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**RESCUE**  
**MISSION**  
OF ROANOKE

SINCE 1948



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June 2024

# NEWSLETTER

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Questions on giving, volunteering, advocacy and more, your feedback matters to us!

Go to [rescuemission.net](http://rescuemission.net)



## WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

## Immediate Needs

- Men's T-shirts
- Flip Flops
- Men's Belts
- Men's Boxers

For information on our **Immediate Needs** or to donate items from our **Amazon Wish List** go to [rescuemission.net/immediate-needs](http://rescuemission.net/immediate-needs)

## Social Media

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



[RescueMission.net](http://RescueMission.net)

## Where are you on your life's journey?

By C. Lee Clark, Rescue Mission CEO

Where are you on your life's journey? Each of us undoubtedly would give a different answer to this question. When I think of where I am, as a husband celebrating 38 years of marriage with grown kids and a grandchild, how do I define myself? It gets more complicated when you throw in the work of the Rescue Mission as we strive to Help Hurting People in Jesus' Name, or the many partnerships where we work together with others to combat homelessness, addiction, and poverty.

I was recently asked to share my "bio" by Dr. Brenda Hale. Brenda is a leader of the Roanoke Branch of the NAACP, engaged and active on local Boards of Directors and is someone I've known for many years starting with when she and my wife were in nursing school together. Brenda's request was for more than your typical facts for an introduction, it was for the NAACP's 24th Citizen of the Year Awards with the news that I'm being recognized with the Humanitarian Award.

I am truly honored by this community award! As I thought about Brenda's request, this is clearly testament to the life-saving work of your Rescue Mission. I keep showing up and asking God to show me the way. In this work we are faced daily with challenges beyond our scope and ability to solve. God provides. We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses and helpers, like the staff and

volunteers who work without ceasing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and you who support this work with prayers and gifts. This is not my doing; it is God at work providing for people in crisis.

Hebrews 12:1-3 tells us, *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted."*

There is much to unpack in these brief words. In the context of considering our life's journey, let us take the challenge to lay aside what holds us back and run with endurance the race God has put before us. Let us always look to Jesus and not lose heart or grow weary when the days are tough.

Why? Lives are at stake, lives that have suffered trauma, abuse, neglect, physical and mental health challenges beyond imagination. In this newsletter, you will find updates on the services of Fralin Free Clinic with an innovative approach to reaching the unsheltered and connecting them to services through Medical Street

**Life's journey?:** continued on inside

# People are counting on us. Please help today.

By Leah Shank, Director of Development

The Rescue Mission of Roanoke plays a vital role in helping the most vulnerable people in our community. As the Director of Development, I see every day how each donation helps. Right now, we are facing a tough situation where donations are down, but the need for our services is increasing. Your support is more important than ever.

Our mission is simple helping hurting people in Jesus' name. With your support, we are able to care for individuals who just arrived from sleeping outside on the street, in a car, or in a dangerous situation. These aren't just adults; they include families, children, and the elderly who are in these difficult situations often through no fault of their own. When you give to the Rescue Mission, you provide a safe place for these people—a place where they can rest their head, eat, and start to rebuild their lives.

Your support means we can provide healthcare to each individual, many of whom need to overcome mental or physical health challenges to succeed in finding a home, a job, and building relationships. Health services are often too expensive for those living in poverty, but at the Rescue Mission, we make sure these services are available at our Fralin Free Clinic. We offer counseling and therapy to help individuals deal with

trauma, and we have volunteer medical professionals who provide everything from general medicine to dental and more. This not only helps our guests feel better, but it also helps them get their confidence back.

Additionally, the Rescue Mission of Roanoke is more than just a temporary shelter. We provide programs that help people learn new skills and find jobs. Each donation helps fund these programs, ensuring that everyone who comes to us has a chance to have a better future.

Your donations help with our everyday needs. They go towards meals, bedding, programs for kids, and keeping our place running. It might be easy to take for granted a hot meal or a clean bed, but for someone who hasn't had these in a while, they're potentially life changing. Every meal and bed we provide shows the kindness and generosity of our donors.

