THE RESCUE MISSION OF ROANOKE
SINCE 1948

HELPING HURTING PEOPLE IN JESUS' NAME

October 2026
NEWSLETTER

DONATE ONLINE



Contact Us

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

Immediate Needs

- Women's Underwear
- Men's Underwear
- Hygiene Items
- Disposable Razors

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

Small Seeds, Growing Hope

By C. Lee Clark, Rescue Mission CEO

I was walking back to the Mission after a meeting with one of our community partners when I heard someone call from the sidewalk.

"Hey, Lee."

I stopped, walked over, and we began talking.

"You know I own the Rescue Mission," she told me matter-of-factly. "Y'all have 30 days to leave."

I called her by name, and we kept talking. She was calm and absolutely convinced that the Rescue Mission belonged to her.

I knew there was no value in arguing with her. What mattered in that moment was that she knew her name was known, that someone was listening, and that she was safe.

This woman is facing significant challenges, and our team walks alongside her in many different ways. Our Care Team provides case management. Medical professionals in Fralin Free Clinic help address her healthcare needs. Our Emergency Shelter team welcomes and supports her. And we work alongside community partners, including medical and mental health providers and Adult Protective Services.

No one person or program has the answer.

Instead, together we build on strengths, establish trust, create safety, and look for the next healthy step forward.

Sometimes that step may seem very small.

But small steps matter.

When someone has experienced homelessness, trauma, mental illness, addiction, or other significant challenges, the journey toward stability can feel overwhelming. Before someone can think about housing or long-term goals, they may first need to know: **Am I safe? Does someone know my name? Is there someone here I can trust?**

At the Rescue Mission, we have the

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Small Seeds, Growing Hope

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privilege of answering those questions day after day.

Yes, you are safe here. Yes, we know your name. Yes, we will keep walking with you.

And then, we get to watch those small steps grow into something extraordinary.

You'll meet Sam in this month's newsletter.

There was a time when Sam was unsheltered and felt trapped in a cycle of homelessness that seemed beyond his control. The road from there to having a home of his own didn't happen all at once.

There was a photo ID to obtain.
A housing voucher to secure.
Apartments to visit. Forms to complete. Setbacks and moments when the process felt overwhelming.

Sam was one of more than **1,500 visits** to our Care Team over the past few months. Through it all, our team continued to encourage him: **Take the next step. Then the next one.**

Today, Sam has a home of his own.

And perhaps one of the most beautiful parts of his story is what he wants to do next: come back to the Rescue Mission and volunteer so he can help others who are still experiencing crisis.

Jesus once described the Kingdom of Heaven as a mustard seed—the smallest of seeds that, when planted, grows into something large enough to provide shelter in its branches.

I think we see mustard seeds every day at the Rescue Mission.

A meal.
A safe bed.
A conversation.
A doctor's appointment.
A photo ID.
A housing application.
A person who remembers your name.
A donor who gives.
A volunteer who shows up.

These are small seeds, planted faithfully.

We don't always know which one will take root or how long it will take to grow. But we keep planting. We keep showing up, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And because friends like you continue to plant seeds of compassion, care, prayer, and generosity alongside us, people in crisis have a place where hope can begin to grow.

Sam's story reminds us what can happen when it does.

Today he has a home.

Tomorrow, he hopes to help someone else find theirs.

"Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree…" — Matthew 13:32

Will you join us in planting the next seed of hope?

Whatever you can do—however you can help—it matters. A gift, a prayer, an hour of service, a word of encouragement. Especially running or walking in the 21st Annual Drumstick DASH. We may not always know which seed will take root, but together, we can keep planting.

Thank you for planting seeds of hope with us.

Volunteers: The Heart of the Rescue Mission



Downtown Roanoke Rotary Club



United Healthcare



Hollins University Soccer Team

A Place to Call Home – Sam's Story

By Lisa Thompson, Rescue Mission Development Director







When Sam sat down on the couch in his new apartment, he couldn't stop smiling. It wasn't just a comfortable place to sit. It was his couch.

And after more than a year of uncertainty, that simple moment represented something much bigger: **a harvest of hope that had been growing one step at a time.**

Sam, a veteran, came to the Rescue Mission after facing tremendous obstacles and finding himself without a place to call home. Like so many who walk through our doors, he needed more than a roof over his head. He needed time. Stability. Encouragement. And people willing to walk alongside him as he began rebuilding his life.

Sometimes hope begins with something as simple as a hot meal, a safe bed and someone saying, *"We're here. Let's figure out the next step together."*

For Sam, those small seeds began to grow.

Over the months, the Rescue Mission Care Team helped him navigate the steps toward greater stability and independence. Through our partnership with the VA, Sam was connected with resources available to him as a veteran and, eventually, an apartment of his own.

