



THE
RESCUE
MISSION
OF ROANOKE

SINCE 1948



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May 2024

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 11525, Roanoke, VA 24022 | rescuemission.net | (540) 343-7227

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Go to rescuemission.net



WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

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- Pillowcases

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

The “Why, What and How” of your Rescue Mission

By C. Lee Clark, Rescue Mission CEO

Thank you! Your support makes all the difference in your Rescue Mission providing around the clock, seven day a week emergency shelter, food, medical care and more for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. As a team, we coordinate services including Shelter, Guest Development, Clinic and Recovery treatment, together with many community partners. At our Leadership Team meetings, the “what, how and why” of what we do is our guiding principle with a goal of improving access to care for our guests.

I love being among these passionate, dedicated leaders! The “why” of what we do is the easy part. We “Help Hurting People in Jesus’ Name.” That is why we work holidays and weekends, through sunny spring days and icy, snowy winter nights. Your Rescue Mission never closes.

The “what” we do, flows readily. As you can imagine the list includes three meals a day, emergency shelter every night, clothing for all that need it, medical care from physical healthcare to mental health counseling, to medications, vision, and dental care. Additional services include laundry, showers, transportation, help with getting identification and bus passes, as well as help with job and life skills, Christian spiritual direction, case

management and recovery treatment for substance use disorder.

The “how” of what we do goes deeper into the true meaning of this work. We provide safety, structure, advocacy, stability, consistency, along with guidance individualized for the person seeking services. You just show up to receive the “why, what and how” of your Rescue Mission. And if you are unable to show up, or unaware of the services offered, our Medical Street Outreach team will come to you.

Above all, guests receive a warm welcome and hospitality.

Demonstrating all this, a call recently came in from a local judge working with an incarcerated individual who had no place to go. This person had been arrested for trespassing on private property and while the courts wanted to release him, he asked to stay in jail. Why? Because he did not know where to go for food and shelter. Talking with the judge, we were able to provide details on how the Rescue Mission could help.

Cases of mental illness, addiction, physical limitations have increased across unsheltered populations. Housing is harder to find, with an estimated 4,000

Why, What and How: continued on inside

Success and safety: The Women and Children's Center at the Rescue Mission of Roanoke

The Rescue Mission of Roanoke, a lifeline for single women and families, provides a safe haven and comprehensive support to some of the most vulnerable in our community at its Women and Children's Center (WCC). The WCC not only offers emergency shelter but also a wide range of services designed to empower women, children, and families towards stability, self-sufficiency, and long-term housing. The WCC is critical in addressing the immediate needs of women and families in crisis. Last year alone, over 36,000 nights of safe shelter were provided to individuals, along with hundreds who took full advantage of our case management services directed at serving guests as they stay with us. By providing a secure place to stay, the staff plays a pivotal role in safeguarding the physical and emotional well-being of their residents. At the WCC, the impact of these services is profound, offering more than just a temporary shelter but a pathway to a brighter future that includes health, hope, and healing.

Residents at the WCC receive nutritious meals every day, ensuring that no one has to worry about where their next meal will come from. In addition to meals, the WCC provides comprehensive case management services. Each resident has access to a case manager who assists

them in navigating the complexities of their situation, from securing long-term housing to finding employment and accessing educational opportunities. This personalized support is crucial for addressing the unique challenges faced by each individual and family.

The provision of clothing and medical care is another essential aspect of the WCC's services. Thanks to clothing donations from supporters like you, access to gently used, clean clothing can significantly impact their dignity and self-esteem. Medical care, including regular check-ups and treatment for immediate needs, ensures that both physical and mental health needs are met, which is often an important component for tackling other life challenges.

The fruits of the love and compassion at the WCC are evident in the perspective of Vicky, Way Forward Recovery Program graduate, WCC guest, and now full time WCC Shelter Supervisor. "When I first got here, I felt like I was in the right place at the right time" Vicky said about her experience, "I grew up in the foster care system, so I didn't know family growing up, but the Mission staff showed me love, they gave me the love of family."

The environment at the WCC is designed to be as welcoming and nurturing as



possible. Providing a safe space is critical for those we serve, many of whom haven't experienced a safe place to stay in years. For Vicky, this was especially true "I had never felt safe before, honestly. But the Rescue Mission changed that. I felt like I could sleep without worry which was so important on so many levels." For children safety is especially important, as stability, a routine, and a safe place to sleep can dramatically reduce the trauma of homelessness. The WCC team ensures that children have access to safe play areas and educational activities, helping them maintain continuity in learning and development, which is crucial during such disruptive times in their lives.

