



All gifts in July are doubled up to \$175,000. Give today!

July 2023 NEWSLETTER



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It's Our Birthday!



Thank you to all of our supporters.
You make the Mission possible.

Immediate Needs

- 3 Compartment Paper Plates
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- Gatorade Mix
- Vegetables
- Napkins

For information on our **Immediate Needs** or to donate items from our **Amazon Wish List** go to rescuemission.net/immediate-needs

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To see more pictures or to learn more about these events and more, check us out on



RescueMission.net

Grateful for this Rescue Mission!

By C. Lee Clark, Rescue Mission CEO

It's July. Already volunteers, together with runners and walkers, are signing up for the 2023 Drumstick DASH presented by Pinnacle Financial Partners. One of our faithful DASH volunteers, among the first to sign up to help with this year's packet pickup, shared, **"You guys are awesome and long ago the Mission found a place in my heart. I can't imagine where the community would be without the Mission. I am honored to be able to volunteer whenever I can!"**

She is not alone. Volunteers have been the lifeblood of this Rescue Mission for 75 years, since we were founded on July 2, 1948. Volunteers together with supporters giving everything from fresh produce from their gardens to hard-earned dollars have been pouring into this work from the beginning. The result is nothing short of miraculous.

If there is a "secret sauce" to the miracle of your Rescue Mission, it can be found in bringing people together from all walks of life: the downtrodden, the addicted, the abused, the sick all find sanctuary here. Out of abundant gratitude, others serve and give. We come together in this space, sharing our stories, acknowledging God's remarkable grace in the common thread of our lives.

Here, we are seen. We are heard. We are valuable individuals with a purpose. We are loved.

Here, everyone is welcome. You don't have to be clean, sober or well to enter. You aren't ready to come in? We will come to you. You don't have to think or believe a certain way. You are welcome just as you are.

Here, all gifts are appreciated. You don't have to have hours of free time or lots of money. You can give an hour or a dollar. Every gift, each person, is treasured and valued.

In this place, brokenness is bound, illness healed, hope restored. Daily, people from every background or life experience come together to build meaningful and life-changing relationships.

For 75 years, your Rescue Mission has been a place of health, hope and healing. From humble beginnings to a comprehensive Christian Crisis intervention center, your Rescue Mission continues to grow and adapt to meet the needs of people experiencing poverty, homelessness and addiction.

Imagine with me for a moment just how many people have been impacted over the last 75 years. Between 2,000 and 2,500 different people come through the doors of your Rescue Mission each year. That equates to approximately 150,000 men, women and children over a 75-year period. Now take it a step further and consider the families of these individuals. If each person represents another seven family, friends and loved ones, the ripple effect of this work has touched over 1 million people in 75 years.

Now consider, what if your Rescue Mission wasn't here? What if Lois and Gus Johnson never heard of Roanoke, VA or boarded a train in 1948 to come here sight unseen? What if the men called to be part of the original Board of Directors failed to catch their vision? What if Lois and Gus's daughter Joy never came back to the Mission to take over when her mother became ill? What if the dedicated and talented team running the Mission today decided to call it quits? What if?

Unlike George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life*, we may never know the impact of not having this Rescue Mission. We can only imagine the void that would be felt if all of a sudden, the 228 men, women and children who spent the night at the Mission last night were in our

Grateful for this Mission: continued on inside

Interview with Kade and Grace: Interns from The University of Notre Dame

Every summer, our G. Wayne Fralin Free Clinic hosts two interns from The University of Notre Dame. This year, Kade and Grace have jumped right into serving at our clinic, helping patients, consoling the hurting, and helping others with the love of Christ we are all called to share. We interviewed them both about Roanoke, the Rescue Mission, and what they have learned while serving our guests.

1. Where are you from and what do you think of Roanoke?

Kade: I'm from Edgewood, Kentucky, it's a suburb of Cincinnati. So far, Roanoke is a great city. A lot of great places to eat, things to do, people are really nice, I really enjoy it here.

Grace: I'm from Chicago. I'm really enjoying Roanoke so far, it's been nice to explore a bit and see what this town has to offer. I had only been to Virginia once before, but I didn't remember it like this. It's so pretty with the mountains, so I'm enjoying that, coming from the Great Plains and all.

2. What's your favorite restaurant in town?

Kade: I really like Alejandro's, the Mexican spot downtown. But I also have to mention Jack Browns, that place is really good too.

