



HELPING HURTING PEOPLE IN JESUS' NAME

April 2025

NEWSLETTER



Contact Us

402 4th Street SE,
Roanoke, VA 24013
rescuemission.net
(540) 343-7227

Immediate Needs

- Sunscreen
- Allergy Medication
- Pain Reliever

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

Social Media

To see more photos or learn more about the Rescue Mission, check us out on



Love: Transformation and Renewal

By C. Lee Clark, Rescue Mission CEO

I'm part of a small group that meets weekly to study scripture, pray together, and encourage one another. We're currently studying 1 John and I've been reflecting on its themes of love, transformation, and renewal.

Studying this book during the Lenten and Easter season feels particularly fitting as we meditate on Christ's death and resurrection. 1 John 3:16-18 reminds us:

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

God often reinforces spiritual lessons in unexpected ways. Just today, a trusted advisor handed me a card that read:

1. Look how far we have come—how far God has brought us—with a spirit of thanksgiving.
2. Look how far we have to go and ask God to help—with a humble and open heart.

Later, as I walked through the building, a graduate of our recovery program stopped me, excited to share that she had just signed the lease for her apartment. With joy, she shared how much the Way Forward Recovery Program meant to her, saying, *"This place changed my life."*

At a recent prayer conference at my church, Paul Miller, author of *The Praying Church*, spoke about the "J curve" of the Christian life—how we continually die to self in areas like control, pride, and fear. But each death to self opens the door to resurrection moments, where God surprises us by doing *immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine* (Ephesians 3:20).

Love: continued on inside

A Life of Service: Larry's Journey from IT to Inspiring Change

For 34 years, Larry built his career in IT at Anthem, solving complex technical problems and navigating a world of systems and data. But when he retired, he found himself searching for something deeper - a way to give back and make a meaningful impact in the lives of others.

Larry's introduction to the Rescue Mission of Roanoke came through his daughter, who worked in the Women's and Children's Center at the time. Seeing the Mission's work firsthand, Larry was moved by its profound impact. He wanted to be a part of that change and soon began volunteering, teaching money management classes for seven years. But what started as a simple opportunity to give back soon became a calling.

In 2016, Larry joined the Rescue Mission Chaplaincy team full-time, where he found his true purpose - serving those battling addiction. A pivotal moment in Larry's journey came when he met Burt, a mentor who guided him in teaching the Genesis program, a faith-based recovery initiative. Larry's passion for helping others transformed into a life of service as he took on the role of Genesis Coordinator, offering counseling, spiritual guidance, and emotional support to both staff and recovery participants.

Larry's work is deeply personal. He listens actively, helping individuals confront their anxiety, anger, and childhood trauma - struggles that often fuel addiction.

He works alongside recovery coaches, teachers, and community partners, helping people reclaim their lives. His efforts are about more than just healing - they are about hope, redemption, and transformation.

One of Larry's most cherished memories involves a participant who loved to ride bikes. They would often go on rides together, sharing stories and encouragement along the way. Though the participant moved out of state, Larry continues to pray for him, hoping that he is living a sober and fulfilling life.

Larry views the Rescue Mission as a bridge, connecting those in need to a community that will support them without judgment, offering safe shelter and hope. *"The fact that the Mission is always open, doesn't judge, and offers safe shelter and hope to all - that's what makes the difference,"* he says.

His work is a testament to the power of service and the lasting change that can happen when we open our hearts to others. *"Be curious about people. Listen more than you talk. And most importantly, have a heart for others,"* Larry advises to anyone considering a role like his.

Beyond his work at the Mission, Larry is an artist, sketching beautiful images of people, animals, and scenes from life - his way of reflecting and expressing his journey. He is committed to



Larry

serving at the Rescue Mission *"as long as my memory holds,"* bringing hope, healing, and transformation to those who need it most.

As Easter approaches, Larry's journey from IT professional to compassionate servant is a powerful reminder of the true meaning of the season. Easter is a time for redemption, renewal, and the promise of hope. Living a life of service that uplifts and inspires others, Larry is helping to create a community where change is possible - and where the love of Christ is shown through action every single day.

If you're looking for a way to make a meaningful impact in our world, please consider joining us at the Rescue Mission. Volunteer, listen, and be present - YOU are so needed! It's through small acts of service that we can create powerful, transformative change together. How can you offer hope today?

Serving with Purpose: The Heart of the Tuesday Morning Group



Manna Tuesday Morning Group

Every Tuesday morning, as the sun rises over Roanoke, a dedicated team gathers at the Rescue Mission. Comprised of retired individuals - many of whom are veterans - these volunteers have discovered a deeper purpose in serving those in need. United by their faith and a strong commitment to making a difference, they come together each week, offering their time and energy to the Mission's cause.

Representing two local church congregations - St. John Lutheran Church and Woodlawn United Methodist Church - these volunteers have built meaningful bonds through their shared work. They assist in the construction of Manna boxes which are filled with approximately 60 pounds of food including non-perishable food staples, fresh produce, and frozen meats. These boxes are given to families in need during Manna distribution every Wednesday and Thursday. Manna food boxes are a vital part of the Rescue Mission's outreach, ensuring that individuals and families who have housing, but struggle with food insecurity, have the food



they need to survive and thrive.

But it's not just the work itself that brings them back each week. It's the relationships they've built with other volunteers, as well as the Mission's residents and participants. Working side by side with those staying at the Mission, they share stories of God's goodness, offer support, and build friendships that might never have formed in any other setting. Through these interactions, they have gained a firsthand understanding of the struggles faced by those experiencing homelessness, addiction, hunger, and poverty. This understanding has only deepened their commitment to giving back.

