



HELPING HURTING PEOPLE IN JESUS' NAME

March 2025
NEWSLETTER



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rescuemission.net
(540) 343-7227

Immediate Needs

- Peanut butter
- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Grits

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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Becoming a People of Hope

By C. Lee Clark, Rescue Mission CEO

I am reading *A Praying Church* by Paul E. Miller. The tagline on the cover states: "*Becoming a People of Hope in a Discouraging World.*" We all seek hope in the midst of discouragement, yet reasons for discouragement can often feel overwhelming.

In this newsletter, you will find stories of individuals who have found new hope and stability at your Rescue Mission. We celebrate lives changed for good. These real-life testimonies show that, with God's help, transformation is possible. **Praise God!**

Yet, as I write this, my spirit is heavy. A dear brother in Christ was recently injured on the job. His life is a testimony of God's grace—moving from active addiction to new life in Christ, now serving others in this ministry. Meanwhile, each night, more than 250 men, women, and children seek safe emergency shelter here. Watching the faces in the meal line recently, I felt the weight of their struggles. And yet, I have hope.

You may also be facing personal struggles—whether health challenges, financial burdens, or loved ones who feel overwhelmed by circumstances beyond their control. So

how do we remain a people of hope in a discouraging world?

Pray.

Pray without ceasing. Surrender control to God, who loves us and provides for us.

There are no shortcuts to finding hope. **Our hope is in Christ alone.** Anything we place our hope in outside of Him will ultimately disappoint. And the way to stay connected to Christ, our hope, is through prayer.

I won't attempt to match the wisdom of Paul Miller or other theologians, so let's go straight to the source:

Romans 12:12 – *Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.*

Philippians 4:5-7 – *Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your*

Becoming a People of Hope: continued on inside

A Heart for Service: Danielle's Journey of Compassion and Dedication

Danielle's story is one of unwavering dedication, compassion, and the deep desire to make a real difference in the lives of others. A hardworking single mother of two young boys, Danielle has always believed in the importance of helping those in need. Raised in Roanoke, she pursued a career in social work, driven by her passion for serving others. Her experience working with various agencies, including social services and the health department, gave her a unique understanding of the struggles many face.

But when the opportunity to join the Rescue Mission Care Team became available just over a year ago, Danielle soon realized that working in the shelter environment was much different than the work she had done before. The challenges were more personal, more raw, and in many cases, deeply heartbreaking. Every day, she faces the realities of homelessness in all its forms - mental health struggles, addiction, lost income, and unimaginable trauma. Danielle learned that no two people are alike and everyone's story is different. But one thing remains constant: no one wants to stay in a shelter. The people who come through the doors of the Rescue Mission are often at their lowest point, and they need more than just a safe place to stay - they need someone to believe in them.

Danielle's approach to working with our guests at the Mission is rooted in kindness and respect. She greets each person with a warm smile, even when it isn't reciprocated. She understands that trust takes time, so she takes

the time to truly listen, asking what people need and showing a genuine interest in their lives. One of the most important values she holds is always doing what she says she will do. She knows that many who end up at the Mission have experienced broken trust, and rebuilding that trust is key to making a real difference. By providing consistent care and being a reliable source of support, Danielle helps guests feel seen and valued.

She works tirelessly, both inside and outside the shelter, connecting people to resources that can help them rebuild their lives. Whether it is assisting with finding housing, securing identification, or offering mental health resources, Danielle's commitment to her guests is clear. She doesn't judge them - she listens, shows respect, and helps them take the next step, no matter how small it may seem.

However, the work can be emotionally taxing, and Danielle is no stranger to the risk of burnout in such a demanding field. But she has learned that self-care is essential. Danielle stays aware of her own needs so that she can continue to care for the guests at the Mission and her family. Balancing these responsibilities is never easy, but Danielle's determination and resilience keep her grounded in her mission to help others.

The most rewarding part of her work at the Mission is when guests return to thank her. When they come back with a smile, grateful for the services they have received,



Danielle knows that the effort has been worth it. For some, even something as simple as helping them obtain identification can be a game-changer - an essential piece in their journey to stability.

Beyond her work at the Mission, Danielle also runs a podcast with her sister, where they engage in conversations on a wide range of topics in the community. This platform allows her to continue her mission of making a difference, sparking dialogue, and building connections in Roanoke and beyond.

Danielle's story is a testament to the power of compassion, the importance of self-care, and the difference one person can make in the lives of many. Through her work at the Rescue Mission and her podcast, she continues to touch the lives of countless individuals, showing them that there is always hope, always a way forward, and always someone who cares.