The ultimate goal of the WCC is not just to provide emergency assistance but to offer the tools and resources necessary for families to regain their footing independently. Through the comprehensive services offered, the center empowers residents to build a new foundation for their lives, marked by stability and hope.

For those in the Roanoke community and beyond, supporting the WCC means contributing to a program that directly impacts the lives of women, children, and families, providing them not just shelter, but a new start. The continued success of the Women and Children's Center depends on the generous support of donors and volunteers who believe in their mission to restore and transform lives.

Become a monthly donor, and help to provide life-changing resources for our shelter guests.



Join our Bread, Beds & Meds Program

Visit www.rescuemission.net/monthly-giving for more information

Rollover Your IRA for Good



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Phone: (540) 777-7659
Email: leah@rescuemission.net
Website: rrmr.giftlegacy.com

Are you frustrated by the required minimum distribution (RMD) rules?

By taking a distribution from your IRA this year, you will likely pay more in taxes and may even reach a higher tax bracket. Rolling over part of your IRA's "required minimum distribution" or "RMD" to a charity like ours can help reduce your tax bill while supporting our cause.

70½ OR OLDER
YOU CAN DIRECT UP TO
\$105,000



The "Why, What and How" of your Rescue Mission Continued from front page

affordable housing units needed in Roanoke City alone. This has resulted in longer shelter stays here from an average of 35 days in 2022 to 73 days in 2023. Community wide, Point in Time Count numbers are showing increases in shelters, and with unsheltered individuals. Your Rescue Mission provides close to 70% of the area's emergency shelter.

Core services like 3 meals a day (199,000 served in 2023) are up 40% and nights of safe shelter (83,500 nights provided in 2023) are up 56%. Related costs for food, supplies and staff are up accordingly to meet the need. To help people who are housed stay in their homes, we have seen Manna Food Box Distributions increase from 7,000 food boxes before the pandemic to 17,000 food boxes in 2023.

The need is great and is growing. Because you give, volunteer, and pray, your Rescue Mission stays true to our "why" of "Helping Hurting People in Jesus' Name" while delivering greater access for guests to the "what" and "how" of what we do every day and each night. Thank you. With a warm welcome and hospitality, this work continues as it has for 76 years.

THERE'S ALWAYS A WAY TO GIVE!



- MAIL:** Donations can be mailed to: P.O. Box 11525, Roanoke, VA 24022. You are welcome to use the self addressed envelope included in this newsletter.



- GIVE ONLINE:** Visit our website at rescuemission.net/donate



- WISH LIST ITEMS**
 - Updated wish list items can always be found on our website or the Mission's Amazon Wish List
 - Items can be dropped off in Reception any day of the week from 8am - 6pm



- SIGN UP FOR BREAD, BEDS, AND MEDS:** Become a monthly donor, and help to provide life-changing resources for our shelter guests. Visit rescuemission.net/monthly-giving for more information.



- VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME:** Volunteers are vital to the Mission's daily operations. There are many ways to get involved. Visit rescuemission.net/volunteer



- SPREAD THE WORD:** Tell everyone you know about the Rescue Mission of Roanoke and the services we provide. If you would like to learn more, we have tours every Monday at 12:00 Noon.

In Memory & Honor of...

