

Norfolk



Mission

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*Helping the Hurting and the
Homeless
in the Name of Jesus Christ*

“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, ^[a] I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me” Psalm 23:4.

How much we all need to hear and believe these words that we have a Heavenly Father who is with us through this pandemic. This pandemic has turned our lives “*upside down*”. As we have had to put school, graduations, weddings, birthday parties, and the birth of a grandchild and even corporate worship in our Churches on hold. We find ourselves living in fear of the unknown, not knowing what or when we will continue with our normal lives.

How comforting it is to know we have a Savior and believe that He is beside us day in and day out. For those who don’t know Him, they are living in the deepest fear of all. We are steadfast in our commitment to share the Gospel everyday and take the opportunity as we check in our guests that come from the streets. They come in fearful and lonely and abandoned. Orphaned by their choice of sins that have enslaved them for years. That fear is very real to them and yet they do not have a way out but to try conquering it on their own.

Through this pandemic it is so reassuring that we can keep our operations up and running and try to keep the “*normal*” in the lives of our guests. We are on the front lines and we are the “*essentials*” that serve every day along side each other. We are finding we are wearing many hats on campus.

Our New Life participants are working hard every day in this fight as we try to remain normal. One of my ladies stated the other day that this was teaching her a great lesson; that **His Grace is Sufficient** that all her needs are being met and she is learning to be content.

We never know if we are getting a truckload of peppers or carload of paper products. With each donation we receive, we dive right in, eagerly put it away and are always in awe of what has arrived. It is with great pride that I can still report that we are preparing and serving three hot meals a day 7 days a week.

We are still able to check in guests, give them a bed for the night, and clean clothes to wear. We are doing our part; keeping everything sanitized and clean for our guests to maintain a good healthy environment. We are their safe place in that this is their “home” and we can give them a place to be throughout the day where they can “stay home”, follow the social distance, and not be out on the streets.

This past week we celebrated our Holy Week and Easter Service on Sunday. As we watched our church message live streaming, it was very clear that this year was different for many. It is very evident that we can all say Easter was not canceled due to the pandemic virus. Because that **Jesus is Alive** and His sacrifice for us on the **Cross on Calvary** is the same now and that will never change. Though we all worshiped differently this year, we all worshiped a Savior that came and sought us out.

That through all the ugliness in this world we are facing and continue to face that there is a Mighty God who loves us. On that day, Jesus was resurrected from the Grave and gave us **New Life**. It is such an honor to share this everyday with so many that come in fear. It is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that can radically change their lives if they will believe and receive it. That is our Hope for our guests, young and old.

We have a dedicated staff that through all the weariness of the battle we are in comes every day with Hope and the message of Jesus Christ. And let me tell you it has been weary at times. When this all started over 6 weeks ago I kept thinking how are we going to survive. Then we are reminded that we serve a Mighty GOD, A God who is able and just and A God who can calm the seas and take our anxiety away.

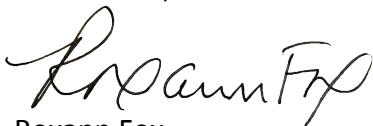
One thing remains the same and that is we have such loyal partners in each one of you. Your faithfulness has helped us endure this past month and your donations have been just what we needed. Our pantry is full so we are able to share and make food boxes for those who need it. There are many in our community that have not come and ask for help before but now they find themselves unemployed and in need of assistance. We are so thankful we can serve them without question because we know that these times are tough. Our clothing room and shed remain open.

In the beginning of the pandemic, we were already financially burdened by not being able to meet our bills or pay roll expense. As we head into our summer months, we anticipate we will be struggling but God is Sovereign. We are thankful for every dollar that comes in and we want you to know we are being good stewards with the blessings that you provide. We are praying we will be able to have our Book Sale in August; we will keep you informed.

In the midst of this, we have **Hope**. We have **Hope** that this will all end soon and we get back to business in our communities. We have **Hope** that the fear will subside and people will cling to Jesus for their strength. We have **Hope** that Glory days are ahead and our Savior is making a place for us. We have **Hope** that we are alive and through Jesus, we are set free.

Please know how much we appreciate you and your faithfulness to keep our Ministry going. Please keep praying for our staff and all of our guests. We are all in this together and we are praying for you and your families. May God Bless and Restore our Nation once again.

In His Name,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roxann Fox". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Roxann Fox