



“Because of the Mission...
I have a reason
to smile again”



Contact Us

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

Immediate Needs

- Kitchen Spices
- Dish Rags and Towels
- Sweetener Packets
- Salt and Pepper Packets
- Condiment Packets

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



Because of the Mission: There's Help Here

By C. Lee Clark, Rescue Mission CEO

Most people never imagine they will
need a place like the Rescue Mission.

Recently, I sat down over lunch with
several men currently staying in our
Emergency Shelter. As we talked about
what brought them here, I was struck
by how ordinary their stories sounded.

One man lost his housing after suffering
a stroke. Before the stroke, he worked
two jobs and was supporting himself.

Another spent 18 years in a stable
marriage until his wife passed away.
After her death, the home was sold and
he found himself with nowhere to live.

A third man, now 72 years old, described
becoming increasingly unstable after
the deaths of his parents, who had
been his primary source of support.

These stories are different, but they
share a common theme: homelessness
often begins with a life event that no
one expects.

As the conversation continued, the men
shared the barriers they face every day:

- Long waiting lists for affordable housing
- Rents they cannot afford on fixed incomes
- Security deposits beyond their reach
- Difficulty navigating complex housing systems
- Limited support when trying to find a path forward

The reality is that homelessness is one
of the most urgent challenges facing
our community.

At your Rescue Mission, more than
225 men, women, and children find
safe shelter each night.

One reason is simple: housing has
become increasingly difficult to afford.

According to the U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban Development,
the Fair Market Rent for a modest

Because of the Mission: continued on inside

2026 numbers are on the rise and the need is urgent.

Your gift today will make an immediate difference for those with nowhere else to turn. Every dollar you give in **July** will be matched up to **\$350,000**



Gentle Shepherd
HOSPICE

**DOUBLE YOUR
IMPACT TODAY!**



GIVE NOW

199,248

Meals Served



69,702

Nights of Shelter



19,570

Manna Food Boxes
Distributed



402 4th Street, SE
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Because of the Mission: There's Help Here

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one-bedroom apartment in Roanoke increased from \$646 in 2019 to \$1,053 in 2026—a 63% increase in just seven years.

For many seniors, individuals living with disabilities, and working families already struggling to make ends meet, those increases have pushed housing out of reach.

Pat's story elsewhere in this newsletter illustrates this reality in a deeply personal way. After losing her housing and many of the possessions she had accumulated over a lifetime, she found herself overwhelmed and uncertain where to turn. Today, she is rebuilding her life one step at a time because someone was there to help.

That's what your Rescue Mission does every day.

When people arrive at our doors,

we cannot solve every challenge facing our nation or our housing market. But because of your support, we can provide shelter, meals, medical care, recovery services, case management, transportation, job readiness opportunities, and the encouragement people need to keep moving forward.

Because of the Mission, there is help here.

This July, we have been blessed with an extraordinary opportunity. Generous friends of the Rescue Mission have provided a \$350,000 matching gift challenge. Every dollar donated will be doubled, up to the full amount of the match.

That means your gift will provide twice the impact for neighbors like Pat and the more than 2,000 men, women, and children who

will seek safety and support at the Rescue Mission this year.

The need is growing. Giving has softened. Yet the opportunity to make a difference has never been greater.

Will you join us?

Your gift today will help provide more than shelter. It will provide stability, dignity, encouragement, and hope for people facing some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

I pray you will hear God's call to stand with us during this critical time.

Because of the Mission.

Because of You.

There's help here.



“Because of the Mission...
I discovered I
wasn’t alone.”



Because of the Mission: A Place to Belong

By Lisa Thompson, Rescue Mission Development Director

At 71 years old, Pat never imagined she would find herself starting over.

After coming to Roanoke to care for her aging mother, Pat devoted herself to helping someone she loved. But when her mother passed away, a series of hardships left Pat without a home and separated from many of the documents, possessions, and pieces of life she had spent decades building.

Suddenly, she was faced with challenges she never expected—replacing identification, navigating benefits, finding stable housing, and figuring out where to turn next.

When Pat arrived at the Rescue Mission, she was overwhelmed.