Grace: Oh, it's Alejandro's, their salsa bar is amazing.

3. What's your favorite part about interning at the Clinic?

Kade: Talking to the patients, getting to know them and their story. Even if it's just them complaining about a problem that I can't solve, to be able to be the person they can vent to is special. I like providing them with the comfort they are looking for.

Grace: There's so many things. So this is the start of our fifth week here, but even in that short time, I feel like I learned so much. Something simple like taking vitals on a patient is a time to talk with them and interact to help calm them down, or lift them up, whatever they need.

4. Tell us a little about your interactions with the guests and participants in our Way Forward Recovery Program.

Kade: Well as part of our program, I am staying with the guys in the recovery program. Honestly, it started out just feeling like I was staying alongside these guys, but now I see them as my friends. We watch games together, talk about sports, and find fellowship, which is nice. As for the other guests, I enjoy getting deep with guests, giving them not only someone to talk to, but someone to care.



Grace: So I get to stay with the female recovery participants and I am also having a great time connecting with them. Last night we watched America's Got Talent together and it's been really cool having some people to live with. Last week we did a free car wash with the recovery participants, which was a lot of fun. It's so nice to get to know everyone in the program.

5. What are your plans for the future?

Kade: I want to be a doctor. Hopefully I'll graduate from Notre Dame, get into med school, and from there decide what I want to do, but I'm not exactly sure what that is just yet.

Grace: That's a good question. I am definitely in the career discernment process. I know I want to work in the medical field, whether it's a Physician, Physician's assistant, counselor. I'm working through all that while I'm at school.

Volunteers and Donations make the Rescue Mission possible



Branch Gives donated art supplies for summer camp



Jonathan Pait with the YMCA donated fresh vegetables

Thank You!



Coke Consolidated and Kroger packed 400 Manna Food Boxes



Graybar Electric Supply served lunch



Todd and Alicia Shortt donated a quilt, pillows and other kitchen items

Q&A with Charlotte, our longest serving staff member

What's the biggest change you have noticed in the people we have served over the years?

The age. I have seen so many young people coming through our doors. While this is hard to see, it's also an opportunity. It means that we have a chance to help these guests at a young age while they still have most of their life ahead.

In your eyes, what do our services provide to those we serve?

They provide the basics, of course...food, shelter, clothing, medical care, but I think the important part is not in the physical offerings, but the emotional. We provide a place that shows the hurting in our community that they have people who care for them, and who are ready to show up for them, 24/7. What I've noticed over the years is that the emotional support we show others is what brings them back, and

that part is critical to having enough time to give them the physical services they need.

What is the most inspiring "God Moment" you have seen here at the Mission?

Every moment is a God Moment here. Every interaction is God's hand making a difference with those we serve, it's beautiful.

What have you most enjoyed about your time at the Mission?

For being a part of so many lives directly and indirectly to help them see the hands and face of Christ as they make this part of their journey in life.

What do you look forward to changing in the future?

In my 20 years of service here at



the Mission I have seen great things happen in many lives (guests and staff). I've witnessed first-hand how the Mission has always adapted and held steadfast to our cause and those we are helping. I look forward to seeing many more good things to come here at the Mission as we continue to adapt.

What a difference 41 years will make!

As our staff was recently going through some boxes of photos and newspaper clippings from years past, we found a report from 1981 with similar statistics that we track today. It was eye-opening how our services have grown, and inspiring that you, our donors, have helped us keep up with the demand.

FRUITS OF OUR LABORS -1981		The Difference We Made in 2022	
Meals	56,828	Meals	140,651
Men Lodging	15,175	Men in Shelter	1,015
Children Lodging	109	Children in Shelter	153
Ladies Lodging	404	Women in Shelter	427
Total Lodgings	15,688	Lodgings	55,859

The Honeycutt Family, 30 years of giving to the Mission

Since 1993, the Honeycutt family has been faithfully giving and serving at the Rescue Mission of Roanoke. The history of your Rescue Mission is filled with donors, volunteers, staff and more who pour their hearts out to make a difference in the lives of our guests. We wanted to get an idea of why donors support the Mission, and figured a good place to start was with some of our longest standing donors. We caught up with Susan Honeycutt, supporter and Board Member at the Rescue Mission. Here's what she had to say:

Why did you start giving to the Mission?

You know, I think that for us it wasn't just the services that were offered, but that those services were provided free from government funding, that it was a network

of Christians doing what Christians do, helping other's in the name of Christ.

