

Norfolk

RESCUE

Mission

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

February 2021

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1Thessalonians 5:16-18) Through the last ten months at the Norfolk Rescue Mission, this verse has been our cornerstone. I cannot put into words the love and gratitude we have first and foremost for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, second for the steadfast loyalty of our staff and team of volunteers, and then to all of you who earnestly invest in this ministry.

At times during this pandemic, we found ourselves wavering in our faith and taking deep breaths. Those moments seem to last forever, but then we look around at the generosity of you and this community in providing for all of our needs, and we can only stand in AWE. We did not choose the circumstances that lead to many months of fear, anxiety or stress for many of our guests and families. Yet through it all, we can still proclaim **Jesus is King and Ruler of our Nation**; it is **He** who provides the saving grace to those who come through our doors.

Philippians 4:6-7 says, **“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”**

We are so thankful that our year 2020 ended with full freezers and stocked cupboards. What a remarkable sight to see the pantry full and plentiful. The phone was constantly ringing at Christmas time with questions like “What do you need or what can we provide?” At first, my usual answer was, “trash bags, instant potatoes, dish soap, and meat.” but over time my responses changed, as I could not see anything we needed or wanted. **God had faithfully filled all the holes and closed the gaps!**

We were able to celebrate the birth of our Savior with a nice meal, a chapel message, and gifts for all our guests. We had a sweet group of singers come to sing carols for our guests at supper. We were able to host a Christmas party for several families because of your generous contributions. We were also able to bless several families with a food box and ham for their Christmas dinner. We took in a family of six and they were able to stay with us until they could move into their own home once again.

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3:17)

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

Our men and women on the *New Life Discipleship* program are such a breath of fresh air. We have such a great group this season and they have weathered the storm with us. They work endless hours around the campus and are **building not only strong faith but a strong work ethic.**

Last week we were able to take our discipleship team on a mission trip to Wagner, South Dakota, where we served a community that so desperately needed fresh supplies of food and clothing. We took the Gospel with us and the disciples bravely shared **“the Love of Jesus and what He is doing in their lives”**. They spent many hours preparing for the trip. One of the ladies on the team stated that this was her first missionary trip. How awesome was that, to have her serve and work, showing love and kindness with people she had never met. We are planning another trip as soon as it warms up. Please pray for this community as they were hit hard with the Covid virus and have so many without work.

Another new chapter for our *New Life* participants; we are challenging them to go to the YMCA and begin a regular health and fitness routine. We are teaching them that their bodies are God’s temple. As we instill God’s truth into their hearts and minds, we also need to encourage them to keep their bodies healthy. We are so thankful for the sponsorship enabling us to do this. One of the men said it had been 29 years since he had lifted weights or had been to the gym.

We have set some good goals and projects to update our campus this year. I am so thrilled about the Hope House interior getting a fresh coat of paint and a fresh new office space. What a New Year this has already become. Last year, we were able to make significant repairs to the foundation of the Faith House as well as installing new air conditioners in the Hope House dorms. We have several more items on the to-do list and it is such a blessing to be able to check off each item one by one.

As we begin February, and into 2021, we are reminded of all the things our Lord has done and continues to do for us. He already has some guests and families in mind that He will be sending to get a new start. **He is in total control and we work for Him, as Ambassadors for Christ to bring those guests to Him.**

On behalf of the Norfolk Rescue Mission team, we are very thankful for all of you. We will be praying for the coming year, our new President, and the many that will come through our doors. We hope to see you or hear from you soon. We would love to pray for any of your needs as well.

In His name,

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

Roxann Fox

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