



HELPING HURTING PEOPLE IN JESUS' NAME

June 2025

# NEWSLETTER



## Contact Us

402 4th Street SE,  
Roanoke, VA 24013  
[rescuemission.net](http://rescuemission.net)  
**(540) 343-7227**

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



## A Father's Words, A Child's Praise

*By C. Lee Clark, Rescue Mission CEO*

I didn't know it at the time, but my last conversation with my dad was all about heaven. It was late December, right before Christmas. During one of our weekly phone calls, he talked about worry—how we shouldn't be anxious about so much in this life. It was a sweet conversation, and as we said our goodbyes, he ended the call with, "I love you." I replied the same and hung up, not realizing he would go to sleep a few days later and not wake up.

I've since held tightly to that conversation as a treasured memory. Looking back, I believe Dad sensed that his time was near and wanted to leave me with something lasting—important words to carry forward.

I can be good at worrying. Too good. Dad knew that. I have a tendency to look at potential situations and imagine every negative outcome—mapping out likely scenarios and how to head off trouble. In some ways, that serves me well as a leader, helping me anticipate challenges and put plans in place.

But it also leads to overthinking, self-reliance instead of trusting God, and overly critical analysis—of situations, and sometimes, of people.

I think Dad was trying to remind me to keep perspective—to be grateful for God's good gifts and to trust in God's care more than my own control. And the older I get, the more I want to build those same teachable moments into my relationships with my children and grandchildren.

One recent Sunday morning, I was holding my grandson, facing the front of the church during the final worship song. As the music swelled, I saw him raise his tiny hands in praise. Tears of wonder filled my eyes. In that moment, I saw joy, safety, and gratitude—this two-year-old worshipping God from the center of a family that loves him.

Moments like that are sacred.

From a father's final words to a child's uninhibited praise, we treasure these glimpses of heaven breaking into our lives.

**A Father's Words:** continued on inside

# A Father's Words, A Child's Praise

*Continued from front page*

At your Rescue Mission, we see heaven break through, too—light piercing the clouds of brokenness. Every day, we see people wrestling with fear, anxiety, and hardship. We also see people finding health, hope, and healing. We see fathers at every stage of the journey: dads doing their best, some rebuilding relationships, others learning what it means to show up.

We strive to meet each one right where they are, sharing God's love as we "Help Hurting People in Jesus' Name."

Men mentor other men in quiet but powerful ways. Sometimes it's through deep, honest conversation—one man sharing how God used even his biggest

mistakes for good. Other times it's a smile, a welcome, or setting healthy boundaries that lead to better outcomes. Each of these moments helps shape stronger men, healthier fathers, and transformed lives.

What is your own treasured memory of wisdom or connection with an important man in your life?

As we reflect this Father's Day, can we release some of the worry we carry and place our trust in a Heavenly Father who loves us without fail?

Relationships are complicated—often a mixture of joy and pain, presence and absence. We can't change the past, and we can't

always change others. But we can choose how we show up today. We can choose to be a reflection of love, courage, and grace for the people around us.

As Father's Day approaches, consider how you can reflect the love of our Heavenly Father to someone who needs it. A kind word. A second chance. A reminder that they're not alone.

Your support helps us reach men in crisis with compassion, guidance, and hope. Will you help us continue to lift up fathers, sons, and brothers who are working to rebuild their lives?

Thank you.

## 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 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.

# A Father's Fight: A Journey from Brokenness to Hope

Here at the Mission, every story of recovery is precious. But on Father's Day, some of the most powerful stories we hear come from the men who are not just working to rebuild their lives - but to reclaim their role as fathers.

One of those stories belongs to Eric, a man whose past was marked by pain, addiction, and incarceration - but whose present is full of purpose, compassion, and hope.

Before Eric walked through the Mission's doors for recovery, he had already stayed in the Shelter several times. Back then, he admits he was lost.

"I was very irresponsible," Eric shares. "Selling drugs, getting high, running the streets... I didn't know anything about being a man, let alone a father."

In those days, Eric remembers watching a team member named Karl from afar - drawn to the way he carried himself and treated others. "There was just something about him. I didn't understand how he could be so calm in all the chaos. But I kept watching."

