

Norfolk

RESCUE

Mission

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

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58.

I never realized the interpretation of these words until I served alongside many that come to volunteer at the Rescue Mission. It also is true of the Rescue Mission team that God has placed in our four buildings. I wish I could let you see firsthand that it takes a “village to take care of a village.” It is happening here on campus. We have a retired gentleman that comes faithfully every week to just pull weeds and clean up the rocks. We have a drug court participant who serves every weekend in our Dining Room Ministry preparing meals for our guests. We have a young lady who comes during the week to clean the kitchen. We have several groups that partner with us in serving meals on their “adopted” night of each month. For all this, we are truly thankful. Amid all the weariness of the pandemic, our volunteers have stayed steadfast and serving alongside us each day. This has been vital during these past five months to keep our operations running as normal as possible.

Our meals have once again picked up in numbers, and we are seeing new guests come and take advantage of what we can offer them. It was just last night that I was able to have a volunteer come and trim the hair of a few of our guests. All it took was a phone call to let her know of a need, and she was here to meet that need. Throughout the month, we post items we are low on, and it is amazing the response of our donors who drop by with those items. **Romans 12:13 says “Practice hospitality, share with a neighbor in need.”** This goes on day and after day, and it is magnificent to see the abounding donations that come in to put away on our shelves.

As we approached the Book Sale, we called on two youth groups from First Christian and Northern Heights for their labor of moving all 25,000 books. It was evident their heart of service as they got the job done. When we work alongside these youth, it is so awesome to see their hands at the task and no complaining, but asking, “What more can we do?”

In this way, we teach our men and women in the Discipleship classes that hard work will build a strong work ethic. I remember coming from jail many years ago when asked to work in the kitchen to cook or clean. At first, I did not want to do anything but mope around and be depressed. When I was asked to do dishes or prepare a meal, it slowly started to change my heart until I wanted to serve more and more. The men and women that come from the same despair are serving the mission by doing dishes and chores to keep their dorms neat and tidy. They are cleaning themselves up and looking for work for the first time in many months.

Our guests range from 18 to 58 years of age right now.

He brought me out into a broad place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me. 2 Sam. 22:20 ESV

Sometimes as staff, we see repeaters that come often, stay their length of time, then leave, and we get discouraged. Discouraged that they cannot get it together and live independently or keep a job. Discouraged that men and women that we have invested many hours in, leave us and we never hear from them again. Nevertheless, God's Word reminds us that our labor and work is not in vain, He has a plan, and His plans will happen in His time. We are here to serve, plant the seeds, and share of the love of his Son Jesus Christ. We are to come to work each day with a purpose and be faithful and steadfast in all we do.

For all of you partnering with us in this walk, we thank you over and over. Whether you are sending in a financial blessing, praying for us, or dropping off food for our kitchen, we thank you. Our work does not go unnoticed; and some work is thankless, but our God, whom we serve, sees all, and He will reward our hard work.

As we approach November, you must all know by now that I am very focused on our upcoming **Rescue Mission Banquet**. Our banquet will have a special Guest of Honor as always: our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, surrounded by tables of families, donors, and volunteers.

Our **November 12 Banquet** will be slightly different this year, as we will need to adapt to some revised gathering guidelines. We will be setting **tables of eight** (rather than ten) and will have a **pre-plated serving line** rather than a self-serve buffet. These changes should be no problem.

The doors will still open at 5:30 pm, and the program will begin at 6:30 pm.

Another exciting change is the establishment of our new Banquet Underwriting Partnerships:

Friends of Rescue	\$200
Rescue Partners	\$500
Rescue Heroes	\$1,000

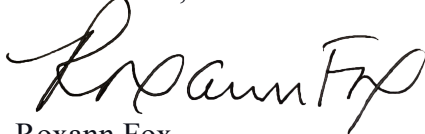
Banquet Underwriting and Seat Reservations will be separated this year. **All tables will be set up as Open Seating**. Reservations will still be required, but seating will be granted on a first come-first served basis.

As always, we need your prayers first and foremost. We are in our summer months, and our finances are dwindling. We are asking for donations to get us jump-started once again. We covet all your prayers and blessings to our Ministry, and we thank you repeatedly for partnering with us to keep the Gospel alive around our campus.

By now the Book Sale is done, and our backs are feeling tired. However, you can rest assured our lights are always on for the next guest coming to check-in or the next donation drop-off.

Hebrews 12:1 “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”

In His Name,



Roxann Fox
Director of Women's Ministry

He brought me out into a broad place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me. 2 Sam. 22:20 ESV