For Memory and Honor Gifts received
March 15 through April 15

IN MEMORY OF

Geneva Webb Abbott.....James & Sheila DeHart
Floatie H. Atkins.....James & Brenda Atkins
Alberta Brammer.....Larry & Debby Gibson
Phyllis Brokaw.....Marty & Vickie Martin
Jalene BuckAnn Hatcher
Fe CabalfinCaridad C. Rothrock
Harry E. Campbell, Sr.James L. Campbell
Virginia F. Campbell.....R. O. Poff
Beth CatronGladys E. Falls
Haydeb CurbowCindy Howard
Virginia A. Dillon.....James & Brenda Atkins
Lillian Garland Dollman.....Betty Hall
Aileene J. DoyleC. D. McCauley
Kathleen Goode EllerDorothy C. Eller
Benjamin EmersonRobert A. Emerson
Talma Fisher.....Jeanetta A. Hannah
Lillian FitzpatrickThomas F. Fitzpatrick
Natalia Garza.....Cecilia Alami
Iris Gibson.....Larry & Debby Gibson
Hester Goff.....G. M. Bennett
Lillie GoinsGlenna E. Goins
Betty Ilene Haisley.....Susan Haisley
Beatrice Yearout HamiltonGordon Hamilton
Laura HartmanWayne & Nina VanDyke
Dolores "Dee" HollowayDebora H. Richardson
Larry Howard.....Cindy Howard
Laura HuffmanJames F. Huffman
Sheryl Johnson.....Steve Johnson
Salah KidwaiLauren Lessells
Edna Law KirkIris K. Betterton
Annie Rigney Kirk.....Iris K. Betterton
Neita Kraus.....Richard W. Davis
Dematris C. LanghornGenevieve F. Brown
May E. Lynk.....Charles & Zelda Triebel
Page Matherly.....Wendel & Pamela Love
James Michael Mays.....Catherine Watts
Buck & Opal MaysDebra M. Burgess
Clarence & Maye McKinneyAnna Laura Burcham
Ralph & Daphne McNeil.....Carol M. Clower
Barbara Pendleton Moore.....Traci Davis Porter
Milliard & Freda MurphyDavid N. Phillips
Arnold & Christine NaffDarryl W. Naff

GIVEN BY

IN MEMORY OF

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Margherite R. PadgettPatricia P. Jennings
Madeline PainterDoris Painter Alderson
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Beth PettreyEarl Pettrey
Mr. & Mrs. RadjouPeter F. Radjou
Bobbie RichardsonRick & Pam Murray
Evelyn RileyBerkeley H. Riley, Jr.
Aleli RonquilloElizabeth M. Wyrsch-Ba
Aleli RonquilloBrittany Gamble
Helen Margaret SeslerHelen S. Robinson
Marie Shelton-TilleyCindy Howard
Ruby SimmonsWayne & Nina VanDyke
Dottie SimmonsWayne & Nina VanDyke
Joyce SimmonsWayne & Nina VanDyke
Mimi Romano SpryJames G. Spry
John Sylvester-JohnsonAnders Sylvester-Johnson
Dorothy Simmons TriebelCharles & Zelda Triebel
Peggy Van BurenDenny W. Van Buren
Edna VanDykeWayne & Nina VanDyke
Joseph Eldridge WattsCatherine Watts
Dean & Ann WendlingDarwin C. Wendling
Esther WestRebecca W. Smythers
Rev. Mike WoodyArcadia Baptist Church
Millie YounceMelrose Baptist Church-Grace
Sunday School Class
Dan ZuroW. L. & Lynette T. Martin
Loved OnesShirley Dillon

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IN HONOR OF

Jonathan & Bonnie ApgarMary Ellen Apgar
Anna Laura BurchamLeonard O. Burcham
Ellarie R. DukeRosemary A. Urban
Martha MeredithJill M. Vincent
The Wedding of
Adam Morcom & Jillian ReynoldsEric M. Edwards
Clint PendletonKyle Edgell
Walker ReelJon & Bonnie Apgar
Mamie SitzeMichael, Colin, Jeff & Teresa
Lewis & Sara WimmerJack & Ann Wimmer



NorthCross students assisted in various departments at the Mission

The Manna Food Pantry at the Rescue Mission of Roanoke: A Vital Community Resource

In the heart of Roanoke, the Manna Food Pantry at your Rescue Mission stands as a beacon of hope for many. Each week, hundreds of families visit the pantry to receive food boxes that alleviate their burden of grocery expenses. The contents of these boxes are both substantial and nutritious, each weighing approximately 60 to 70 pounds and including a range of groceries from meat and dairy products to dry and canned foods, and fresh produce. Last year alone, this vital program distributed over 17,000 food boxes to families in need, supplying groceries valued at around \$150 and providing a financial supplement so recipients can use the saved cash for other critical needs such as bills or medical expenses.

