

# homewardbound

DURHAM

**RESCUE**

MISSION

Mending Shattered Lives Since 1974

**“I was the definition of hopelessness, and ending it all was always a thought in the back of my mind.”**



## The walls I once built up against God are coming down . . . *and I have never been so happy*

**M**y name is Peggy. One of the best things about the Durham Rescue Mission is it's helping me get back on track with God. For years, I knew I needed God, but I kept turning away from him, choosing to go my own way. And here I was a Christian. I was teaching Sunday School and doing my best to influence others. But then one day I asked myself, *how can I teach others about the Lord if my own life is in shambles?* Instead of choosing God, I picked a man. Wrong decision. For too long I lived on pain medications. For three years I never got a good night's sleep. I was the definition of hopelessness, and ending it all was always a thought in the back of my mind. I never felt worthy of God's forgiveness. But then God in His mercy directed me to the Durham Rescue Mission. Here in the Victory Program God brought back to my mind things I learned during my years in Bible College and church. Today, my motto for life is Philippians 4:13, *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

### Thank you for your servant's heart

When I look back on my life, I realize God never gave up on me. *I gave up on Him.* In the past, Thanksgiving and Christmas meant nothing to me. Today, I look forward to these events because I'm so grateful for what God is doing in my life. I also want to say a word of thanks to you who donate so much to the Mission. You have a servant's heart — a giving heart — and without your support these doors would not be open and we would not be saved. Thank you for giving me hope for today and the courage to face tomorrow.

Your friend,

*Peggy*

*The Mission is a Garden of Eden for me — and it must be a little bit like heaven*

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## Year-End Reminder!

With 2014 winding down, now is a great time to plan your year-end gift. Below is a list of opportunities to make your final donation and receive your tax deduction for this year. To put your gift to work even faster, donate online at [www.DurhamRescueMission.org](http://www.DurhamRescueMission.org).

- Financial Gifts
- Stocks and Bonds
- Real Estate
- Vehicles, Boats, Trailers, RVs, ATVs, Motorcycles

### Mission Statement of the Durham Rescue Mission

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.



## An Encouraging Word from the Founders Dr. and Mrs. Ernie Mills

### Dear Friend of Durham Rescue Mission,

A Christmas heart is a giving heart. Children are saving up their birthday money and bringing it to the Mission so other boys and girls their age will be able to have gifts at Christmas. Parents and children are choosing not to purchase gifts for their families, but, instead, are buying presents to give families at the Durham Rescue Mission. *A Christmas heart is indeed a giving heart*, and our own hearts go out to you with deepest thanks for everything you continue to do to make the living Christ known to all who come to us for rescue.

### Thank you for helping us give the gift that keeps on giving

Something continues to amaze us. You make donations to help people you don't know. You don't know their names, but you trust the Mission with your resources . . . because you know your generosity is being used to provide nutritious food, clothing, safe shelter and wonderful gifts for the needy during the holidays. During the past several months, you've helped us — and continue to help us — expand our ministry in so many ways. One example is our temporary employment agency. *Temps to the Rescue* has already paid out more than one million dollars in salaries to people, many of whom only a few months ago were living on the streets. These men and women are now working as hotel housekeepers, maintenance workers, sales representatives and secretaries. One gentleman started by sweeping floors. He's now a supervisor at the warehouse. And all this good news is made possible because you continue to believe in what the Durham Rescue Mission is doing in our community. When God gave us his only Son, He gave us the greatest gift imaginable. Now, together, we have the opportunity to give the gift that keeps on giving — *the message of a Savior who came to save a lost and dying world*.

Sincerely,

*Ernie & Gail*

Ernie & Gail Mills, Founders



**“Children are saving up their birthday money and bringing it to the Mission so other boys and girls their age will be able to have gifts at Christmas.”**