Volunteer Drew Hodges says; *"Serving in Manna has allowed us to see the time and energy we put in come full circle for God's glory. Because we construct the boxes on Tuesday and return on Wednesday or Thursday to fill with food and distribute, we get to actually see those who are served through this ministry."* Every box they prepare is a symbol of love, compassion, and hope - making a real difference



in the lives of our neighbors – helping them stay housed.

Their work is a powerful testament to the strength of community, faith, and service. Through their efforts, they've not only built a legacy of giving but also forged bonds that will last a lifetime. Known affectionately as the "Tuesday Morning Group", their contributions have left a lasting impact on the Mission and the people we serve.

We at the Rescue Mission are deeply grateful for their faithful service, as well as the service of ALL our volunteers. Without them, we could not carry out our work of "Helping Hurting People in Jesus' Name." It's clear that God has directed them to serve with us, and we look forward to continuing to work alongside these selfless individuals who embody Christ's love and call to service.

Get involved and join us in this work today! Your time, love, and energy can make a real difference in the lives of those in need. Together, we can continue spreading hope and transformation to our community.

In Memory & Honor of...

For Memory and Honor Gifts received
February 14 through March 12

IN MEMORY OF

Susan Bamford Thomas Bamford
Anne Bowyer James & Willena DeLong
Pam Brooks Gladys E. Falls-Leftwich
Jalene Buck Ann Hatcher
Jean Bussey Claude & Wanda Bussey
Tom Carr Brown, Edwards & Co.
Jason Cates L. Riley Cates, DMD
David Dabbs Juanita C. Dabbs
Todd Dannenhower Daniel R. Maderic
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Laura Huffman James F. Huffman
Diane Hyatt James Wayne Hyatt
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Rebecca Menefee Craig S. Menefee
Arnold Christine Naff Darryl & Beckie Naff

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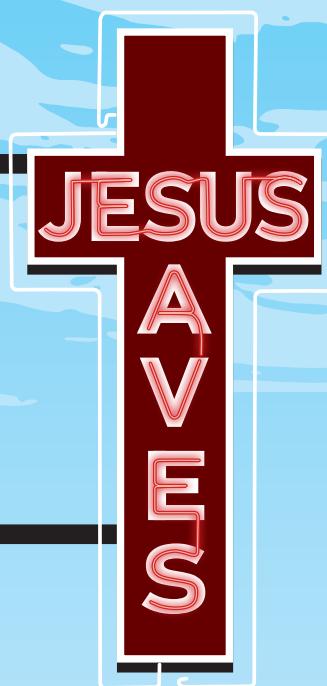
Lena Mae Nichols Leslie & Sandra Estes
David & Ginger Phillips David N. Phillips
Bill Pyles Jean H. Harding
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Mr. & Mrs. Radjou Peter F. Radjou
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Bobbie Richardson Rick & Pam Murray
Katherine W. Ross Will & Donna Ross
Peggy VanBuren Denny W. VanBuren
Willie A. Walker, Jr. Jonathan & Bonnie Apgar
George Warner, Sr. Clifford & Mary DeMars
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Curt & Lee's Pennies-A-Mile Jabez & Brenda Beckner

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Lindsey Jacobsen Anne J. Smith
Nate Levin VFW Auxiliary Post 1264
Mike Martin Kris C. Cone
Clint Pendleton Kyle Edgell

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Tours

Take a tour of the Rescue Mission!
Every Monday at 12:00 Noon

402 4th Street SE, Roanoke, VA 24013 | (540) 343-7227



VT Biomed Engineering Students shadow
Sonia King, Care Team Manager



VT Biomed Engineering Students shadow and volunteer in Food Services



Love: Transformation and Renewal

Continued from front page

Do you ever feel like you're stuck in the dying and missing the resurrection? I do. Hearing that I am not alone in this struggle was powerful. As believers, we are all on this journey—dying to self but also witnessing God's provision and grace in both small and mighty ways.

As we see our brothers and sisters in need, let us truly see them. Let us recognize their humanity. We

are all alike—children of God—struggling, failing, succeeding, and thriving, often all at once. Life is difficult, but God is at work. Are we grateful for how far He has brought us? Are we open to His provision for the next steps? Are we willing to be part of His blessing in the lives of others?

This Easter season, I invite you to reflect on how far God has brought you and to remain

open to the transformation He is working in your life. Take a moment to pray for those in need and consider how you might be part of God's blessing—whether through a kind word, an act of service, or supporting the work of the Rescue Mission. Together, we can be a tangible expression of Christ's love in action.

May God bless us all on this life's journey!

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 April Newsletter!

– Donation Envelope Inside –

GET INVOLVED TODAY

► DONATE

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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Honor Your Mom

Celebrate your mom or grandmother with a gift to the Rescue Mission in her honor or memory. Gifts of any amount make a difference and donations of \$1,000 or more (payable over a year) qualify for an engraved block on the Legacy Wall at the Women and Children's Center. *Simply fill out the form below, cut it out, and return in the enclosed envelope.*



I want to make this Mother'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.)

If she 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: _____ Phone: _____

To set up your gift, including installment donations, please contact us at developmentteam@rescuemission.net or **540-777-7683**. We'll be happy to assist you in honoring your mom or grandmother in a meaningful way.