



Mission

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

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**Matthew 25:35” For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was Thirsty, and you gave me a drink, I was a stranger, and you welcomed me”.**

This is one of my favorite verses in God’s Word as it talks about hospitality. Biblical hospitality is showing fervent, welcoming love and affection for others in our midst who have special needs of food, shelter and care by virtue of their transient status.

This describes what we do at the Norfolk Rescue Mission. First and foremost, we want to share God’s love with our guests through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As we welcome new guests into the Mission, we have the opportunity to not only meet their physical needs but to introduce them to our great Savior.

A ministry of hospitality can be discouraging as we encounter many who don’t want to be rescued and just want a place to stay or go through the motions. What a joy, however, when we do find a guest who truly wants to surrender to the Lord, better her life and begin supporting herself.

The other day I had a past disciple stop to say hello and let me know how she was doing. **She graduated from the New Life Program seven years ago, and thankfully, she is doing so well.** She was telling me about the Bible study at her church and how she was remembering all that she had learned in her classes here at the Mission. She began tearing up and explaining that the seeds that were planted in her life are finally maturing. She is now a growing Christian because of her time here in the New Life Program. When she first arrived, she was very lost and was steeped in addiction. I honestly did not think she would stay more than a few days. I am glad to have been proven wrong, when she not only exceeded a few days, but went on to graduate the program.

**“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some people have shown hospitality to angels unawares.** (Hebrews 13:2) I do not know if we have actually had any angels check in to our dorms lately, but we strive daily to practice Biblical hospitality.

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

We shine in our dining room ministry where we provide a sweet devotion or reading before lunch and a chapel message before the evening meal. We are so thankful for the resources to continue this ministry. **It is because of your faithful and regular donations of food and financial support that we continue day by day.** Our numbers have been up and down this past season. We don't always know how many to prepare for, but God always makes it work out.

At the present time our breakfast cooks are requesting donations of instant oatmeal, sausage links and frozen waffles. We are so thankful for anything we receive for our pantry or freezer. Our men's staff along with the men disciples prepare breakfast every morning and they have become quite the Chefs of the Kitchen.

With the season now changing to spring, we can start putting away our winter gear. The other day I opened all the windows in the Hope House office, and it was so nice to hear the sweet birds singing and the cars driving by. I love this time of year with flowers popping up in the crisp air.

We had a great youth group come yesterday to help clean up our yard and campus grounds. Come May, we will be planting flowers to beautify our campus.

The month of May will also bring our annual **Law Enforcement and Emergency Personnel Appreciation Barbecue!** This year's event will be held on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. We love to bless all of the law enforcement agencies and rescue squads in and around Madison County. All who attend are served a top-notch meal and given a warm, hospitable welcome and thank you. If any of you would like to donate a few homemade pies, we would certainly appreciate it. We could also use a few volunteers to help prepare for that week. Call me if you have any questions.

Our **Annual Book Sale** may be four months away, but that doesn't stop us from working on it all year long. We are currently receiving many great book donations that get sorted, categorized and boxed, ready to be sold later in August. We are always looking for volunteers to help move our tables and boxes of books to the Stables. Please let Pastor Will know if you are available to help with this event.

We are excited to keep sharing with you all our Missions' happenings and needs. We would love to visit with you more if you would ever want to stop by for a tour. Thank you for supporting us in what we do; keeping our lights on and our doors open for the next person needing help.

In Jesus Name,



Roxann Fox

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