



HELPING HURTING PEOPLE IN JESUS' NAME

August 2026
NEWSLETTER



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

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our **Immediate Needs**
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Social Media

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more about the Rescue
Mission, check us out on



Every Person Has a Story

By C. Lee Clark, Rescue Mission CEO

One of the greatest privileges I have is sitting down with the graduates of our Way Forward Recovery Program to hear their stories.

While every journey is different, I came away from recent conversations with one overwhelming thought:

The Way Forward Recovery Program isn't simply producing graduates. It's helping people begin a new story.

At the Rescue Mission, our Way Forward Recovery Program is much more than helping people stop using drugs or alcohol. It is a long-term, Christ-centered journey that combines recovery support, counseling, life skills, accountability, discipleship, and compassionate relationships to help men and women rebuild their lives from the inside out.

Shereen arrived at the Rescue Mission after seven years of meth addiction. Looking back, she says, "I prayed for a lifeline."

Rachel had experienced years of homelessness and addiction before realizing she didn't have to have all the answers. Recovery began when she became willing to ask for help and take life one day at a time.

Barry came to us carrying tremendous grief after the death of his fiancée. What changed his life wasn't just finding a recovery program—it was finding people who believed in him before he fully believed in himself.

Daniel shared a statement I haven't been able to forget: "Addiction lies to you in your own voice." Through recovery, he learned to build the tools and relationships needed to recognize those lies and choose a different path.

Those aren't just memorable quotes.

They're the moments each person's story began to change.

Every day, people arrive believing that their past will define their future.

Every Person Has a Story: continued on inside

Thank You!

We are beyond grateful to everyone who generously helped us reach our goal during our **July Matching Gift Campaign**. We truly couldn't do this work without you!

To all who give, volunteer, and keep us in your prayers every day - **thank you** from the bottom of our hearts. Your compassion makes a world of difference, and we're so blessed to have you by our side.

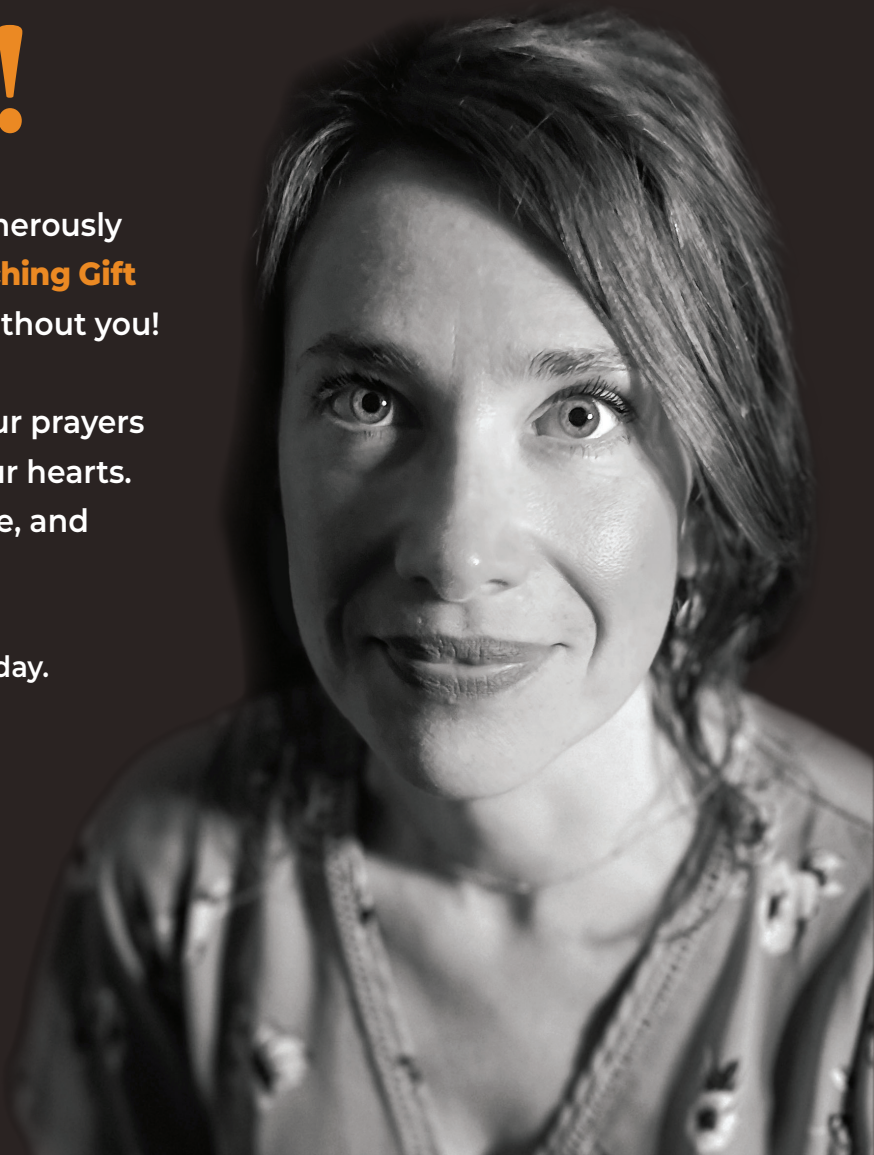
Together, we're making a positive impact every day.



rescuemission.net



Gentle Shepherd
HOSPICE



Every Person Has a Story

Continued from front page

Because of your prayers, your volunteering, and your generous support, they discover something different.