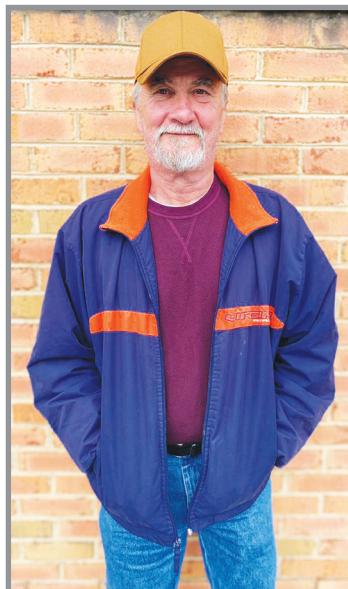
Your help does more than just meet immediate needs—it creates a community of support and hope. Our volunteers and staff are encouraged by the generosity of our donors, which motivates them to do their best every day. When you donate, you send a strong message that you believe in the potential of every person to



overcome tough times and live a good life.

It's during these times that your support is crucial. As donations drop, the gap between what we need and what we have gets bigger. That's why we're asking our community for help. Every dollar we raise helps us meet our financial goals, which means meeting people's needs.

By supporting the Rescue Mission of Roanoke, you're not just giving money—you're giving hope, safety, and opportunity to those who need it most. Let's come together to make sure no one has to face life's hardships alone. Together, we can truly make a difference in the lives of our neighbors and strengthen our community for the future.



These pictures are of former guests, all of whom found hope, health, healing and housing thanks to gifts from donors like you.

# Hosting a housing event: a beacon of hope for those struggling

The Rescue Mission of Roanoke recently hosted an important housing event in its Welcome Center, drawing a significant number of individuals eager to find a new place to call home. This event was not just an opportunity for many to apply for housing at Melrose Towers and Ashton Heights, two affordable housing complexes in Roanoke, but it also provided a beacon of hope for those struggling with homelessness and housing instability.

Dozens of attendees, including current guests of the Rescue Mission and others from the community, came together under one roof to navigate the complexities of housing applications. The event was supported by the efforts of the case management and guest development teams at the Rescue Mission, who were readily available to assist with any inquiries and guide attendees toward additional necessary services.

Sonia King, the Job and Life Skills Coordinator at the Rescue Mission, remarked on the significance of the gathering, "It was a team effort. Staff worked hard getting the information about the event to our guests. An event like this is important to attend for people looking for housing." Her words

highlight the communal effort involved in addressing the critical needs of those seeking services.

King also reflected on the beauty of the event, saying, "It was so wonderful to see all the guests there having the chance to apply for housing. An event like this gives them hope. It gives them a sense of agency, that they are in control of something important in their life." This sentiment captured the essence of the event: more than just a practical step towards securing housing, it was a moment of empowerment for many who often feel sidelined by life's difficult situations.

The Rescue Mission aims to foster a journey towards long-term stability. Our hope is that each guest will work toward finding long-term housing as they stay with us. This involves a comprehensive support system designed to prepare the guests not only to secure housing but also to sustain it.

As part of this support, the Rescue Mission helps with the often daunting task of filling out housing applications that can be a barrier for many seeking affordable options. But the assistance doesn't stop



at paperwork. Once housing is secured, the Rescue Mission takes further steps to ensure a smooth transition for its guests into their new environments. This includes providing essential items such as furniture and clothing, contributing to a dignified new beginning.

The housing event at the Rescue Mission of Roanoke serves as a critical touchpoint for the community, offering not just practical assistance but a message of hope and empowerment. By actively engaging with and supporting their guests through such initiatives, the Rescue Mission helps pave the way for recovery and stability, one individual at a time. This approach not only addresses immediate needs but also builds a foundation for sustainable change, embodying our mission, "helping hurting people in Jesus' name".

The Rescue Mission will be hosting these events on an ongoing basis.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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  
April 15 through May 15