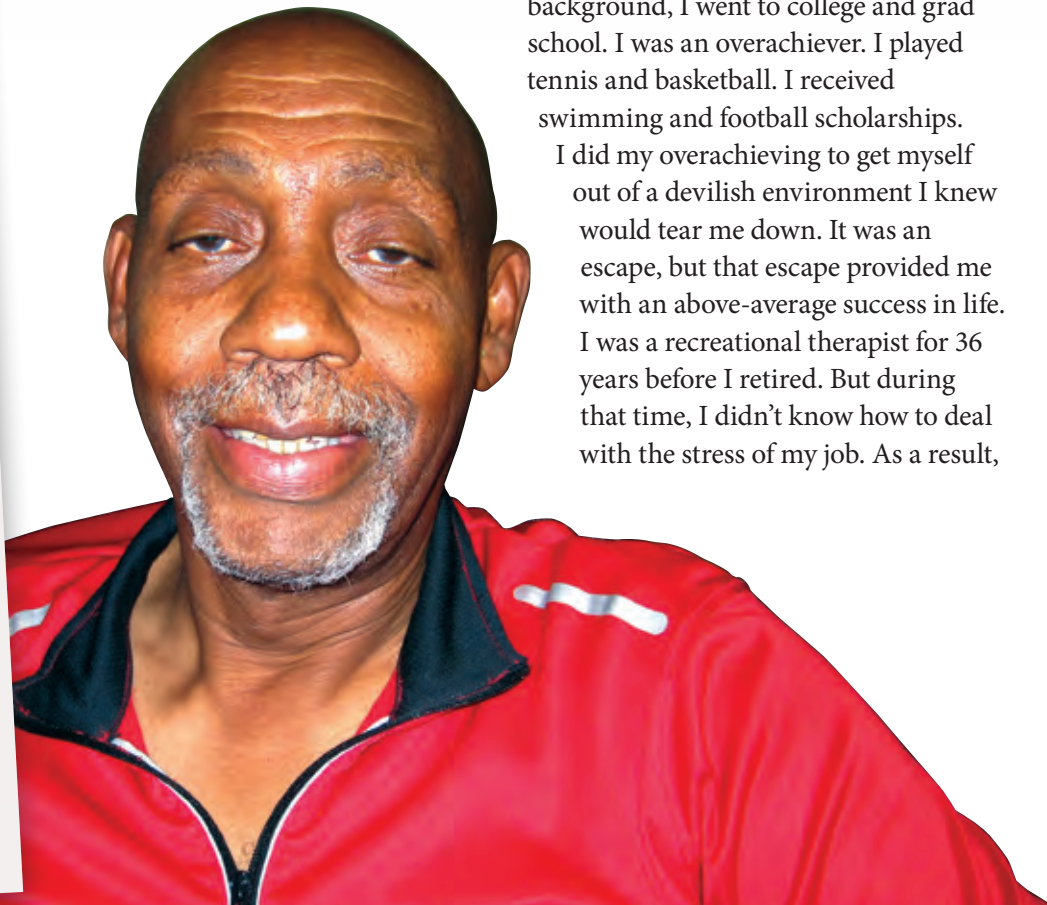


## During the holiday season the poor and the needy need to know how much you care

During this joyous holiday season, you once again have the opportunity to live out your concern for others by helping us at the Durham Rescue Mission continue to open doors of opportunity to those in need — people who are homeless, who have had little or no food to eat, who have no real friends, who are sick and who hold little hope of a future. For most, a happy Christmas is little more than a dream. The good news is your gift today helps make this dream become a reality for



“I have a hunger for God, and the void I once felt is now being filled with the person of Jesus Christ.”



## I know I will stay the course . . . *if I continue to give God full control of my life*

**M**y name is James. I grew up as an only child of hustling parents. During my early years I saw bootlegging, prostitution and all-night card games. You name it and it was part of my life. In many ways, I felt I was grown up at age 10. In spite of that background, I went to college and grad school. I was an overachiever. I played tennis and basketball. I received swimming and football scholarships.

I did my overachieving to get myself out of a devilish environment I knew would tear me down. It was an escape, but that escape provided me with an above-average success in life. I was a recreational therapist for 36 years before I retired. But during that time, I didn't know how to deal with the stress of my job. As a result,

I began to focus on alcohol. I've been in and out of several recovery programs, but no program is like the Victory program here at the Durham Rescue Mission.

### The Christian journey is a process for me

Here at the Mission, I'm developing a solid relationship with Christ. Every day I feel my Christian walk is another step on a wonderful journey. I have a hunger for God, and the void I once felt is now being filled with the person of Jesus Christ. But it's a process, and I still have a long way to go. The good news is I know what I need and *I know where to get it*. God is providing me with all my answers. I just need to remember to make sure I continue to give Him full control of my life. Thank you for your generosity and for helping me find my way home. It's my prayer that you and your family will enjoy a wonderful Christmas.

