



Instill Hope Empower Lives

Campaign to Renovate our Family Place Community Rescue Mission



Children experiencing life transition are among the most invisible and neglected individuals in our nation. Despite their ever-growing number, children have no voice and no constituency. Without a bed to call their own, they have lost safety, privacy, and the comforts of home, as well as friends, pets, possessions, reassuring routines, and community. These losses combine to create a life-altering experience that inflicts profound and lasting scars. That's where we come in; because the children in our care are surrounded by a temporary support system. We want them to feel safe, secure and loved while their parents receive help to get back on their feet.

Our long days of planning now pale by comparison to the remarkable inspired vision which has emerged to focus on families and children. That does not mean we will not serve the needs of a few serious-minded others who need emergency care and transitional housing, but it does mean we will plan our campus renovation and programs to accommodate families and children. This plan enlivens our campus and aligns facilities with our mission. Nothing like this is currently available to minister and serve the complex life needs of children, youth, and families in Fort Smith.

This project reflects our long-term commitment to serve disenfranchised families and children in the City of Fort Smith. It builds upon our 36-year history of service and care. Our missional goal is to instill hope and empower lives. We accomplish this by providing Christ-like hospitality, safe shelter, nutritious meals, empowering life assistance, and spiritual renewal opportunities, all of which combine to defray the pain of transition for families and children. This plan will help us create the best possible environment for families and children and allow us to extend our services to more

CRM Quick Facts

- More than 36 years of continuing service to people in crisis in the Fort Smith area.
- We are a faith-based organization; and receive no funding from state or federal grants.
- We manage wisely and have no debt. That allows us to use donor gifts in service to others, not toward paying interest.
- The campus renovation will be funded by special capital gifts.
- We operate in the black with an annual budget of approximately \$400,000.
- Our board is composed of 15 individuals who represent various congregations in town.
- Our staff are qualified and experienced.

When lives are transformed, everything changes



Other Quick Facts

Community Rescue Mission is a lifeline for those with nowhere to turn for help.

We serve more families and children than any other agency in Fort Smith. Though we have the largest capacity to help, we must frequently turn families away due to limited capacity.

- We can serve up to 12 families, depending on the number of children.
- The length of stay is determined by family need and circumstance. A Typical stay ranges from 30 - 90 days. More important than the number of days is resident involvement in the programs we offer to enable the family to prepare for transitioning into a place of their own.
- Community Rescue Mission is a drug and alcohol-free environment.
- Residents have daily responsibilities designed to emphasize responsibility and accountability.
- Participation in non-denominational chapel services are required and individual Bible and life enrichment studies are available.
- We maintain membership in the National Association of Gospel Rescue Missions, a widely recognized professional association.



Faithful volunteers keep us going.

"The Mission is a safe-haven to cope with all of my problems and transform them with solutions; and better myself as a mom. The staff treats us with respect, not as inferiors. I never feel 'talked at' or 'talked down to.' The Mission is not just a place to sleep, eat, and shower. It is helping me step up the ladder, instead of shaking it while I climb!" TD resident, age 29

This is How We Instill Hope and Empower Lives

We assist our residents in negotiating through the network of other available assistance programs for which they qualify.

We help residents find employment, pursue educational opportunities, address medical issues, and find permanent housing.

We work closely with the schools to assure our children are enrolled and participating.

We teach practical skills, like family budgeting, parenting, how to set short term and long-term life goals. Accountability is woven into everything we do.

We model a healthy family lifestyle with simple things like family game night and sitting down together as a family for the evening meal.

Through our clothing ministry, managed solely by our committed volunteers, we provide appropriate, seasonal clothing for those we serve.

Through our association with our hub partners, like the Sack Lunch Program, and the Antioch Community Garden, we participate in making it possible for thousands of people to receive daily meals who are not among our residents, because we want no person to go hungry.

Last year we served more than 46,000 meals.

Our Vision for the Future Focuses on Families and Children

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Community Rescue Mission

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The Community Rescue Mission Board and Staff have been diligent in planning efforts to chart an inspiring vision for our future. The planning process has been rooted in prayer and motivated by a strong commitment to share the love of God through transitional housing and programs, which instill hope and empower lives. For many of our children, God's love is experienced through a nourishing lunch, a quieting word from our case managers, attention and care from a volunteer tutor, and a fun and safe place to be after school. God blesses our faithful service by entrusting us with the privilege to show God's love to the people we serve. Our staff and many volunteers serve our community with helping hands and loving hearts.



Partners in serving people

For more than 3 decades, Community Rescue Mission and the City of Fort Smith have shared mutual goals for a certain quality of life, safety, and prosperity for its citizens. This mutual commitment continues. Ever improving and growing, Fort Smith is now the second largest city in Arkansas and people from all walks of life are attracted here for various reasons. This vision will enable Community Rescue Mission to address certain facility needs to better serve families and children with transitional housing and life skill programs. While we have a strong history of transformational ministry in Fort Smith and the River Valley, the need for assistance to families and children is great.

Preparing for the Future

Our facilities have served our needs, and constant use by people in crisis takes a certain toll. Though we once served public needs in addition to our own residents, the vision today and the future focuses on families and children. There is little capacity among other agencies in Fort Smith and the River Valley to serve families and children with temporary, transitional housing and programs to help families get back on their feet. Today, 16 school children will come home on the school bus to Community Rescue Mission.

Components of our Campus Vision

- ① A masterplan for campus beautification, which reflects our beautiful neighborhood will guide campus redevelopment. The overall look and feel of the campus will be welcoming and home-like, reflecting the warmth and care as represented by the quality of care we provide. We envision pedestrian walkways and a courtyard, which includes plenty of green space, trees, outdoor lighting, landscaping, and new fencing.
- ② A master site plan will be developed for proper and maximum utilization of space. Any existing buildings not suitable for renovation or our needs will be razed. Every area of our campus will be improved as a result of the masterplan. Safety will be addressed through improved technology.
- ③ Family apartments will be enlarged and equipped with individual bathrooms. To accomplish this in the early phases, we will renovate the existing 12 rooms and configure 8 dwellings. Each will have its own private bathroom. Since we never know the number of children a family may include, secure doors between all adjoining rooms will be installed to allow flexibility to maximize use of space. New floors, ceilings, lighting, and windows to let in the light of God's creation will be installed. ADA compliant rooms will be included.
- ④ Family transitional housing will be expanded within our current footprint by renovating the existing 20-person dorm-style housing for individual family apartments. This also aides in security for our families and children, as all will be located on the main campus. Other individuals needing help will occupy newly configured rooms in the existing facility across the street from the main campus.
- ⑤ The dining room, one of our primary campus gathering spots, will be renovated to include space for a small library and art gallery. This gallery is already being developed in the existing space as an enrichment for our residents. We hope to expand this area to include space for art and life-skill classes. When meal service is not underway, this space will become more multiuse in nature and permit us to host business, service, community and city groups.
- ⑥ Special areas will be created for families and children, recreation, and new and expanded play areas just for children.
- ⑦ This bold vision includes creating a multiuse facility to centralize staff offices, and provide family multi-use space and indoor recreational activities. New transitional housing in years to come may be possible, as called for in the masterplan and as funds become available. The masterplan will be prepared in phases.

A comprehensive capital campaign will seek gifts and pledges from individuals and foundations to fund all improvements. This will be a significant and impactful investment in the lives of the people we serve and in the City of Fort Smith.