Then something wonderful happened.

Teams from across the Rescue Mission began coming together to help turn Sam's empty apartment into a home.

Sonia, our Aftercare Coordinator, walked alongside Sam as he prepared for the move and shopped for the things he would need. 2nd Helpings Thrift provided a furniture voucher, giving Sam the opportunity to choose furnishings for his new space.

But the help didn't stop at the store.

Our **Donation Center team helped move the furniture to Sam's apartment and set it up**, making sure that when he walked through the door, his new home was beginning to take shape.

And our **Chaplaincy team prepared a special Welcome Home Basket**, filled with practical essentials like cleaning supplies and household goods—the everyday things that help make a new place feel like home.

Different departments. Different gifts. Different ways of serving. **All working together toward one moment.** Then came the day everyone had been working toward.

Sam received the keys to his own apartment.

There was paperwork to finish, furniture to arrange and all the little details that come with settling into a new place.

But the most important thing in that apartment couldn't be purchased, delivered or placed in a welcome basket. It was the feeling of belonging. The peace of closing the front door and knowing that, on the other side

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In Memory & Honor of...

For Memory and Honor Gifts received August 10 through September 9

IN MEMORY OF	GIVEN BY
Lucille McGuire Bowling	Steven & Deana Buck
Adriane Bryant	Linda C. Mercer Royal
Jalene Buck	Ann Hatcher
Harry E. Campbell, Sr.	James L. Campbell
Betty Carlson	George W. Carlson, Sr.
Aaron Conner	Ken & Patsy Conner
Todd D.	Daniel & Carol Maderic
Marian Dodson	Ronnie & Betty Love
James & Ruth Downs	Phillip L. Downs
Benjamin Emerson	Robert A. Emerson
Thelma Hanvey	Donnie R. Hanvey
Kyle J. Harmon	Chris Lehman
Randy Harrison	Carl Harrison
John & Rosemary Hitchins	John G. Hitchins, Jr.
Noemi & Vernon Jamison	Arcola Lions Club
Sheryl Johnson	Steve Johnson
Rev. Clyde B. Lehman	Chris Lehman
Gladis Lehman	Chris Lehman

IN MEMORY OF	GIVEN BY
Richard Ludlow	Kyra Ludlow
Wayne McKinney	James & Willena DeLong
Wandy & Sidney Miller	Ruthmarie Willson
Wanda Miller	Jackson L. Dickerson
David Owens	James & Willena DeLong
Darlene Rice	Thomas A. Rice
Dan Zuro	William & Lynette Martin
Curt & Lee's Pennies-A-Mile	Jabez & Brenda Beckner, Sr.

IN HONOR OF	GIVEN BY
Rev. Janet Chisom	Frank & Norma Francisco
Ruth Fleisher (7/5 Birthday)	Betty Dollman Hall
Dr. Norman B. Holden, M.D.	Nora E. Bryant
Douglas Leftwich, II	Betty J. Durrette
David & Mary Powell	Andrew L. Powell
Paul & Donna Powell	Robert & Diane Zeller
Randall Shrewsberry	Letha C. Ratcliff
Joan West	Linda W. Harry

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

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of it, was a place that was finally **his**.

And our care for Sam doesn't end when the door closes.

Moving into a home is an incredible milestone, but staying successfully housed is just as important. As the Rescue Mission's Aftercare Coordinator, Sonia will continue to stay connected with Sam over the next year—checking in, offering encouragement and helping him navigate challenges that could threaten the stability he has worked so hard to achieve.

Because our goal isn't simply to help someone find housing.

It's to help them build a life there.

Today, Sam's apartment is more than four walls. It is stability. Independence. A fresh start. And it is a beautiful reminder that transformation rarely happens in a single moment—or because of a single person.

It grows.

It grows through every meal served and every safe night of shelter. Through conversations with a case manager and connections to community resources. Through a furniture voucher, a truck loaded for a move, a Welcome Home Basket—and through a familiar voice that continues to call and ask, **"How are you doing?"**

And it grows because generous people throughout our community make all of those moments possible. Sam reminds us what that harvest can look like.

It looks like a set of keys. A Welcome Home Basket sitting on the counter. Furniture carefully moved into place. A couch in a new apartment.

And a veteran sitting on that couch, smiling because, after a long journey, he finally has a place to call his own.

You Help Hope Grow

Every gift plants a seed of hope for a neighbor in need. Together, our donors, volunteers, team members, and community partners nurture those seeds through meals, shelter, encouragement and practical support. And sometimes, we are blessed to see the harvest: a new beginning, a set of keys and a place to call home.

Thank you for helping us cultivate a Harvest of Hope all year long.



THE RESCUE MISSION OF ROANOKE
SINCE 1948

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 October 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





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