

homewardbound



He planned to step in front of a bus . . .

In April of 2013, Lenny was emotionally empty! He had already attempted suicide once to end the long run of drug use and heavy drinking. As he sat across the street from the Mission, his only thought was that he wanted to die. He was contemplating stepping in front of a truck or bus.

“I was pretty gone.”

Instead, the Lord gave Lenny a push to walk in the front doors of the Mission. Those steps led to a new life! He didn’t come to the Mission to get help. If you ask him, he will solemnly tell you that the grace of God and his mercy got him across that street.

Lenny shares that when he walked in that door the faces that welcomed him didn’t ask about his past. They asked what he planned to do from then on. Like so many others he speaks of the immense love he felt, and he was blown away. It had been years since he felt that kind of love. He felt his burden lifted.

Lenny completed the Victory Program and became an integral part of the Mission staff. Along that path, transformations took place. Lenny learned that **it is not enough to gain head knowledge of the Word of God but to put it into principle and live out the application of the Word of God.**

“But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 19:14).

Lenny needed to have Christ in his life. When he came to Christ, he shares it was like Christ coming to a little child and putting His arms around him and saying . . . “Hey, buddy, everything is going to be alright; I got this.”

Every day at the Mission Lenny sees that thought play out. He has served in many capacities since his recovery from emptiness to fullness in Christ. Currently, he is the Volunteer Coordinator.

To you the donors, Lenny wants to say, **“THANK YOU.”** He knows many question if their gifts really make a difference. His answer to that question is simply, **“IT SAVED MY LIFE.”**

If not for faithful friends of the Durham Rescue Mission and the dedication of those who serve at the Mission, he recognizes he would not be alive. **Because of your generous gifts, and the love of a Savior who led him to his second chance, Lenny looks forward to continuing his work for others who don’t yet know the Mission will be what saves their lives too.**

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The Official Newsletter of

DURHAM

RESCUE

MISSION

MINISTRIES, INC.

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Restoring Families and Giving Hope

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A WORD OF THANKS AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE FOUNDERS

We are the same today as we were yesterday, and we will be tomorrow ... on God's loving path!

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:6-7

Dear Friend of the Durham Rescue Mission,

It feels as if we have just blinked and yet we find ourselves coming up on the 46th year of the Mission. Almost half a century ... such a long time yet so insignificant in relation to eternity.

Our journey began with a calling on our hearts to serve those in need and share the love of Jesus Christ with a desire to transform lives for his honor.

We have not wavered from that original plan that the Lord set on our hearts!

Times have changed repeatedly since that first day of the Mission opening. We have weathered through crisis, economic ups & downs, times of great joy, and times of hardship alike. Yet through it all, **God has shown HIS faithfulness!**

Many of you have been on this journey with us for a very long time and we are so appreciative of your dedication and support. Some of you are newer friends of the Mission and we would like to assure you that our greatest heart's desire is to be a rock of hope in this community.

Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, **One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.** (Mark 10:21)

We are thankful for these words from our Savior! They are a constant reminder that our brief time on this earth is ours to serve and follow His age-old path of spreading the love of His Father. And, helping brothers and sisters to shed the addictions that bind them. **Thank you, Lord!**

Reaching out to the homeless and hungry — together,

Ernie & Gail Mills, Co-founders

P.S. If you'd like to join in our vision to share Christ's redemptive love with all in need, consider contributing through a generous gift to provide meals, and clean safe shelter to the most vulnerable during this time of great need.

Mission Statement

“Our mission is to meet, through the power of Jesus Christ, the needs of the whole person — spiritual, educational, emotional, physical, vocational, and social — so those who are hurting may become fully functioning members of society.”



**The heart of
God is to love
people...**

Linda

Linda Coble is a fifth grade math/science teacher gifted with a servant's heart. Her kind spirit is infectious. Three years ago, God shifted her into the student seat for a bit as she first came to know of the Durham Rescue Mission with her Crossroads Fellowship Church's Missions Team.

The church team with a group of their middle school youth came to the Mission for a three-day trip to teach them about the love of God through service. They spent three days cooking for the Mission and working in one of the thrift stores alongside clients from all backgrounds. They saw addiction firsthand and they listened to story after story of how it so quickly can take hold of life. In those three days' time, they soaked in their surroundings and began to see God at work in many lives.

When Linda is asked today about that first trip to the Mission, she will tell you, "We learned how to show the love of God in hard places!" The missions team witnessed just how God's love is never-ending despite our choices. They felt more deeply the truth that God loves everyone even when they are their most unlovable and find themselves in the darkest, hardest places in life.

Even more important was the realization that we all have a calling as followers of Jesus ... that is to serve others ... even those who are struggling most in this world, men and women who are homeless, scared, and even angry. The most menial of tasks often show the needy in our area that they are worth more than they believe. It can be the first step to opening their hearts and minds to a change they desperately want in life but did not feel they were worth it.

The tiniest task can illuminate God's love in a ray of light that gives way to hope!

"Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD." Through service at the Mission, Linda and her children praise the Lord to this day bringing hope to those who seek shelter and life-changing love.

Don't Forget . . .

Did you know that your generosity has the potential to be doubled?

Many companies offer matching gift opportunities. Please check to see if your employer offers a matching gift program! If they do then check to see if we are on their list. Rescue Mission Ministries, Inc. (EIN #58-1482590) is recognized as an organization that has been granted exemption from Federal Income Tax under section 501(c)(3) and non-private foundation status of 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(i) of the Internal Revenue Code. If your company does not match gifts to our organization please contact us at 919-688-9641 x5024.



Annual Fall Banquet We are still planning to hold our Annual Banquet on November 12th. We can assure you that our top priority is your well-being! We will be taking precautions to ensure

safety for our guests! Please add this event to your calendar so you can join us! We are hopeful to see you in person this year. We enjoy the laughter, the testimonies, the precious time with you and our other friends of the Mission. As with everything in these uncertain times, we are mindful of any local regulation changes that could alter our plans. While we work with local officials to plan out what this year's Banquet will look like, please be on the lookout for news in your email inboxes, on social media and our Mission webpage in the days to come. We ask that you keep us in your prayers as these important decisions are made. We find peace knowing that our Heavenly Father has a plan greater than ours.

How the Durham Rescue Mission is Ranked:

#1 ranked Rescue Mission in all of North Carolina in 2020 by Charity Navigator. Charity Navigator is the nation's largest and most utilized evaluator of charities and has rated the Durham Rescue Mission with its highest 4-star rating for the eighth year in a row, with a perfect score of 100.

64% (almost 2/3) of all homeless in our area choose the Durham Rescue Mission for help, according to the last complete Durham County Point in Time Count. Thank you for your ongoing support as together we help men and women in need discover New Life in Christ.

86% of every dollar you give is used for programs and services that benefit the men, women, and children we serve.

Proverbs 19:17

He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Please remember ...

...to invest in the life of a person in need during this fall season. Often friends ask if we receive government support and especially now during the coronavirus crisis. In the forty-six-year history of the Mission, we have never asked for or accepted government funding. The Durham Rescue Mission is a ministry of "people helping people" and we are so grateful for the partners and friends who have come alongside us during this trying time. Your donation great or small means the world to us during this time!

Please use the remit slip enclosed with this newsletter. You may also give your donation online at www.durhamrescuemission.org/sept2020news.

Thank you for being a friend to those who are discovering new life through a relationship with Jesus Christ.



THANK YOU FOR BEING A FRIEND TO SO MANY IN NEED!