What do you see when you think of the Rescue Mission?

It is so clear that God is at work at the Rescue Mission. It's been such an honor to support the Rescue Mission over the years because you can see God's hand at work on all that they do there.

What do you think is the most important service offered at the Mission?

I think it's that they not only offer a place to stay, but a place to grow, learn, and help people become an inspiration to themselves, their friends, family, and the community. The job skills training,



financial literacy, aftercare services, and more that help guests prepare for life outside of the Mission are so important. As I have heard often at the Mission, they offer a hand up, not a hand out.

In Memory & Honor of..

For Memory and Honor Gifts received
May 15 through June 15

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Miss Viviann Grace Apgar The Honorable Jonathan & Bonnie Apgar
 Bonnie Apgar The Honorable Jonathan & Bonnie Apgar
 Virginia Perdue Melinda Cox
 Our Dads Greg & Terry Deacon
 Our Children Deborah Holler
 Neighbors of Hidden Valley Subdivision Ronald Miller

Please join us on Friday, July 7th for a day of prayer!

To commemorate the Mission's 75 years, we'll be spending 7.5 hours in prayer and Scripture reading. Please join our staff for drop-in prayer any time between 12:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in our Fralin Chapel (by the "Jesus Saves" sign on Tazewell Avenue). We will conclude with a chapel service at 6:30 p.m. for our volunteers and guests. To sign up to read Scripture or lead prayer, please write to harrison.dinsbeer@rescuemission.net.

Grateful for this Rescue Mission! *Continued from front page*

parks, under bridges or in abandoned buildings. Or the turmoil that could have happened if 150,000 people had no safe place to turn over the last 75 years. Or the grief that would have been experienced by over 1 million families with no hope for their loved ones.

Fortunately, we don't have to imagine "what if". God has been the firm foundation of this Rescue Mission from the first day and continues today. Each day and every night, we rely on God to provide what is needed from wisdom and insight to milk, bread, coffee and eggs to serve for breakfast. Those of us involved on the daily frontlines of this work, know deep in our bones that we

are not responsible. God is. We are so humble and grateful to be part of God providing for hurting people.

We will continue providing the lifesaving resources of food, emergency shelter, medical care, clothing and addiction treatment. We will invest in our team so that they are equipped and prepared to do this around the clock, nonstop work. We will innovate and grow in areas like Medical Street Outreach, Case Management and Aftercare services so that we can continue to meet people where they are in ways that demonstrate Christ's great love for us all.

We will do this with integrity and grit,

determination and compassion. Just as we did these first 75 years, we will do in the next. May God continue to bless us and provide in ways that are beyond our imagination.

This month, we recognize Mark Skolrood and Gentle Shepherd Hospice as matching gift sponsors. Thanks to their combined generosity, your gifts up to \$175,000 will be matched as part of our 75th Anniversary Celebration. With gifts being doubled, this is a wonderful time to give to ensure your Rescue Mission continues strong.

Thank you for joining us. We are so grateful.

The impact of 'your gifts, in their words'



Our aftercare program is specifically designed to assist guests at the Rescue Mission as they prepare to leave and transition into a new life. Let's all pray for their sustained success.

“

I'm grateful for the staff who showed kindness and offered support while I was in shelter and as I moved to my own place. I have now been in my apartment for just over one year and I feel more at peace than I ever have been in my life. - Tara

”

“

I am so grateful for the Rescue Mission, my Case Manager and the Aftercare Coordinator, the resources, assistance and encouragement have been great! - Arnold

”

“

The help I received from the Aftercare Program to get set up with basic needs for my apartment was incredible. - Former Guest

”

“

I have been out on my own for over a year now, I love to come back and volunteer to serve meals. It's a simple way for me to give back.

- Judy

”



Your July 2023 Newsletter!

– Donation Envelope Inside –

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RescueMission.iVolunteer.com

Contact our volunteer department at:
Volunteer.info@RescueMission.net

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- Or go to our **Online Store**:
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In July, DOUBLE your impact

Can you join us in July as we celebrate 75 years of service? Thanks to our generous partners, **Skolrood Law Firm** and **Gentle Shepherd Hospice**, every dollar you donate in July will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to **\$175,000**.

This July, join the fight against poverty and know by giving that every donation will be matched for the benefit for all we serve.



Gentle Shepherd
HOSPICE



To donate online, go to RescueMission.net and click on the "Donate" button.

