

www.norfolkrescue.org



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

"I will give you thanks with all my heart; I will sing your praise before the heavenly beings, I will bow down toward your holy temple, and give thanks to your name for your constant love and truth. You have exalted your name and your promise above everything else" (Psalm 138:1-3)

This is coming from a very thankful heart. I think this comes from all our hearts, as we look back on the last **25 years** that the Norfolk Rescue Mission has been open. Our doors have opened and never closed. There have been thousands of men, women, and children who have come through our doors at 111 N 9th. I do not have an accurate number, but I know it is big.

When speaking about the Mission, one of my favorite things to talk about is our Dining Room Ministry. I put some numbers together and found that over the past 25 years, we have prepared over 27,000 thousand meals, including 9,125 breakfasts! This is not even counting the to-go plates we send out. I am so proud that we can serve three meals a day, seven days a week.

Another outstanding statistic is the men and women who have come to take part in the chapel ministry each night; **the Gospel message has been shared over 9,100 times.** This does not include the many gospel conversations that the staff has had with our guests who have resided here.

When Pastor Tom came with his vision and desire to serve the hurting and the homeless, I think he saw the bigger picture that **what he started was going to be around for many years.** All it takes is a need, that need was met with a building, and from there we are holding steadfast in what our ministry is all about.

## I wait anxiously to see what God will be doing in the next 25 years in Ministry at the Norfolk Rescue Mission.

**One thing will remain the same: the Gospel.** It does not change nor has our staff changed in their dedication to uphold it. Through the years God has put a team together that has many gifts. From our Pastors and their teaching and guidance to technical computer extraordinaires, hospitality to our guests, evangelism, handyman, and a prayerful staff, we all fit together as one.

A few updates for us to share, our Book Sale was a huge success with a new venue and new hours. The first night was a record-breaker. It is always so fun to see all of our faithful shoppers year after year. This year we topped our sales at \$20,000. This was because of the many, many, many boxes of books donated by you, almost daily, throughout the year. This is one of our biggest fundraisers, and we are already gearing up for next year.

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

Another exciting event is our **25th Anniversary Banquet**, which will be held on Thursday, November 11, 2021. This year's banquet will be held at the *Midtown Event Center* at 1102 Riverside Blvd. **To celebrate 25 years, we will be making tickets available for purchase at \$25 each.** Please indicate on your check memo if you are purchasing banquet tickets. We are expecting a dynamic message from Manny Mill, Director of *Koinonia House Ministries* in Wheaton, IL. As always, we have some great food and great music lined up. And yes, there will be a fantastic silent auction!

With a very thankful heart, I cannot put into words just how much this ministry has affected our community. I am very honored to be part of God's work here every day. We are called for action and faithfulness and we are His coworkers. Each one of you plays a huge part in this day-to-day operation. Please pray for us as we do this work. Please continue to support us in the special way you have and continue to do. We would love to know how to pray for you and your family too. We look forward to hearing from you soon about our banquet.

In His Name,

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