



HELPING HURTING PEOPLE IN JESUS' NAME

November 2025

NEWSLETTER



Contact Us

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

Immediate Needs

- Hairbrushes
- Hair Ties
- Chapstick
- Coats

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



Living in Gratitude

By C. Lee Clark, Rescue Mission CEO

Gratitude. We truly have much to be thankful for. Practicing thankfulness helps me stay grounded in this work. On nights when weariness and stress threaten to overwhelm, I count blessings and I pray.

My prayers for the Rescue Mission always begin with peace and protection—for the guests we serve, the team members who staff this 24/7 ministry, and the volunteers and donors who make this work possible. I thank God for each of you. Then, I lift up people by name, carrying both their opportunities and their challenges to Him.

In some ways, prayer feels like the original “social media.” Prayer gives us a safe space to share our heart’s joys and struggles. When we come with humility and openness, God teaches us, corrects us, and redirects us. In prayer, I often discover that fears are not as large as they first appeared, and solutions can be found. Unlike social media, these conversations are private and sacred. I’m reminded not to focus on the speck in my

brother’s eye, but the log in my own.

Fear, anger, and misinformation are powerful forces. We’ve all believed something only to later realize we were wrong—or discovered that our actions contributed to someone else’s pain. Fear narrows our vision and deepens confusion. Gratitude, however, creates space for solutions. It allows us to see the humanity of others, remembering that whether rich or poor, strong or struggling, we are all dearly loved by God.

Here at the Rescue Mission, I often face problems with no clear answers. But when I pray with gratitude, God shows me the next step of faith, then the next. He brings people, wisdom, and resources to carry out His work. Over the years, this journey has been nothing short of a miraculous and mighty walk of faith.

The challenges we face on the front lines are sobering: a shortage of affordable housing, lack of transportation between providers,

Living in Gratitude: continued on inside

Volunteers: The Heart of the Rescue Mission



AEP volunteered in our Manna food pantry



Wells Fargo spent the day volunteering at the Rescue Mission



Christmas Gifts 2025

SHELTER GIFT IDEAS

Christmas Gifts for Shelter Guests

- Men's Wallets
- Ear Muffs
- Hand Warmers
- Journals
- Pens
- Ponchos
- Trial Size Lotions
- Pocket Calendars
- Men and Women's Socks
- Scarves

Ongoing Shelter Needs

- Hairbrushes
- Slides
- Men's T-shirts
- Underwear
- Cough Drops
- Full Size Body Wash
- Full Size Shampoo
- Full Size Conditioner
- Toothbrush
- Trial Size Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Razors
- Washcloths
- Bath towels
- Cotton XL Twin Sheets
- Pillows

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Collecting Unwrapped Gifts for Ages 0-17 Years

- Toys
- Books (K-12)
- Puzzles
- Games
- Basketballs
- Footballs
- Soccer Balls
- Arts and Crafts Supplies
- Stocking Stuffers
- Earbuds
- Hygiene Items
- \$10 Gift Cards to Fast Food Restaurants

Monetary gifts towards the Christmas Gifts are appreciated!
Go to RescueMission.net and click on the Donate button.

Please return your unwrapped gift to the Rescue Mission by Friday, December 12.

All Donations are accepted from 8am-6pm in the Main Lobby:
402 4th St. SE, Roanoke, VA 24013 | (540) 343-7227

Serving Up Second Chances: Krystal's Journey of Hope and Recovery

By Olivia Watson, Development Manager

When Krystal walked through the doors of the Rescue Mission, she wasn't looking for a job, she was looking for a chance to start over.

After being released from jail, Krystal moved into an Oxford House, where residents were required to either work or volunteer. "I never volunteered a day in my life," she admits. "But a friend told me about the Rescue Mission and that she had been volunteering in the kitchen. She said, 'You should come with me and give it a shot.' So, I did."

What started as volunteer work quickly became something more. Krystal spent long hours helping in the kitchen, not because she had to, but because it gave her purpose and community. When a dishwasher position opened, she applied and was hired in February.

Before joining the Rescue Mission team, Krystal's life looked very different. "I actually used to eat here when I was in active addiction," she says. "So, it feels good being on the other side now. I get to see people I used to use drugs with, and I hope that when they see me, they realize recovery is possible."