The impact of the Manna Food Pantry is massive according to Kevin Berry, the Director of Communications at the Rescue Mission. "These families would have to choose between paying a bill and affording food if it weren't for a program like the Manna Food Pantry," says Berry. This statement highlights a harsh reality faced by many families who find themselves prioritizing basic needs over other critical expenses. Berry further emphasizes the additional benefits of the pantry, explaining, "A service like our Manna Food Pantry also connects grocery box recipients to other services we offer. This can be critical, especially for those who are living near the edge of poverty and homelessness." When fully utilized, the pantry not only feeds the body but also provides a gateway to other essential services that can help stabilize and improve the lives of those at risk. "There is such a diversity of people who come for Manna boxes" said Pantry Manager Pam Ferguson, "Large families, individuals, senior citizens, it really is an illustration of

how poverty doesn't just impact one demographic, it touches all."

The operation of the Manna Food Pantry is made possible through the generous donations of supporters of the Rescue Mission. These contributions ensure that the pantry is well-stocked and able to continue feeding others. Donors have the satisfaction of knowing that their help goes directly to programs that make a significant difference in the lives of their neighbors. "From grocery stores to local farmers, we have donations come in from so many places" says Ferguson, "because of this variety, we can provide a box that gives each recipient the opportunity to create well balanced meals that are nutritious and tasty." The food distribution process at the pantry is streamlined to handle the large volume of visitors efficiently. Families who qualify for food assistance are verified, and the boxes are prepared with attention to dietary diversity and nutritional value, an approach that ensures each recipient receives the maximum benefit from their box.

Community engagement and volunteerism play a crucial role in the pantry's operation. Volunteers help sort and pack the food items, assist in administrative duties, and contribute to fundraising and awareness campaigns. Their dedication is a testament to the community's commitment to supporting its most vulnerable members.

As the need for food assistance remains high, the ongoing success of the Manna Food Pantry is essential. It not only helps alleviate immediate financial pressure on families by providing essential food but also offers a lifeline to those on the brink of a deeper financial crisis. By addressing

the basic need for food, your Rescue Mission of Roanoke helps ensure that these families can focus on other aspects of life, such as employment, education, and healthcare, without the looming worry of hunger.

The Manna Food Pantry exemplifies a community's power to lift up its members through collective effort and compassion. The ongoing challenge of food insecurity requires persistent effort and support. For those looking to make a difference, contributing to or volunteering at the Manna Food Pantry at the Rescue Mission of Roanoke is a tangible way to provide immediate relief and long-term hope to many. You can sign up to help in our Manna Food Pantry by visiting rescuemission.net/volunteer or you can give by dropping off donations at our Main Reception desk (402 4th Street SE, Roanoke, VA, 24013). Remember, your support is keeping families and individuals in their homes, this is a gift that keeps on giving. Thank you.





Your May 2024 Newsletter!

– Donation Envelope Inside –

GET INVOLVED TODAY

DONATE

Go to RescueMission.net and click on the "Donate" button



VOLUNTEER

Sign up to volunteer at: RescueMission.iVolunteer.com

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

SHOP

- **Thrift 460**
3425 Orange Ave NE, Roanoke, VA 24012
- **2nd Helpings Shop & Gallery**
1505 Williamson Rd NE, Roanoke, VA 24012
- Or go to our **Online Store**: ebay.com/str/roanokerescuemission

Rescue Mission of Roanoke Inc.
P.O. Box 11525
Roanoke, Virginia 24022-1525

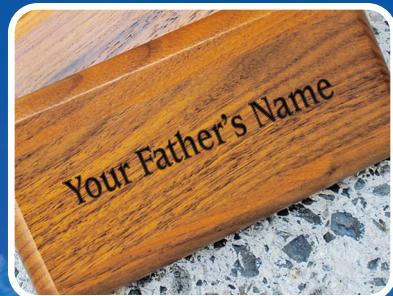
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Honor Your Father

Would you like to honor your dad or grandfather for Father's Day? Consider a gift in any amount in his honor or memory. For a gift of \$1,000 or more, which can be payable over 1 year, you may request an engraved block for the Legacy Wall in the Rescue Mission Chapel.

All you have to do is fill out the form below, cut it out, and send it back to us using the return envelope. Or visit RescueMission.net/Donate to make a gift online.



I want to make this Father's Day gift To Honor or In Memory of: _____
(Please print name as you would like it printed in the newsletter)

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ . (The amount will not be disclosed to Honoree unless you request it.)

If he is still living, please print the following information so that a card acknowledging your gift may be sent to her:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Your Name _____

To charge your gift, please complete the following: Visa/MC/Discover number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ / _____ / _____ CVV Code: _____ Signature: _____