After Eric was released from incarceration, he returned to the Rescue Mission in 2015 and entered The Way Forward Recovery program. Karl was still here. "I started talking to him more. And eventually, I said to myself, I want to work here someday."

Eric credits Karl as the first real father figure in his life - someone who saw the potential buried beneath his past.

"He inspired me. He encouraged me. He saw something in me I didn't see in myself. And that stuck with me."

That inspiration fueled Eric's journey through the Mission's recovery program - 18 months and 10 days, to be exact. "I went through every phase. I supervised housekeeping. I worked in the pantry. I

worked in the kitchen. Then I was at the thrift store on 460," he says. "Eventually, I was offered a job at the shelter - and I've been here ever since."

Eric is the father of two daughters and two stepsons. His youngest daughter, who is six years old, lives with Eric and his wife, Amanda.

It wasn't always this way. "After I was injured, I had to slow down. That's when I really got to know my kids," he says. "Before, I was just always moving. But that time gave me a chance to really see them - to understand their behaviors, their joys, even to experience the sleepless nights as a parent."

Being a father now gives Eric strength and focus. "It made me more responsible," he says. "I know I have an obligation to take care of my family."

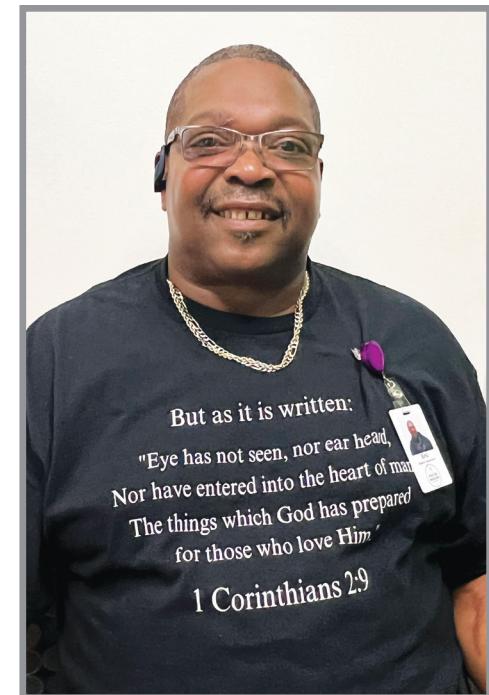
But the path hasn't been easy. Eric is honest about the pain of not being present for his first child and the long-term emotional impact of missed birthdays, prison visits that never happened, and a pride that once kept him silent and ashamed.

"There were times I felt like I was nothing," he says. "You see another man taking care of your child, and it crushes you. But that pain - it changed me. It gave me the motivation to never go back."

Now a respected team member at the Rescue Mission, Eric finds deep purpose in walking alongside men who are where he once was.

"I tell them, stay encouraged. Take it one day at a time. Don't beat yourself up. Learn from your past. Don't let resentment take root." He often quotes Scripture to the guests and reminds them that they are not alone.

"I want to see them make it. I want them



to come back and tell their story. When I see guys who have been at the Mission at the store with their kids and they say, 'Hey Eric, thank you,' I thank God. That's my joy."

Eric's story is one of transformation, but it's also one of continued service. From someone who once questioned whether his life had value, to a man who now serves as a mentor, leader, and example of God's redeeming power.

He remembers how hard it was to be in a place where no one called him "Sir," where no one asked, "How are you feeling today?"

"That is why I make sure the guys here feel seen. Even if they don't believe in themselves yet, I want them to know I believe in them."

Eric recently spoke at a community event about his journey. He admits he was nervous. "So, I asked God to help me. And He did. I got up there and spoke."

The transformation is undeniable.

When asked what the community can do to support fathers at the Rescue Mission, Eric doesn't hesitate. "Have a special day for the dads where they