Krystal has been clean for over a year and four months, and she credits much of her progress to the Mission. "If it wasn't for the Rescue Mission, I don't think I'd be as far along," she shares. "It

keeps my hands busy, helps me stay focused, and gives me a chance to help others."

The kitchen team has become like family to Krystal. She lights up when she talks about her coworkers. "Lori's awesome, she dances and sings with me. And Randy, he gave me a second chance by hiring me even though I have charges on my record. That meant a lot."

Working in the kitchen also gives Krystal a new appreciation for what happens behind the scenes. "People don't realize how hard it is to make sure there's enough food for everyone. Randy and the team go through a lot to make sure people are fed. I just wish more people understood how much heart goes into it."

Now, as the holidays approach, Krystal is looking forward to helping prepare meals for others, a service she once received herself. "It feels amazing to give back," she says. "The Rescue Mission really is my family. Thanksgiving is a time I can help others feel loved and cared for, by showing them there are people out here that care to feed them and share the holiday with them."

Krystal's future goals are just as inspiring. With encouragement from her coworkers, she's exploring classes to become a recovery specialist. "One day I want to help people like me," she says. "I want



to show people that recovery is possible."

When asked what she'd say to the donors and volunteers who make the Rescue Mission's work possible, Krystal's answer is simple: "Thank you. You're helping people like me rebuild their lives. We're really grateful."

The Rescue Mission's annual Thanksgiving Feast is an important meal for people in our community. However, it is not the only meal that is important. We serve three meals a day 365 days of the year. We can't do this without the help of our dedicated volunteers, please sign up at www.rescuemission.net, email volunteer.info@rescuemission.net, or call 540-343-7227 to serve a meal and make a difference.

In Memory & Honor of...

For Memory and Honor Gifts received
September 12 through October 13

IN MEMORY OF

Libby Abbott Caudel N. Abbott, Jr.
 Barbara Adams Carl M. Adams
 Jesse & Marie Aird Myrtle G. Simmons
 Pastor Robert Alderman Joseph & Rebecca Pigford
 Alan & Ann Amos Carolyn Gould
 Betty Arnold Don M. Arnold
 Earl Atkins Wanda G. Atkins
 Marian L. Bond Avery Michael & Barbara Haymaker
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 Jalene Buck Ann Hatcher
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 Patty Davis Rosemarie Malloch Dillon
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 Bob & Alice Garrett Bob & Barbara Wiley
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 Nancy Smith Huffman Mary Heefner Whitmire
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 Dan Zuro William & Lynette Martin
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IN HONOR OF

Living in Gratitude

Continued from front page

an aging homeless population with complex health needs, rising overdoses, growing mental health crises, and heartbreaking levels of domestic violence. It would be easy to let fear and frustration take over.

Yet gratitude turns our hearts back to God and to one another. It reminds us that solutions are possible—not quick fixes, but faithful steps forward. And we do not walk this road alone. Side by side with nonprofits, hospitals, churches, businesses, and local governments, your Rescue Mission is working to bring safety, dignity, and hope to hundreds of people every night.

We also encourage and support

other organizations working to meet needs in their own communities. Recently, we met with representatives from Miriam's House in Lynchburg, who recognize the urgent need for emergency shelter for women and families there. They toured our Women & Children's Center and we shared both opportunities and challenges from our experience. I encouraged them to consider how they might provide shelter in Lynchburg so families in crisis can remain close to their support networks of friends and relatives. Keeping families near their community not only stabilizes them in the short term, but also helps them return to housing more

quickly and sustain it long-term.

Gratitude allows us not only to see the needs around us, but also to share what we've been given with others. Meeting with Miriam's House reminded me that when we lead with gratitude instead of fear, we find partners, solutions, and hope together.

The question is simple: Will we live in fear? Or will we live in gratitude—trusting that God hears our prayers, and that He will provide the wisdom and courage we need for creative, life-giving solutions?

Thank you for joining me on this walk of faith. I am grateful for you.

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



Join our Bread, Beds & Meds Program

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



Your November Newsletter!

– Donation Envelope Inside –

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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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- 5K Run/Family Walk
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