## IN MEMORY OF

Kim Aliff ..... Barbara L. Haymaker  
 Joseph Bono ..... Irma C. Bono  
 Lucille Bowling ..... Gary & Donna Bowling  
 Alberta Brammer ..... Larry & Debbie Gibson  
 Phyllis Brokaw ..... Irma C. Bono  
 Mabel D. Brown ..... Thomas & Hope Hale  
 Jalene Buck ..... Ann Hatcher  
 Harry E. Campbell, Sr. ..... James L. Campbell  
 Margie Clark ..... Larry & Donna Forrester  
 Rev. John & Mable Cochran ..... Arvil L. Pennington  
 Larry G. Conner, Sr. ..... Ida J. Conner  
 Marvin Everett Craft, Jr. ..... Larry & Yvonne Linton  
 Sherrill Dean Cronk ..... Scott & Sharon Conner  
 Sherrill Dean Cronk ..... Richard & Kathleen Rushing  
 Robert Dow ..... Mt. Vernon Association  
 Robert Dow ..... David & Carolyn Kazner  
 Robert Bruce Dow ..... John & Margaret Aldhizer  
 Bob Dow ..... Homer & Valerie Duff  
 Robert Dow ..... Boh & Becky Oleksiuk  
 Robert Dow ..... Ronald & Bonnie Macewan  
 Robert "Bob" Dow ..... Robert Martinet  
 Robert "Bob" Dow ..... Sherry Griffith  
 Robert Dow ..... Duplicate Bridge Groups  
 Bow Dow ..... William & Betty Hicks  
 Dolores Edmondson ..... James P. Edmondson  
 Benjamin Emerson ..... Robert A. Emerson  
 William "Turner" Fleshman, III ..... Buzzy & Donna Powell  
 Edith L. Flora ..... Richard & Sarah Glass  
 Wilford C. Flora ..... Richard & Sarah Glass  
 Evelyn Forrester ..... Larry & Donna Forrester  
 Mr. Frank Fortner ..... Margaret Ferguson  
 Ruth I. Foutz ..... Bob & Norma Foutz  
 Alma Garrett ..... Betty Janell Love  
 Natalia Garza ..... Cecilia Alami  
 Iris Gibson ..... Larry & Debbie Gibson  
 Mildred Glass ..... Arline, Dot, Sarah, Bonnie & Terry  
 Gracie L. Glass ..... Richard & Sarah Glass  
 William A. Glass ..... Richard & Sarah Glass  
 Gordon Glenn ..... Catherine G. Brown  
 James T. Guilliams ..... Bill & Teresa Richards  
 John, Patricia & Tom Guzi ..... Gerald Guzi  
 Gene Hagy ..... Glen & Jane Mitchell  
 Lois Hawthorne ..... Albert & Lori Ponton  
 Jimmy & Virginia Hogan ..... Bonnie Renick  
 Ralph W. Holloway ..... Debora Richardson  
 Laura Huffman ..... James F. Huffman  
 Patricia Sue Huffman ..... Jeannie Huffman  
 Christine Hungate ..... Donald H. Hungate  
 Diane Hyatt ..... James Wayne Hyatt  
 Sheryl Johnson ..... Steve Johnson  
 Emily Goff Jones ..... Marty & Vickie Martin  
 Janell Kesler ..... Catherine G. Brown  
 Ryan Kirtley ..... Buzzy & Donna Powell  
 Neita Kraus ..... Richard W. Davis

## GIVEN BY

## IN MEMORY OF

Ruby M. Love ..... C. Wayne & Jeanette Burrows-Holt  
 Delcie Love ..... Betty Janell Love  
 Maxine H. Martin ..... Terry H. Martin  
 Buck & Opal Mays ..... Debra M. Burgess  
 Norma Carole McDonald ..... Dan Summerlin  
 Eddie McKinney ..... Dennis & Diana Staton  
 Ralph & Daphne McNeil ..... Carol M. Clower  
 Mildred W. Munsey ..... Eleanor M. Clark  
 Arnold & Christine Naff ..... Darryl W. Naff  
 Madelyn Nicewander ..... Fay Nicewander  
 Mary Louise Parker ..... Marty & Vickie Martin  
 Jean & Clyde Pearson ..... Elizabeth P. Williams  
 Jay Perdue ..... William & Betty Perdue  
 Beth Pettrey ..... Earl Pettrey  
 Alice B. Prevo ..... Patricia L. Prevo  
 Judy Price ..... Matthew Price  
 Mr. & Mrs. Radjou ..... Peter F. Radjou  
 Bradley Rahmoeller ..... Robert Hiltonsmith  
 Buster Ransome ..... Edwin Noell  
 Neil Roberson ..... Sheila J. Schoendorfer  
 Susan Ryan ..... Roscoe & Deborah Howard, Jr.  
 Timothy L. Spencer ..... Susan Westmoreland  
 Dr. Stanley ..... Sheila Joan Schoendorfer  
 Edna J. Streeks ..... Sarah M. Streeks Lipps  
 Roberta Sutphin ..... Larry & Donna Forrester  
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 Frances C. Ward ..... Jacqueline F. Ward Talevi  
 Sally Barker Webb ..... Shirley W. Noell  
 Harriett Whoolery ..... Gwendolyn J. Whoolery  
 Julia Willis ..... D. M. Williams  
 Earl Worley ..... Mark S. Webster  
 Dan Zuro ..... William & Lynette Martin

