



An update for our beloved ministry partners

March 29, 2023

Greetings from the Project URGE, Inc. board,

Over the course of our 20-year ministry, Project URGE Inc. has celebrated victories, marked milestones, weathered its share of challenges and been forever blessed by deepening friendships.

As needs and opportunities have presented themselves, we've also made necessary changes in order to best serve those in crisis and need with the resources at hand. Today we're reaching out with an update on our current status and a look at the days ahead.

From its start in March 2002, Project URGE, Inc. has focused on providing outreach services to the Rochester community, including (but not limited to) The Saturday Sunshine Program, Jacob's Ladder, The Bread Run, Free to Fly, Diversity Café, Heart for the City, The URGEncy Coat & Food Collection, The Christmas Store, Furnished 4 Life Ministries, and a variety of other temporary relief services for people in crisis.

Project URGE, Inc. has also been a frontrunner in holding collaborative meetings in an attempt to open the lines of communication between non-profits, churches and urban and suburban communities in and around Rochester. These include (but are not limited to) URGEnt Presentation and Workshops, Collaborative Problem Solving workshop, Changing the Charitable Paradigm, volunteer coordination and Concert of Praise.

And while many of these services are not currently operating as an ongoing function of Project URGE, Inc., one outreach continues to press forward with unstoppable vigor — Mothers In Need of Others (MINO).

Under the leadership of Ministry Director Maria Wehrle, MINO never missed a beat in the face of a worldwide pandemic and its aftermath, providing essentials to families in crisis, even in times of scarcity. Today, MINO continues to have tremendous local impact as it aids social service agency care managers and church outreach workers to enable them to provide emergency items to people in need.

And now, after an extensive search for a new location with more space, MINO has recently moved from its former home at the Youth For Christ building on Favor Street to the centrally located Foodlink Campus at 2011 Mount Read Boulevard. We believe this offers an enormous boost to MINO's visibility, accessibility and opportunity for collaboration and growth. The new facility also provides Project URGE with an official home base and street address.

While Project URGE continues to have some operational costs, most of our finances are currently being directed towards MINO to support Maria and ministry volunteers with the expenses of running this vibrant outreach.

As a board, it's our responsibility to our ministry partners to make you aware of how your precious donations are being invested. We feel strongly that your financial resources are being well spent, and welcome any questions or requests for further information you may have. We deeply value your support, and want you to have confidence that your gifts are already benefiting so many in need.

On a parting note: as a 501c3 organization, we continue to seek board members who will promote the vision and work of Project URGE, Inc. And we remain open to supporting outreach that is self governing with leadership that aligns with our mission. Please reach out if your passion resonates with ours. We'd love to explore ways we can work more closely to resolve issues of poverty and race together.

Sincerely and with gratitude,

Melody Burri, Chair
Phillip Hounshell, Vice Chair
Tim Beck, Treasurer
Jeff Telle, Secretary
Garry Manuel, Project URGE, Inc., Founder
Maria Werhle, MINO Director