**A Father's Fight:** continued on next page

# In Memory & Honor of...

For Memory and Honor Gifts received  
April 12 through May 9

## IN MEMORY OF

Annie Andrews ..... Wanda Broady-Q-Hartman  
 Earl Atkins ..... Wanda G. Atkins  
 Travis Bittle ..... Sarah Jones  
 Travis Bittle ..... Leigh Ann Hamlin  
 Lydia Blackburn ..... Patricia B. Dickens  
 Sarah H. Bratton ..... James T. Bratton, II  
 Evelyn T. Broady ..... Wanda Broady-Q-Hartman  
 D. Keith Brown ..... Susan Brown  
 Bertha Brugh ..... Marvin & Ellen White  
 Jalene Buck ..... Ann Hatcher  
 Linda Johnson Burger ..... Julia Calamita  
 Stuart Bush ..... Wanda B. Paul  
 Autumn Bushman ..... Arville L. Pennington  
 Harry E. Campbell, Sr. ..... Bedford Motors  
 Margie Clark ..... Larry & Donna Forrester  
 Fred Clark ..... Larry & Donna Forrester  
 Todd D. ..... Daniel R. Maderic  
 David Dabbs ..... Larry & Shirley Bowers  
 Allie Dalzell ..... Thomas Dalzell  
 Lillian Garland Dollman ..... Betty D. Hall  
 Madorah Dooley ..... Anthony & Kim Gilbert  
 Aileen J. Doyle ..... Charlotte D. McCauley  
 Windell A. Doyle ..... C. D. McCauley  
 Janine Drum ..... Rene Wimmer  
 Liz Duncan ..... Tom Duncan  
 Ivie Ellis ..... Anthony & Kim Gilbert  
 Troy Falls ..... Gladys E. Falls  
 Frank & Lillian Fitzpatrick ..... Thomas F. Fitzpatrick  
 Edith L. Flora ..... Richard & Sarah Glass  
 Evelyn Forrester ..... Larry & Donna Forrester  
 Reed Forrester ..... Larry & Donna Forrester  
 Kim Gembala ..... Helen Ferguson  
 Kim Gembala ..... Brenda & Dale Allen  
 Becky Gilbert ..... Anthony & Kim Gilbert  
 Odell Giles ..... Anthony & Kim Gilbert  
 Gracie L. Glass ..... Richard & Sarah Glass  
 Judith Gorham ..... Perry G. Gorham

## GIVEN BY

## IN MEMORY OF

James Guilliams ..... William & Teresa Williams  
 Dollie Runella Hale ..... Hersel & Kathy Lawson  
 Martha & Howard Harrison ..... Carl Harrison  
 Gary Harrison ..... Sheila Harrison  
 Delores "Dee" Holloway ..... Debora H. Richardson  
 Nancy Smith Huffman ..... Mary Heefner Whitmire  
 Laura Huffman ..... James F. Huffman  
 Bernard Hungate ..... Donald H. Hungate  
 Sheryl Johnson ..... Steve Johnson  
 Edna Kirk ..... Iris K. Betterton  
 Annie Kirk ..... Iris K. Betterton  
 Patricia Kuelz ..... Emil Kuelz  
 Dematris C. Langhorn ..... Genevieve F. Brown  
 Donna Lundy ..... George & Mary Cartledge  
 Donna Lundy ..... Leslie L. Young  
 Donna Lundy ..... Sharon Chewning  
 William Magee ..... Scott & Lee Ann Hodge  
 Buck & Opal Mays ..... Debra M. Burgess  
 Ralph & Daphne McNeil ..... Carol M. Clower  
 Rebecca Menefee ..... Craig S. Menefee  
 Marion William Monroe ..... Betty Monroe-Walker  
 Arnold Christine Naff ..... Darryl & Beckie Naff  
 Ron Nash ..... Mary A. Nash  
 Harry Neumann ..... Donna L. Neumann  
 Terry L. O'Donnell ..... Sharon O'Donnell  
 L. Floyd & Margherite R. Padgett ..... George & Patricia Jennings  
 Janie N. Patterson ..... Gracie M. Wilson  
 Billie Pavich ..... Marolyn Carter-Geib  
 David & Ginger Phillips ..... David N. Phillips  
 Nancy Raborn ..... William D. Raborn  
 Darlene Rice ..... Thomas A. Rice  
 Yogi Roberts ..... James & Willena DeLong  
 Marcus Seavey ..... Joshua C. Anderson  
 Raymond & Joyce Simmons ..... Susan A. Simmons  
 Christopher Sinram ..... Anna Arias  
 Tim Smith ..... Sheila Harrison  
 Rose "Mimi" Romano Spry ..... James G. Spry

can invite their kids. Have cake and ice cream...do something fun. The dads in shelter and recovery don't get the opportunity to experience these moments. It would make them feel special - like they matter."

