THE RESCUE MISSION OF ROANOKE
SINCE 1948

HELPING HURTING PEOPLE IN JESUS' NAME

November 2026
NEWSLETTER

DONATE ONLINE



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

Hope Is on the Menu

By C. Lee Clark, Rescue Mission CEO

Did you know that your Rescue Mission is open 7 days a week, 365 days a year? We never close.

And every single day, we serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner to anyone who is hungry. No questions asked. Just come at mealtime, and there's a place for you at the table.

Based on current projections, we will serve **more than 202,800 meals this year**.

That's a remarkable number. But behind every meal is a person, and behind every person is a story.

A meal at the Rescue Mission is about so much more than food. It's a warm welcome. Someone greeting you by name. A friendly smile as you choose what you'd like to eat. A helping hand carrying your tray or filling your water glass.

These may seem like small gestures, but to someone who is hungry, lonely, or facing difficult circumstances, they can mean everything.

Food brings people to the table. Love invites them to stay. Relationships open the door to hope.

That's what happens when we share a meal. Connections are made, dignity is affirmed, and people are reminded that they matter. A meal may meet an immediate need, but the relationships formed around that meal can open the door to so much more.

And nowhere is that more visible than on Thanksgiving Day.

Our 21st Annual Drumstick DASH will kick off Thanksgiving morning at 9 a.m., bringing together thousands of friends and neighbors who will move their feet so others can eat!

Then, beginning at 11 a.m., our Thanksgiving Feast will welcome hundreds of men, women, and children for a delicious, traditional holiday meal. Roast turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, sweet potato casserole, vegetables, fresh rolls, and more kinds of pie than you can imagine!

***Hope Is on the Menu:* continued on inside**

Hope Is on the Menu

Continued from front page

Volunteers will share Christ's love as they welcome guests to tables set for a family-style Thanksgiving meal. Others will offer meals to go, providing a warm welcome to neighbors who have a place to live but need a little help putting food on the table.

Altogether, we expect **more than 600 people** to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal, fellowship, and the simple joy of being welcomed and cared for.

But hunger doesn't begin or end on Thanksgiving Day.

Every day, families throughout our community face difficult choices as they work to keep food on the table and a roof over their heads. That's why our Manna Food Box Pantry is such an important part of this ministry.

Demand for food assistance continues to grow, and more than 3,200 families are receiving help through this program. For these families, a box of groceries is more than food. It can mean a little breathing room in the household budget, one less difficult choice, and another step toward remaining safely housed.

Whether it's a hot meal in our dining room, a Thanksgiving Feast shared with neighbors, or a food box helping a family through a difficult month, the message is the same: **You matter. You are welcome. And there is hope.**

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 25:35, *"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."*

Those words are at the heart of what we do. And thanks to your faithful support, they're lived out every day at the Rescue Mission.

This Thanksgiving, I hope you'll join us for the 21st Annual Drumstick DASH. **Register at drumstickdash.net**, and invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join you. Your participation helps make it possible for us to feed hungry people not just on Thanksgiving, but throughout the months ahead.

To our generous sponsors, volunteers, donors, and everyone who makes this ministry possible, thank you.

Because of you, food is on the table, people are welcomed, relationships are formed, and hope is restored.

And hope is always on the menu at your Rescue Mission!

Thanksgiving Pie Drop Off

Donate pies for the Rescue Mission's Annual Thanksgiving Feast!



Bring home-made or store-bought pies, fresh or frozen, to the Rescue Mission's main lobby between 8:00am - 6:00pm beginning Monday, November 23 through Wednesday, November 25.

402 Fourth Street, SE | Roanoke, VA 24013

Six Children. One Determined Mom. And a Box Full of Hope.

By Lisa Thompson, Rescue Mission Development Director

"Is it time for a box yet?" It's a question Jessica hears often from her six children, ages 1 to 11, as they eagerly await their family's monthly visit to the Rescue Mission of Roanoke's Manna Food Pantry.

For the children, each box is a surprise. Maybe there will be their favorite snacks, little bags of chips, or something unexpected. For Jessica, those same boxes mean something much deeper: another meal on the table, a little breathing room in the family budget, and one less worry about feeding a family of eight.

Jessica and her husband have worked hard to provide for their children. With childcare costs making outside employment impractical, Jessica stays home while her husband works to support the family.