## GIVEN BY

IN HONOR OF

Jonathan & Bonnie Apgar ..... Mary E. Apgar  
 Lucille Boggess ..... Macie Ann Boggess  
 Heather Bryson ..... J.T. & Karen Williams, Jr.  
 Dr. Tony Donato's 80th Birthday ..... Katherine R. Baker  
 Meg & Erich Faber ..... Jim & Hilda Spitz  
 Linda Gilbert ..... Harold Gilbert  
 Frances P. Gross ..... Cindy G. Johnson  
 Jane Johnson ..... Barbara Howell  
 June Smith Kerr ..... Billy & Sharon Bandy  
 Aleise Matherly ..... Patsy M. Becker  
 Clint Pendleton ..... Kyle Edgell  
 Marie Ponton ..... Albert & Lori Ponton  
 Aleli Ronqriello ..... E.P. & W.C. Sayers  
 Randall Shrewsberry ..... Letha C. Ratcliff  
 Dot Williams ..... Deborah G. Corell  
 Rescue Mission Staff & Admin ..... Gerald Guzi  
 Curt & Lee's Mile of Pennies ..... Jabez & Brenda Beckner

# Thank you Sylvain Melloul International Hair Academy



On Thursday, May 9th, a heartwarming event took place at the Fralin Free Clinic where the Sylvain Melloul International Hair Academy provided complimentary haircuts to men from the Rescue Mission of Roanoke. A total of 44 men benefited from the services of around ten skilled barbers. This initiative not only offered a fresh look to many but also created a bridge for Rescue Mission staff to engage with unsheltered individuals. The event

encouraged them to access additional medical services, enjoy a meal, or stay overnight at the Rescue Mission.

One of the recipients, Scott, expressed his gratitude, noting the perfect timing of the haircut as he is preparing for his wedding the following week "this was just in the nic of time! My fiancée wouldn't appreciate if I showed up unkempt". Another guest highlighted the financial relief provided by the free

haircut, emphasizing the significant impact of such gestures "This means I can use the money saved here for other things I need. When you don't have a lot of money, that's a big deal." In addition to events like this, the Fralin Free Clinic offers a variety of services including medical, dental, and mental health care. If you or someone you know could benefit from these services, please contact the Fralin Free Clinic at (540) 777-7671.

## Volunteers and Donations make the Rescue Mission possible



Cox Communications served lunch



Marco's Pizza donated fresh out the oven cheese pizzas



Jaydon Saunders, a student studying culinary arts, prepared food for the kitchen

## Where are you on your life's journey?

*Continued from front page*

Outreach, along with our Guest Development team who provides deeper connections to housing, jobs and life skills and faith in Christ.

If you were to ask a guest at the Mission or a person unsheltered on the street about their life's journey, you would get some unexpected answers. Most importantly, you will find as I do with every conversation, that our stories are remarkably

similar. We have all fallen short at times. We have bright shining moments of success. We have incredible relationships with friends and loved ones. Our walk in this world is tenuous. We are one catastrophic illness, disaster, or broken relationship away from being in serious crisis. Without a personal safety net, we could find ourselves in need of emergency shelter, food, clothing, medical care, and connection

to all the life-saving services of your Rescue Mission.

Where are you on life's journey? Let us walk humbly together, thankful for the great cloud of witnesses joining with us, putting off the things that hold us back, running the race with our eyes on Jesus. And remember, no matter where we lay our heads at night, we are God's children, remarkably alike.



# Your June 2024 Newsletter!

— Donation Envelope Inside —

## GET INVOLVED TODAY

### DONATE

Go to [RescueMission.net](http://RescueMission.net) and click on the "Donate" button



DONATE ONLINE

### VOLUNTEER

Sign up to volunteer at: [RescueMission.iVolunteer.com](http://RescueMission.iVolunteer.com)

Contact our volunteer department at: [Volunteer.info@RescueMission.net](mailto:Volunteer.info@RescueMission.net)

### SHOP

- **Thrift 460**  
3425 Orange Ave NE, Roanoke, VA 24012
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- Or go to our **Online Store**:  
[ebay.com/str/roanokerescuemission](http://ebay.com/str/roanokerescuemission)

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## Registration is now open!

### — The Rescue Mission of Roanoke — **DRUMSTICK DASH 2024**

- 5K Run
- Family Walk
- Thanksgiving Morning



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To sign up, go to [DrumstickDASH.net](http://DrumstickDASH.net)  
QUESTIONS? Contact us at [dash@rescuemission.net](mailto:dash@rescuemission.net)