And they do matter.

This Father's Day, we honor men like Eric - whose courage, honesty, and determination reflect the very heart of the Rescue Mission. His life is a living

testimony that with God's grace and the support of a loving community, redemption is always possible.

### This Father's Day, Be Part of a Father's Redemption Story

Eric's journey is a powerful reminder of what's possible when love, accountability, and faith collide. At the Rescue Mission, we believe that every father deserves the chance to heal, reconnect, and become the parent he was created to be.

When you give to the Rescue Mission, you help provide shelter, meals, recovery programs, job training, and spiritual guidance to fathers on the road to restoration. Visit [rescuemission.net/donate](http://rescuemission.net/donate) and honor a dad in your life or support one who is rebuilding his.

Together, we can help more fathers like Eric walk from brokenness to hope - and into the arms of their children with courage, purpose, and dignity.

**IN MEMORY OF**

Edna J. Streeks.....  
 Roberta Sutphin.....  
 Everett Sutphin.....  
 John Sylvester-Johnson.....  
 Eloise Twist.....  
 Paula Vail.....  
 Stephen L. Willson.....  
 Mary D. Witt.....  
 Joe B. Wright.....  
 Dan Zuro.....  
 Curt & Lee's Pennies-A-Mile..... Jabez & Brenda Beckner, Sr.

**GIVEN BY**

Sarah Streeks Lipps  
 Larry & Donna Forrester  
 Larry & Donna Forrester  
 Gustaf Sylvester-Johnson  
 Donna T. Fitch  
 William David Pilkenton  
 Michael & Martha Collingwood  
 Anthony & Robin Beckner  
 J.P. & Kathy Smith  
 William & Lynette Martin  
 Jabez & Brenda Beckner, Sr.

**IN HONOR OF**

Frances P. Gross..... Cindy G. Johnson  
 Lorene Hall..... James Arthur Scott  
 Ralph Holloway..... Debora H. Richardson  
 Owen James ..... James E. Taylor, Jr.  
 Harrison Kelly ..... Dianne K. Sprouse  
 Aleise Matherly..... Patsy M. Becker  
 Sharon Mirtaheri ..... Walker & Nancy Healy, Jr.  
 Madelyn Nicewander..... Fay Nicewander  
 Betty M. Pagans ..... Marjorie Sutton  
 Memorial Foundation  
 Clint Pendleton..... Kyle Edgell  
 Nancy Raborn ..... William D. Raborn  
 Mrs. Fannie Rutherford ..... Marolyn Carter-Geib  
 Randall Shrewsberry..... Letha C. Ratcliff

**IN HONOR OF**

Jonathan & Bonnie Apgar..... Mary E. Apgar  
 Linda Gilbert ..... Richard Chase

**GIVEN BY**

Mary E. Apgar  
 Richard Chase

## Volunteers: The Heart of the Rescue Mission



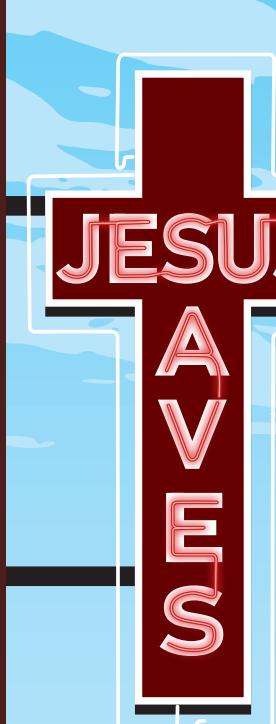
Second Presbyterian Church



United Healthcare



Wells Fargo Veterans



# Tours

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

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



# Your June 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.net/Volunteer](http://RescueMission.net/Volunteer)

Contact our volunteer department at:  
[Volunteer.info@RescueMission.net](mailto: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](http://ebay.com/str/roanokerescuemission)

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

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Bedford, Va  
Permit No. 3

## Registration is now open!

### — The Rescue Mission of Roanoke — **DRUMSTICK DASH 2025**

- 5K Run
- Family Walk
- Thanksgiving Morning



PRESENTED BY

**Pinnacle**<sup>SM</sup>  
FINANCIAL PARTNERS



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