEW COUNCIL

In August we successfully renewed our status as meeting the Charities Review Council's Accountability Standards. The standards are based on nonprofit best practices in governance, public disclosure, finance and fundraising.





## NOOC NEEDS YOUR HELP NOW

Now, more than ever, the Northeast Outreach and Opportunity Center, or NOOC (/nuk/), is in need of your help. With more people experiencing homelessness, and two-thirds of homeless adults having a serious mental illness, our services at the NOOC are more needed than ever.\*

The NOOC is a drop-in center in NE Minneapolis for adults experiencing or at risk of homelessness, offering a warm meal, mental health supports, and employment and housing resources to help end the cycle of homelessness, all while following proper mask wearing and physical distancing. Added to the NOOC this year is an additional focus on the new housing stabilization services.

The NOOC first opened its doors in the fall of 2019 thanks to a grant from the state but it is not guaranteed beyond June 2021. Your financial support is most helpful in continuing and expanding this service. Help us reach people experiencing homelessness by donating financially or in any way you can. Visit [www.tasksunlimited.org/donate](http://www.tasksunlimited.org/donate) for details.

*If you know someone in the NE area who may be in need of our services, reach out to Drakirah Deichert, the Homeless Outreach Program Manager, by phone at 612-756-6606 or by email at [ddeichert@tasksunlimited.org](mailto:ddeichert@tasksunlimited.org) or stop by during open hours below.*

\*Wilder Research Homeless Study; [mnhomeless.org](http://mnhomeless.org)

### 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.*

## CRITICALLY NEEDED ITEMS

Items most urgently needed at this time:

- **Toiletries** – shampoo, deodorant, soap, lotion, menstrual pads, tampons, *no strong fragrances, full-size and travel-sized items*
- **Warm Adult Clothing** – new socks, hats and gloves, long-sleeved shirts, sweaters and sweatpants, long-johns, *for men and women, neutral colors, medium to 3XL sizes*
- **COVID-19 health and safety items** – face masks (homemade or purchased), hand sanitizers (60%), cleaning wipes
- **Small Balance Gift Cards** – \$5-\$10 gift cards to local restaurants and gas for people experiencing homelessness and/or living in their vehicle(s)

For a detailed list, check out our Amazon Wish List:

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

Items will be delivered directly to us.

Use the AmazonSmile link below when shopping on Amazon and Amazon donates a portion of your purchase directly to us:  
[smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7087205](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7087205)

*Due to COVID-19, we have stopped accepting drop offs without an appointment. To schedule an appointment to drop off new, unused items – contact us by email at [development@tasksunlimited.org](mailto:development@tasksunlimited.org) or by phone, at 612-871-3320.*



# MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM UPDATES

## WHATEVER IT TAKES (WIT)

Receiving a Whatever It Takes (WIT) grant last year from the Minnesota Department of Human Services brought Tasks full circle from where we began over fifty years ago. Our founders, working at then Anoka State Hospital, adopted the Fairweather Model as an alternative to hospitalization for people capable of living independently in the community with support. Our first Fairweather Lodge, the Aces, is still going strong today.

The WIT grant is also focused on helping individuals with mental illness to leave hospitalization and live in the community. Tasks' WIT team is one of only four in the state. Our two Transition Specialists work with individuals at Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center (AMRTC) and the Minnesota Security Hospital (MSH) in St. Peter who no longer clinically need to be in the hospital to assist them in successfully transitioning to living in the community.

WIT services are person-centered—not one size fits all but based on an individual's needs and goals in that moment. Staff may assist participants with competency restoration, housing, obtaining an ID, driver's license, or birth certificate, developing a crisis relapse plan, or enrolling in a transportation program. The length and intensity of services is also flexible. As Patty P., one of Tasks' Transition Specialists describes the program:

*“The WIT grant allows me to provide services that are not typical... We have access to funding to cover items not covered by other programs which allows me to think*

*outside of the box to assist these individuals in being more stable in the community and less likely to return to the hospitals.” – Patty P., Transition Specialist, Tasks Unlimited*

We look forward to continuing to partner with the WIT program to help people reintegrate into the community.

## SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION



Often there is a lack of sexual education for people with disabilities to support them in staying safe and gaining healthy relationships. Our culture typically doesn't always acknowledge that people with serious mental illness or other disabilities are also sexual beings.



Starting this fall, once a week for six weeks, Tasks Unlimited, with our partner Mad Hatter Wellness and the Sexuality for All Abilities project, is offering new sexual health education programming for our clients at the Training Center. Topics will include healthy relationships, safety, and boundaries. A separate Train the Trainer session will be offered to all Mental Health staff so we can continue this education. All sessions are virtual.

*This new programming is possible through the generous support of the Baron Family in memory of Tyler Baron.*



Above: Rose (left), NOOC Intern, and Drakirah (right), Homeless Outreach Program Manager, at the entrance of the NOOC. Individuals entering the NOOC are given a mask and asked to sanitize upon entering.



Right: Tasha, Peer Specialist, showing hygiene kits available for those visiting the center.

## GOING VIRTUAL!



As COVID-19 continues to affect our daily lives, we have looked for the silver lining in the new normal. Part of our new normal is to transition and expand the way we communicate and interact with our clients, **which is to go virtual.**



### EXPANDING ACCESS IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

We are excited to have received a first-time grant from the Medica Foundation which will allow us to make major improvements in our capacity to provide telehealth services. This funding will help us expand access to care while also addressing barriers many clients have to utilizing technology to access health and other online resources.

We expect to achieve this goal by, first, expanding technological equipment availability to clients and upgrading staff equipment. Most importantly, technology training and education will help eliminate barriers to using the new equipment, which will expand our clients' ways to communicate. Lastly, we hope to build and design telehealth services to better connect our clients to providers and other Tasks staff.



With major support from the Medica Foundation, and a smaller grant from the Department of Human Services (DHS), which allowed us to expand our video conferencing equipment abilities in our office, we anticipate an expansion in our ability to reach our clients, while keeping them safe. Eliminating barriers to technology has become essential in the COVID-19 normal.



### WELLNESS IN A NEW WAY

We are making strides in adding more arts activities to our wellness programming. With in-person wellness events changing, we are pleased to continue our partnership with the arts organization COMPAS by providing "Flash" Memoir with Teaching Artist Glenda Reed, funded through the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council. Hosted via Zoom for the first time, we are excited to provide this and future wellness events in a new, fun and virtual way.



### ATTENDANCE UP AS CONFERENCE MOVES ONLINE

The 2020 Annual Fairweather Lodge Conference and Coalition for Community Living (CCL) Annual Meeting were held virtually for the first time. The conference was held in Sept. via Zoom with sessions centered on the Fairweather Lodge Model and navigating the new normal.

In lieu of awards this year, lodge members and staff submitted video clips to recognize individual and collective achievements of lodge members. Nate, from Tasks' Moons Lodge, was nominated by his lodge coordinator to highlight the art work he's created and donated to families of lodge members who have passed away. Thanks to a decrease in overall attendance costs, more Tasks staff and clients were able to attend and have the opportunity to connect with the larger Fairweather community.