Then an unexpected medical situation forced him to take extended leave from work. Almost overnight, everything changed. With reduced income and medical expenses, everyday necessities became difficult choices. Groceries or gas? Utilities or a medical copay? Meat became a luxury. Even juice for the children disappeared from the shopping list.

"I don't want them to go without," Jessica shared.

> **"Everybody deserves to eat. Everybody deserves to have food in their house. Nobody deserves to go hungry."**



Through Manna, Jessica receives groceries that help stretch their limited budget. She recalls one particularly meaningful gift: specialized infant formula for her youngest child that normally cost nearly $70 a can. But beyond the groceries, Jessica finds something just as important: **the reassurance that someone cares.**

She wishes more people understood that families visiting food pantries aren't looking for handouts. They're often hardworking neighbors facing circumstances beyond their control. "They come from all walks of life," she explained. "It's not people that don't want to work. It's people that are really trying."

Then Jessica shared a simple truth that speaks to the heart of the Mission's work: **"Everybody deserves to eat. Everybody deserves to have food in their house. Nobody deserves to go hungry."**

Jessica's family is not unlike countless others in our area. Across Southwest Virginia, an estimated 55% of households are struggling with food insecurity. As the largest distribution pantry for Feeding Southwest Virginia, the Rescue Mission's Manna Food Pantry provides more than groceries. **It helps families stretch their budgets, keep up with rent and utilities, and remain safely in their homes.** For families like Jessica's, that support can mean the difference between making ends meet and facing another crisis.

This Thanksgiving, Jessica is grateful her family will gather around her mother's table. She's also grateful to the people who make Manna possible. "We appreciate everything that they donate and that they do," she said. "It really helps the community. We are super grateful."

Continued on next page ▶

In Memory & Honor of...

For Memory and Honor Gifts received September 9 through October 13

IN MEMORY OF	GIVEN BY
Don Bishop	Margaret K. Bishop
Raymond M. Caldwell	Carole L. Dow
Harry E. Campbell, Sr.	James L. Campbell
Grover Carter 84th Birthday	Shirley W. Carter
Alvin Chittum	A. J. Chittum
Davy Crockett	Martha Crockett
John Downing	Michael & Mary Turner
Ruth & James Downs	Phillip L. Downs
Janine Clower Drum	Stanley Clower
Benjamin Emerson	Robert A. Emerson
Patricia Ann Fariss	Scott Geldzahler
Patricia Ann Fariss	Kim Hubbard
Patricia Ann Fariss	Susanna Zimmerman
Patricia Ann Farris	Blue Ridge Mutual Association, Inc.
Tom Flinchum	Bob & Barbara Wiley
Kim Gembala	Brenda Allen
Page Gentry	Robert & Betty Goode
Mildred & Bill Glass	A. J. Chittum
Blair Gourdie	Robert G. Gourdie
Joseph A. Hagerman, Jr.	Robin Lopez
Thelma Hanvey	Donnie R. Hanvey
Kyle J. Harmon	Chris Lehman
John & Rosemary Hitchins	John G. Hitchins, Jr.
Laura Huffman	Frank Huffman
Alma Hunt	Ashley Gilreath
Sheryl Johnson	Steve Johnson
Suzi Kessler	Bob & Barbara Wiley
Boris Koloda	Bob & Barbara Wiley
Neita Kraus	Rich Davis
Barbara Leffell	Gladys E. Falls
Rev. Clyde B. Lehman	Chris Lehman
Gladis Lehman	Chris Lehman
Buck & Opal Mays	Debra Burgess
Michael A. McMahon, M.D.	Billy & Sharon Bandy
Ralph & Daphne McNiel	Carol Clower
Rex Mook	Kay Mook
Arnold & Christine Naff	Darryl W. Naff
Jenny & Bob Nash	John & Jean Hitchins
Dan & Beulah Nelms	Richard L. Nelms
Louis & Sibly Newton	Caroline Thornton
Louis & Sibyl Newton	Ellen Auten
Louis & Sibyl Newton	Rebecca Auten
Louis & Sibyl Newton	Laura Christman
Louis & Sibyl Newton	Mary Ellen Gillespie
Noel Olin	Bob & Barbara Wiley
Darlene Rice	Thomas A. Rice
Sukh Dev Seth	Charlotte B. Seth
Earle & Doleta Spruill	W. Earle & Meredith Spruill
Evelyn Stanley	Gladys E. Falls
Sue Watson	Bob & Barbara Wiley
Dan Zuro	William & Lynette Martin
Annabel, Georgie & LouEllen	Julie L. Owen
Classmates of Patrick Henry High School Class of 1973	Melinda J. Cox
FMLL	Willis Logan
Curt & Lee's Pennies-A-Mile	Jabez & Brenda Beckner, Sr.