A Journey of Hope and Resilience: Leslie's Story of Triumph and Transformation

Leslie's story is one of incredible perseverance and resilience, a journey that paints a powerful picture of hope and transformation. Raised in a home torn apart by abandonment, Leslie was young when her father left, leaving her mother to shoulder the responsibility of raising three children alone. The weight of that loss was a heavy burden for Leslie and her siblings, but her mother's love and strength held them together, even in the face of unimaginable challenges.

For 30 years, Leslie worked tirelessly at Hardee's, but after her mother passed away, the family home became a battleground of tension and conflict. In a desperate search for peace, Leslie made the brave decision to live in her car while working at K&W, a job she maintained with incredible dedication. However, Leslie's living situation remained unstable, constantly bouncing between temporary solutions, and never finding a place to call her own.

Then, in July 2023, a shift happened. Leslie's co-workers, seeing her struggle, encouraged her to seek

help at the Rescue Mission. With the support of the Care Team led by Sonia King, Leslie began to see a glimmer of hope for the first time in years. Sonia and her team became the anchors Leslie needed, helping her access the resources that were once out of reach. Social security benefits, food stamps, and a checking account - things many of us take for granted - became steppingstones to a new chapter in Leslie's life.

By May 2024, Leslie had moved into her own apartment, a symbol of her newfound independence. Sonia was by her side every step of the way, proud of the progress Leslie had made. But perhaps the greatest change of all was in Leslie herself. No longer living in fear or uncertainty, she now takes the bus to the bank and the grocery store, and she's even found joy in recycling, taking plastics to the center each week.

However, the most cherished part of Leslie's journey is her bond with Sonia. More than just a case worker, Sonia has become a true friend - a person who believed in Leslie



Sonia and Leslie

when she had trouble believing in herself. Leslie also shares that she loves The Beatles and finds comfort in the words of "The Long and Winding Road," which she feels mirrors her own life journey.

Leslie's story is one of incredible triumph over adversity. She is not just surviving; she is thriving. Her resilience, strength, and determination have not only transformed her life, but also the lives of those who had the privilege of walking alongside her. With a future full of promise and potential, Leslie is a beacon of hope for anyone who feels stuck, reminding us that no road is too long to travel if you have the courage to take that first step.

Exciting Announcement: New Executive Board Chair



Mary Ellen and Lee

We are thrilled to announce that Mary Ellen Apgar has been appointed as the new Executive Board Chair of the Rescue Mission. Mary Ellen brings a wealth of experience and passion to this role, and we are fortunate to have her leadership.

A 2008 graduate of The Way Forward Program, Mary Ellen is an incredible advocate for the Mission and

values of the Rescue Mission. Her dedication to our cause and her deep understanding of our work will be invaluable as we continue to serve our community.

Please join us in welcoming Mary Ellen to her new role. We look forward to the exciting progress and growth she will help lead as we work together to make a lasting impact!

In Memory & Honor of..

For Memory and Honor Gifts received
January 14 through February 14

IN MEMORY OF

GIVEN BY

Earl Atkins.....Wanda G. Atkins
Bryan Bandy.....Billy & Sharon Bandy
Barry Banks, Jr.Wanda Broady-Q-Hartman
Jalene BuckAnn Hatcher
Stuart Bush.....Wandy B. Paul
Andy ByronJill M. Vincent
Harry E. Campbell, Sr.....James L. Campbell
Sherry Carver.....Vickie L. McHenry
Benjamin EmersonRobert A. Emerson
Natalia Garza.....Cecilia Alami
Kim Gembala.....Brenda & Dale Allen
Lugene Glendye.....Michelle Gilmer
Mary Hodge.....William Magee
Laura HuffmanJames F. Huffman
Howard HungateDonald H. Hungate
Carl Jensen & Family.....Carol Jensen
Sheryl Johnson.....Steve Johnson
Lois P. KezarJay & Barbara Moorman
Faye ManningDorothy C. Eller
Buck & Opal MaysDebra M. Burgess
Jason McMurray.....Lori L. Skinner
Ralph & Daphne McNiel.....Carol M. Clower
Rebecca Menefee.....Craig S. Menefee
Arnold & Christine NaffDarryl & Beckie Naff
Shelby Bernard NemethEdward & Janice Murray
Melvin Perdue.....James & Willena DeLong
David & Ginger PhillipsDavid N. Phillips
Jackie Proffitt.....Sheila R. Harrison
Willie Pryor.....Wanda Broady-Q-Hartman