"I didn't know what to do," she recalls. "But they just started helping me. Every time I asked what I needed to do, they showed me where to go and helped me."

Today, you'll often find Pat helping others.

She assists with laundry, cleans around the Mission, supports staff, and welcomes new guests with a reassuring smile. She understands the fear many feel when they first walk through the doors because she has been there herself.

When asked what she would tell someone entering a shelter for the first time, her answer is simple:

"Don't be scared. There's help here."

Pat participates in the Mission Opportunities to Serve (MOTS) program, where guests volunteer alongside Mission staff during daily shelter reset hours. Through MOTS, guests develop job skills, build confidence, establish routines, and take meaningful steps toward greater independence.

For Pat, the opportunity to serve has become part of her healing journey.

"It helps me feel useful. It helps me give back."

Her story is a reminder that homelessness does not always look the way people imagine. Many of our guests are actively working, rebuilding, and doing everything they can to move forward. What they often need most is stability — a safe place to sleep, support from caring people, and a chance to regain their footing.

That's why the Rescue Mission is transforming an unused third-floor dormitory into a new space designed specifically to help guests move toward independence.

The renovated floor will provide additional beds while creating a transitional living environment for guests who are working, participating in programs like MOTS, or taking important steps toward permanent housing. Unlike traditional emergency shelter spaces, this area will offer greater flexibility for guests balancing employment, job searches, and

case management appointments.

For someone working an overnight shift, an early morning schedule, or a demanding full-time job, shelter access hours can sometimes create additional obstacles. This new space is designed to remove those barriers and support guests who are actively working toward self-sufficiency.

The project includes outfitting the floor with new bunk beds and mattresses, creating safe, comfortable sleeping spaces while creating a bridge between emergency shelter and permanent housing.

When guests who are ready for the next step have a place to stabilize, emergency shelter beds become available for those experiencing immediate crisis. The result is a stronger pathway out of homelessness and a stronger community for all of us.

Pat is one of many people walking that path.

She continues working toward housing and rebuilding her life one step at a time. Through every challenge, her faith remains strong.

When asked what she would like donors and volunteers to know, her eyes filled with tears.

"Thank you for helping us. Thank you for the food, the clothes, and everything you do for us. It's a blessing."

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In Memory & Honor of...

For Memory and Honor Gifts received
May 12 through June 11

IN MEMORY OF

Libby Abbott	Caudel N. Abbott, Jr.
Ed Adams	Carl M. Adams
Nic & Nancy Apgar	Jonathan & Bonnie Apgar
Reid A. Blankenship	Rocky Mount Tractor
Lucille Boggess	Macie Ann Boggess
Jalene Buck	Ann Hatcher
Harry E. Campbell, Sr.	James L. Campbell
Grover Carter	Shirley W. Carter
Margie Clark	Larry & Donna Forrester
Aaron Conner	Ken & Patsy Conner
Frances Cundiff	Michael & Patricia Prillaman
Lillian Garland Dollman	Betty Dollman Hall
Ruth & James Downs	Phillip L. Downs
Janine Drum	June McNiel
Allen Fisher	Hope F. Ore
Evelyn Forrester	Larry & Donna Forrester
Kim Gembala	Brenda G. Allen
Judith Gorham	Perry G. Gorham
James T. Guilliams	William & Teresa Richards
Lacy "Buz" Hanson	Sandra C. Woodford
Robert & Sadie Hardy	Myrtle P. Smith
Kyle J. Harmon	Chris Lehman
John & Rosemary Hitchins	John G. Hitchins, Jr.
Laura Huffman	James F. Huffman
Sheryl Johnson	Steve Johnson
Daniel Karnes	Nancy W. Karnes
June Smith Kerr	Billy & Sharon Bandy
Neita Kraus	Richard W. Davis
Dematres C. Langhorn	Genevieve F. Brown
Max Leach	Diane F. Leach
Rev. Clyde B. Lehman	Chris Lehman
Steve L. Lonker	Todd, JoAnn & Whitney Lonker
Richard Ludlow	Kyra Ludlow
Buck & Opal Mays	Debra M. Burgess
Eddie McKinney	Dennis & Diana Staton
Ralph & Daphne McNiel	Carol M. Clower
Rebecca Menefee	Craig S. Menefee
Bonnie Menefee	Craig S. Menefee
Robert "Irvin" Menefee	Craig S. Menefee