IN HONOR OF	GIVEN BY
Mary Ellen Apgar	Jonathan & Bonnie Apgar
Rev. Jordan Smith Arrington	George W. Carlson, Sr.
Linda Harry	Rebecca West Smythers
Sergeant Perry Hodge	Landon Roop
Lindsey Jacobsen	Anne J. Smith
Induben Patel	Riteshkumar Patel
Phyllis Price	Ronnie & Betty Love
Majid Qaiser	Wanda Broady-Q-Hartman
Chuck & Eileen Rife	Almeda S. Kelly
Randall Shrewsberry	Letha C. Ratcliff
Ms. Mackie Walker	Betty Dollman Hall
Joan West	Rebecca West Smythers
Fred Dennis Williams	Barbara W. Metz
Rebecca Wilson	Sarah Kincaid
Seeker's Class Grandin Court Baptist Church	Edward & Janice Murray
Northside High School Class of 1986	Melissa Williams
Mary	David Young
In Jesus Name	Roger Holbrook

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

▶ *Continued from last page*

And she hopes that someday, when her family is back on its feet, she can extend that same kindness to someone else.

But today, families like Jessica's need our help.

Across our community, parents are making heartbreaking choices between paying bills and putting food on the table. And just when the need is greatest, food donations to the Rescue Mission are down.

We can't let empty pantry shelves become empty dinner tables.

Every can donated, every dollar given, and every Drumstick DASH registration helps provide food, relief, and hope to families struggling to make ends meet.

No mother should have to wonder how she will feed her children. No child should have to wonder when they will eat again.

This Thanksgiving, gratitude is more than something we feel. **It's something we do.**

Donate food. Give generously. Run or walk the DASH. Together, we can help put hope and a meal on every table.

Christmas at the Mission

Help us make Christmas special for all of our guests this year!

DONATIONS NEEDED

- **Women's Christmas Pajama Sets**—our team would like every woman to have a pair of Christmas pajamas to wear during Christmas celebrations.
  - –Need 50 sets - sized Small – XXLarge
  - –Available on Amazon now or at local stores
- **Children's Pajamas all sizes**—to be used as gifts for children in our shelter.
- **Supplies for Thanksgiving Feast and Christmas Feast**—*Contact Gina to see what is needed, or make a monetary donation directed to one of the Feasts.*
  - –Donate Pies of any kind the week of Thanksgiving
  - –Donate Christmas Cookies the week of Christmas
- **Boxes of Christmas Cards**
  - –Women's Shelter will use for guests to write cards to people in local Nursing Homes
  - –Manna Food Boxes will use them to send a Christmas message to our receiving families
- **Donate Gift Cards to be used as gifts for shelter families**
  - –$10 cards from McDonalds, Papa John's or Chik-Fil-A
  - –Cards of any amount from Walmart or Amazon
- **Donate Gift Cards for any local grocery store**—Women and Children Center want to cook a "family meal" together during the Holidays *(Director will use cards to purchase needed supplies)*
- **Purchase items that will be given as Christmas gifts to our Recovery Program participants**—Specific Items will be identified for purchase/contact us for assigned items; To be delivered unwrapped to the Rescue Mission by **December 4**
- **Christmas cookies (store bought fine), Hot Chocolate Packets, Apple Cider Packets, Candy Canes, and individually wrapped Christmas Candy**—to share with all visitors. Deliver to Mission **Nov 30-Dec 31**

**If toys are donated, they will be made available to current guests, past families and to the community to provide Christmas to their children.*
***Sign ups for volunteering for our Christmas Day Feast will be posted on our website on November 2, 2026.*

If you have any questions, contact: Gina Dunnavant - (540) 777-7656 or gina.dunnavant@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 November 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

Register Now!

Thanksgiving Morning 5K Run / Family Walk







2026
The Rescue Mission of Roanoke
DRUMSTICK DASH
PRESENTED BY Pinnacle FINANCIAL PARTNERS

MOVE YOUR FEET SO OTHERS CAN EAT!

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!

THE RESCUE MISSION OF ROANOKE SINCE 1948

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!

QUESTIONS? Contact us at dash@rescuemission.net