Your friend,

*James*

Thank you for keeping these doors open for me. *I will always remember your kindness.*

those who come to us at this time. And as a faithful supporter of the Durham Rescue Mission, you already know the joy you give to others always comes back to you.

### Thank you for being a special friend to those in need

Because you continue to show compassion for the physical and spiritual needs of so many — folks like Peggy and James — all those who come to us during the long holiday season are enjoying bountiful meals, safe shelter, counseling and other expressions of God's love, all given with hearts eager to serve. Right now, to show your tangible concern for the homeless during this time of year, we invite you to use the remit slip enclosed to send your gift of any amount. Also feel free to make your donation on our secure website [www.DurhamRescueMission.org](http://www.DurhamRescueMission.org). God bless you for helping us to share the message of the birth of Jesus with our friends, and how a commitment to the Savior promises to bring peace and joy to their lives.

“ . . . the joy you give to others always comes back to you.”



## Food Pantry Restock

Our food supply is running low. With the holidays upon us, we know folks will come to us seeking assistance. Please ask your church, coworkers, neighbors or your grocer to help us restock the pantry for the holidays. Collect nonperishable food items for the Durham Rescue Mission and help your neighbor in need.



## Annual Christmas Community Dinner and Toy Give-Away

December 23rd, we are hosting our Annual Christmas Community Dinner to help the Triangle's neediest. Please help provide toys for at-risk children in attendance. Last year, with your help, we distributed almost 6,000 toys!

Visit [www.DurhamRescueMission.org](http://www.DurhamRescueMission.org) to learn how you can help and/or to make a secure online donation. New toys, books, and games may be dropped off at 1201 East Main Street in Durham. Volunteers are needed! Contact (919) 688-9641 ext 5025 to register.

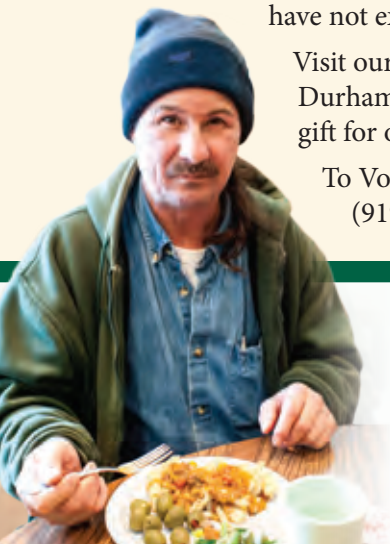


## Remember Others This Christmas

From November 27th to December 22nd, the Durham Rescue Mission needs your help to make Christmas an extra special day for men, women, and children living at the Mission. Many have not experienced the joy of Christmas in years.

Visit our Wish Tree at the Northgate Mall in Durham, choose a name, and purchase a special gift for one of our residents!

To Volunteer at our Wish Tree, call (919) 688-9641 ext 5025.



## Chaplain's Corner

Rev. D. Robert Tart, COO

Oscar Wilde, an Irish essayist, novelist, playwright and poet, said, "I can resist anything except temptation." Temptation to evil is a battle all men



fight. It's such a common issue some falsely believe God created them with a propensity to a particular lust, such as alcoholism or gambling. James 1:13 says, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God:" God did not create man with addictions. He created man in His image. Through man's free will, men have harmed the minds and souls of themselves and others, to the point society cannot control itself. Today, men are slaves to vices and passions; feckless shells of what their fathers were only a generation ago. However many say with Paul, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 7:24-25). Jesus is our only hope!

## My Holiday Gift

**YES, Ernie and Gail,**

you can count on me to help give the homeless food, clothing and safe shelter during the holiday season.

**Here's my donation of:**

- ☐ \$20.50 to provide **10 meals** and other assistance
- ☐ \$30.75 to provide **15 meals** and other assistance
- ☐ \$61.50 to provide **30 meals** and other assistance
- ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ to provide as many meals and as much care as possible
- ☐ Please bill my credit card:
- ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ DISCOVER

**Durham Rescue Mission**

P.O. Box 11368

Durham, North Carolina 27703-0368

ACCOUNT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

► Please mail this completed form with your generous holiday gift, or you may donate on our secure website, [www.DurhamRescueMission.org](http://www.DurhamRescueMission.org). Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt. Any gifts received above our current need will be used to help care for the needy throughout the year.

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