They discover that, through Christ, hope is real, healing is possible, and a new story can begin.

Today, those stories continue to unfold. Barry has returned to work and is saving for a car and an apartment. Daniel has moved into sober living housing and is preparing for a career helping others find recovery. Rachel is

rebuilding her career with the support of our Recovery Coaches and Care Team Advisors, while Shereen has been reunited with her parents after years apart and is taking her next steps toward a healthy future.

Recovery isn't measured only by the day someone graduates. It's measured by what happens afterward—families reunited, meaningful work restored, stable housing secured, and graduates becoming mentors for the next person beginning the journey.

The Way Forward Recovery Program doesn't end at graduation.

It opens the door to a new beginning.

You have the opportunity to become part of these stories. Through your prayers, your generosity, and your willingness to serve, you help men and women discover that a new beginning is possible.

Thank you for standing with us. Together, we are changing lives—one story at a time.

Hope Starts with Care

By Lisa Thompson, Rescue Mission Development Director

When someone walks through the doors of the Rescue Mission, they often arrive carrying far more than a backpack or a suitcase. They carry grief, uncertainty, loneliness, and the weight of life's hardest moments.

For Rhonda, the Rescue Mission's new Care Team Manager, helping guests begins with something simple: listening. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) with years of experience serving individuals facing complex challenges, Rhonda brings both professional expertise and a compassionate heart to her role. Before joining the Rescue Mission, she spent her career helping people in Southwest Virginia and in Uganda navigate crisis, trauma, and life transitions — experience that guides her leadership of the Care Team.

"One of our goals is to help people feel seen and heard," Rhonda says. "When that happens, we often watch people go from being guarded and withdrawn to opening up



about their needs, their goals, and their hopes for the future."

The Care Team serves as a bridge between crisis and stability, helping guests obtain identification, access healthcare, connect with employment and housing resources, apply for benefits, and navigate community services. But Rhonda believes the most important thing they offer can't be found on a checklist.

"It's hope," she says. "We want every person who visits the Care Team to know they're not alone. We're not here to fix people — we're here to walk alongside them."

One guest recently met with the Care Team to discuss the challenges he was facing. As Rhonda listened to his story, she learned he was gradually losing his eyesight, had no close family nearby, and felt there was little left to look forward to. During that conversation, the Care Team began exploring assisted living options closer to his hometown and invited him

back to continue developing a plan for his future.

"In the span of about an hour," Rhonda recalls, "you could see hope begin to return."

Every day, the Care Team witnesses lives being transformed — not because every problem is solved immediately, but because someone takes the time to listen, pray, encourage, and remind each guest that they are loved and valued.

Being the Hands and Feet of Christ

Every day, hurting hearts walk through our doors searching for hope.

Through your prayers, generosity, and compassion, you are part of God's work of restoring lives. Together, we are showing every guest that they are deeply loved, valued, and never forgotten.

Thank you for helping us bring hope to those who need it most.

“

Our prayer is that every guest walks out our door knowing they have hope, that they are loved, and that God hasn't forgotten them."

—Rhonda, LCSW
Care Team Manager

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In Memory & Honor of...

For Memory and Honor Gifts received
June 11 through July 10

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Ed Adams	Carl M. Adams
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Fred Swisher	David, Lou Ann & Jean Swisher
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Dan Zuro	William & Lynette Martin
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Tom Tomberlin	Judy B. Tomberlin

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

The Butterfly Fund

Interested in helping our guests and participants spread their wings and fly?
The Butterfly Fund exists for this purpose alone.

The Butterfly Fund opens doors for people at the Rescue Mission to help them grow towards self-sufficiency. The funds support training and other opportunities that will help make individuals more employable and/or strengthen an individual's support system.

Shelter guests and recovery participants are eligible to use the funds. Give today and help someone spread their wings.





Tours

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

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

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 August Newsletter!

– Donation Envelope Inside –

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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

Register Now! Thanksgiving Morning 5K Run / Family Walk



— The Rescue Mission of Roanoke —
DRUMSTICK DASH

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Your participation directly supports the Rescue Mission of Roanoke and its life-changing services for those battling homelessness, poverty, and addiction.

Go to DrumstickDASH.net to sign up!



Can't Participate? VOLUNTEER!

We are in need of volunteers for Course Marshalls, Crowd Control, Packet Pickup and more! Visit the DrumstickDash.net website and go to Volunteer.



Register Now!

MOVE YOUR FEET SO OTHERS CAN EAT!

QUESTIONS? Contact us at dash@rescuemission.net