IN MEMORY OF

GIVEN BY

Tonya RabornWilliam D. Raborn
Mr. & Mrs. Radjou.....Peter F. Radjou
Darlene Rice.....Thomas A. Rice
Bobbie RichardsonRick Murray
Joe RobertsJim Roberts
Marcus SeaveyVirginia Hawks
Marcus SeaveyPhyllis Carpenter Davis
George Stewart.....Gladys E. Falls
Peggy VanBuren.....Denny W. VanBuren
Maxcine WilliamsWanda Broady-Q-Hartman
Dan Zuro.....William & Lynette Martin
Curt & Lee's Pennies-A-MileJabez & Brenda Beckner
Nitin's Mother.....Madhu & Nitin Chibber

IN HONOR OF

GIVEN BY

Jonathan & Bonnie Apgar.....Mary E. Apgar
Hugh CaudillBill & Judy Caudill
Rev. Janet ChisomFrank & Norma Francisco
Johnny GarrettAaron G. Akers
Lindsey Jacobsen.....Anne J. Smith
Peter Howze Jones
Family Legacy Fund.....Michael & Deborah Roush
Clint Pendleton.....Kyle Edgell
Jean & Preston QuadeMargaret Dolores Martin Skelly
Liz Reel.....Jonathan & Bonnie Apgar
Rebecca Schultz.....Donna Skinnell
Randall Shrewsberry.....Letha C. Ratcliff
The people who serve
God & Jesus Christ.....Stacy Maxwell

Becoming a People of Hope *Continued from front page*

hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Romans 15:5-6 – *May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Philippians 2:1-3 – *So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in*

humility count others more significant than yourselves.

Because of God's encouragement through Scripture, along with the prayers of so many faithful people, I feel hope. Hope in God's great love for us. Hope in trusting that He will provide—just as He always has at this Mission. Hope that the challenges of today will become the testimonies of tomorrow.

What Can You Do?

Pray. Join me in praying for each man, woman, and child who comes

through these doors.

- Pray for God's peace, safety, and provision.
- Pray for team members and volunteers to step into critical roles in this 24/7 ministry.
- Pray for the resources—food, clothing, household goods, and financial donations—needed to sustain this work.

And then, rest in God's perfect timing. Trust that, once again, He will provide. All will be well.

Volunteers & Donations: The Heart of the Rescue Mission



What a special day at the Mission! Free haircuts for those in need - something that can truly make a lasting difference. A big thank you to Sylvain Melloul International Hair Academy for their incredible care and support!



Fenton Childers, a dedicated Rescue Mission volunteer, has graciously donated a stunning mosaic for the lobby of the Rescue Mission. Fenton, who has been creating mosaics and working with stained glass as a hobby for the past 10 years, shared that it took him about four months to complete this beautiful large piece. His generosity and talent are truly appreciated by all!



A HUGE thank you to the Rail Yard Dogs for delivering 10 large bags of teddy bears! Your kindness and generosity are truly tremendous. These bears will bring so much comfort and joy to those we serve. Thank you for making a difference in our community!



We are so grateful to Pinnacle Financial Partners for organizing a food drive to support the Rescue Mission! With offices in Roanoke and Lynchburg, Pinnacle continues to make a meaningful impact in our community - whether through food drives, community support, or as the presenting sponsor of our annual Drumstick Dash! Thank you Pinnacle, for your generosity and commitment to helping our neighbors in need.

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.



Your March Newsletter!

– Donation Envelope Inside –

GET INVOLVED TODAY

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



DONATE ONLINE

► VOLUNTEER

Sign up to volunteer at:
RescueMission.net/Volunteer

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

► SHOP

- **2nd Helpings** is located at the following locations:
 - 3425 Orange Ave NE, Roanoke, VA 24012
 - 1505 Williamson Rd NE, Roanoke, VA 24012
- Go to our **Online Store**:
ebay.com/str/roanokerescuemission

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Every Item Makes a Difference.

Your donation will help provide food, shelter, and medical care for those in need.



Drop-Off Locations and Hours:

- **The Donation Center**
421 Fourth St. SE,
Roanoke, VA
Mon. – Sat. 9:00am - 5:00pm

- **Behind 2nd Helpings**
3425 Orange Ave. NE,
Roanoke, VA
Mon. – Sat. 9:00am - 5:00pm

OR call us to schedule a residential pick-up: 540-343-7227