

NORTHERN HOPE CENTER

A SAFE PLACE TO BE



DECK THE HALLS

The holiday season is a special time at Northern Hope Center, where members are able to give thanks and celebrate one another. It is not always an easy time as members reminisce on past years and lost loved ones, but the members are able to continue their Christmas traditions together at the center as a family. This year, after putting up the tree, the members made their own ornaments and hung stockings with their names. The center has been festive with garland and ribbons draping every corner and Christmas music or movies playing in the background. Members also worked on Christmas crafts like diamond dots and decorating holiday cards with stamps.

We had a few cold days in December and a week of deep snow that prevented the center from opening. But the staff at NHC were able to check on members over the phone and even deliver them groceries. This month's weather and the holiday season was a nice reminder that Fairbanks is a community and we need each other to be resilient. The members were able to be resilient to the weather because of the donations of other non-profits, and because members shared coats and boots amongst themselves.

OUR CHRISTMAS LUNCH

On the 23rd, we celebrated the holidays with a lunch. We had a good turn out and it was wonderful to see the friends and family our members brought. NHC served prime rib, rolls, veggies, mashed potatoes, and a charcuterie board from one of our board members. We finished off the meal with cookies, cupcakes, and chocolate covered pretzels. And it couldn't be a holiday party without music and dancing.

During the party, members were also able to take part in a craft where they cut out pictures of themselves and put them in a Christmas character of their choice (see bottom of page 3). Now every year our members will be able to decorate the center with these adorable portraits.



Christmas is the season for giving, and NHC took joy in giving the members Christmas gifts. Members took home from the party gift cards to Walmart or Fred Meyers and any socks, gloves, and hand warmers they needed. Northern Hope Center has been blessed with another covid relief grant which will allow us to provide more emergency and winter assistance to our members. We also want to thank the community members who donated to our fundraising campaign or purchased gifts off the member's amazon registry.

**“
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As the year comes to a close, the staff at NHC want to reiterate what a privilege it is to be in the members' lives. We can only hope our members get as much joy from the center as NHC receives from serving them. We asked the members to reflect on why they love Northern Hope Center. One member described "it is like cheers, without the alcohol, everyone knows your name". NHC strives to be a safe and inclusive place. where the members can be themselves. This next year we will seek to foster even more agency and advocacy in the members. We have a lot planned and look forward to working on projects with other organizations in Fairbanks. So cheers to 2022 and stay tuned! May this year allow us to come together more and build each other up.

REMEMBERING MIKE

Northern Hope Center recently learned that one of our dear members Mike Priest had passed away over New Years' weekend. Mike was an active member that wished to bring encouragement and joy to people through music. His vision and optimism will be missed.



Northern Hope Center



northernhopecenter

Want to donate to NHC?

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[northernhopecenter.org](https://www.northernhopecenter.org)

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