GIVEN BY

Martha Wertz Meredith	Jill M. Vincent
David M. Meredith	Jill M. Vincent
Leo Middleton	Barbara B. Middleton
Brenda Mosby	Gladys E. Falls
Tena Moses	Sheila Joan Schoendorfer
Arnold & Christine Naff	Darryl & Beckie Naff
Dan & Beulah Nelms	Richard L. Nelms
Blake Nicewander	Fay Nicewander
Dorothy Prillaman	Michael & Patricia Prillaman
Robert H. Ramey	Pete & Valerie Ramey
Darlene Rice	Thomas A. Rice
Roberta Conner Rogers	Paul & Anne Garber
Howard Sink	Dorothy P. Sink
Michael B. Smith	Myrtle P. Smith
Timothy Spencer	Susan Westmoreland
Joseph Spichek	James & Judith Caudill
Joseph Spigel	Peggy S. Spigel
Roberta Sutphin	Larry & Donna Forrester
Paula Vail	William David Pilkenton
Dathan Walker	Pete & Valerie Ramey
Esther West	Rebecca West Smythers
Earl Whorley	Mark, Kim & Amy Webster
Loretta Wright	David A. Wright
Louise Zimmerman	Craig S. Menefee
Harold Zimmerman	Craig S. Menefee
Dan Zuro	William & Lynette Martin
Loved Ones	Jean Ferguson
Our Fathers	Scott & Sharon Conner
Curt & Lee's Pennies-A-Mile	Jabez & Brenda Beckner, Sr.

IN HONOR OF

Jonathan & Bonnie Apgar	Mary E. Apgar
Rev. Janet Chisom	Frank & Norma Francisco
Dan & Linda Frye	Jonathan & Bonnie Apgar
Lindsey Jacobsen	Anne J. Smith
Susan Madison	Barbara M. Honeycutt
Dorothy Malloch	Rosemarie Malloch Dillon
Clint Pendleton	Kyle B. Edgell
Scott & Abby Polhamus	Janice S. King
Randall Shrewsbury	Letha C. Ratcliff

GIVEN BY

In Memory and Honor gifts can be given at rescuemission.net/donate

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Because of the Mission... and Because of You.

This July, every gift to the Rescue Mission's **Because of the Mission Matching Gift Campaign** will be doubled, providing twice the impact for neighbors like Pat.

Your generosity helps provide meals, shelter, clothing, case management, recovery services, job readiness opportunities, and life-changing support for people who simply need someone to walk beside them on

their journey toward hope.

It also helps make projects like the new third-floor transitional dormitory possible—creating more beds, more opportunities, and more pathways to permanent housing for guests who are working hard to rebuild their lives.

Because of the Mission, Pat found help when she was overwhelmed, hope when she was afraid, and a community that reminds her every day that she is not alone.

Because of your support, someone else will hear those same words:

"Don't be scared. There's help here."

Double Your Impact This July.

Every dollar given during the Because of the Mission Matching Gift Campaign will be matched dollar-for-dollar, helping twice as many neighbors find safety, stability, and hope.

Because of the Mission. Because of You. Lives are being changed every day.

Could You Be a Volunteer Driver?

Help provide a ride—and a little hope.

Participants in The Way Forward Recovery Program often need transportation to medical appointments, DMV visits, and other important off-site commitments. We're looking for volunteer drivers willing to help when their schedule allows.

You'll receive advance notice of transportation needs and can choose the trips that work for you. With a team of volunteer drivers, there's no ongoing commitment to every request.

Interested in learning more?

Contact Gina Dunnivant
(540) 777-7656
gina.dunnivant@rescuemission.net



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 under Immediate Needs or the Mission's Amazon Wish List
 - Items can be dropped off in Reception, Monday - Saturday, 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 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 July 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

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

“Because of
the Mission...

I have an
incredible life
and family.”

