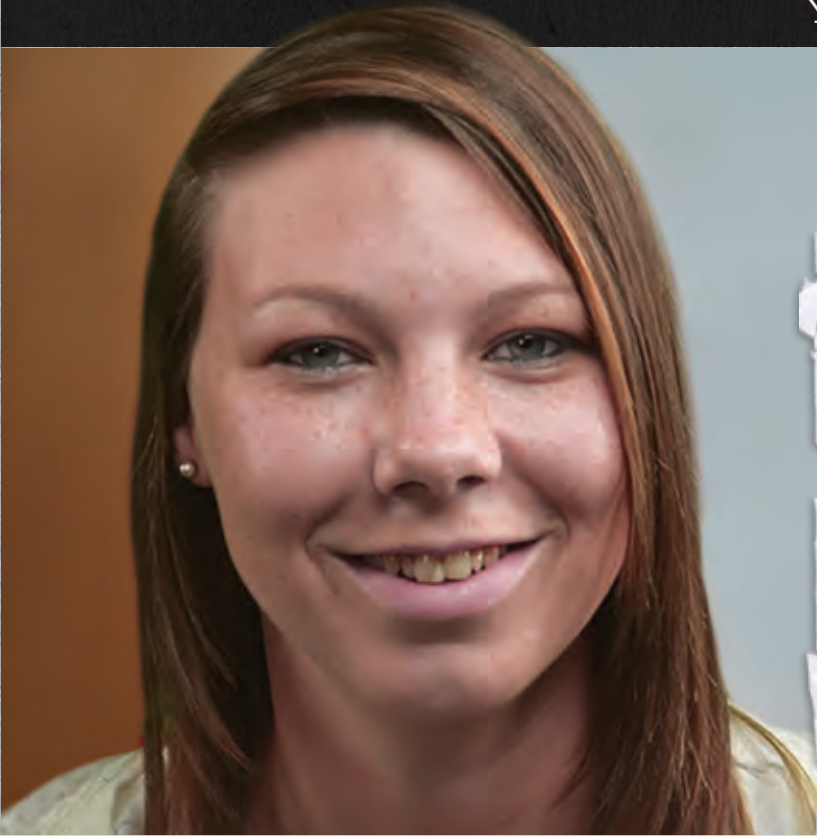


homewardbound

Your support helps guide lost souls home.



The drug life pulled
me away from
everything I loved . . .

by Nikki

Thank you for giving me a place where
I can finally make a fresh start

My name is Nikki. If God hadn't led me to the Durham Rescue Mission I'd either be in jail or still on the streets using and abusing drugs. My trouble started when I began dating a man who got me involved in the drug life. He was so controlling he would only allow me to be with his friends. I could do nothing without his approval. Eventually I found myself alienated from my own family. I was miserable with this guy, but I had nowhere to go. There was no physical abuse, but the emotional scars ran deep, leading to severe depression. I felt like I was nothing and was told I never *would* amount to anything.

This is the happiest I have felt in a long, long time

My mom died when I was 13, but I never really grieved like I should have. I just kept pushing down my pain. We were so close, and I wish she were with me today. But

even though my mom is no longer alive, I feel the Mission, in many ways, has become my family. I've never been as close to God as I am today . . . and *I've never been happier than I am today.* My life is now filled with prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians. The Mission's Victory program is giving me a solid foundation in the things of the Lord. No longer do I see myself in pitch darkness, trying to weather an emotional thunderstorm from which I could not escape. I have so many people to thank for the changes in my life. I especially want to express my gratitude to you for your donations to the Mission that help provide me with healthy food, safe shelter, warm clothing and such a positive, Christian environment. Whether you realize it or not, your kindness is helping to save my life. Thank you for your part in giving me something to live for.

Mission Statement of 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.”

Scripture Tells Us to Give Thanks Always

I give thanks unto thee, O Lord . . . and sing praises unto thy name. — Psalm 18:49

To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever. — Psalm 30:12

Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare. — Psalm 75:1

Our Mission staff is grateful for your enthusiastic support of this ministry of rescue. Thank you for expressing your thanks to God by touching the lives of the homeless.



An Encouraging Word from the Founders

Dear Friend of the Durham Rescue Mission,

How we thank God for your investment in people's lives over the many years the doors of the Mission have been open. And the return you receive on your donations and support of the Durham Rescue Mission is the transformation of lives we see every day!

Because you allow us to do this work of rescue, *Charity Navigator ranks the Durham Rescue Mission the #1 Homeless Services Provider in the Carolinas . . . and this has been our ranking for the past three years. Charity Navigator is the nation's largest and most utilized evaluator of charities.* We are grateful for this honor, because it shows how much the Mission is doing in people's lives. Also, if you would like a spreadsheet of how your dollars are being spent, please email us and we'll be glad to show you in black and white *how every \$1 you give provides \$3 of service to the needy in our community.*

Thank you for becoming God's love in shoe leather

Meanwhile, time marches on and it's now the season of Thanksgiving. For everyone at the Mission, Thanksgiving is really *thanks living*, because every day we thank the Lord for His abundant mercies. We are especially grateful to you when you come down to the Mission to volunteer. You can tell a Mission guest that God loves them until the cows come home, but when you become *God's love in shoe leather* and spend time talking and listening to our friends, it makes all the difference in the world in their lives. God bless you at this Thanksgiving season, and may God continue to bring you great blessings as you reach out to those in need.

Sincerely,

Ernie + Gail

Ernie & Gail Mills, Founders

“For everyone at the Mission, Thanksgiving is really *thanks living* . . .”



I went far away from God . . . but I praise God I've returned to the fold.

by Jamie

“Now I wake up each day with joy, peace and understanding.”

My name is Jamie, and I came to the Durham Rescue Mission for what I thought would be a quick fix. I figured I'd spend a couple days here, get some food, some rest and then head back out to live my own life. But here I am *three years later* . . . back with the Lord, and allowing Him to control my life. Not only did I stay here at the Mission, but I also joined the Victory program, which has done so much for me. It's biblically based, and it's teaching me God has all the answers to any problem I might have.

Because of my nonstop drinking, I used to wake up wondering where I'd been the night before. Now I wake

up with joy, peace and understanding. I've finally come to grips with the truth that only a life with Jesus is going to keep setting me free. With the help of the Mission, I've even graduated from Durham Tech with a culinary arts degree, which I plan to keep using in the service of the Lord.

God is managing my crazy thoughts

Hey, I'd be lying if I didn't confess to having some crazy thoughts now and then. The good news is God is giving me the strength not to act on those thoughts . . . *and that's one of the biggest changes in my life* — along with my desire never again to touch the bottle. The one thing that's

keeping me on the straight and narrow is Proverbs 3:6 . . . *In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

That is my verse for life . . . and I believe its message with all my heart. I also want to say some words of thanks to you who donate so much of your time, money and influence to the Durham Rescue Mission. We could not have this place of healing were it not for you and your acts of Christian kindness. I pray God's blessing on you for every day of the year, and especially at this Thanksgiving time.



Back to School Event Helps Needy Kids

On August 19 we held our annual Back to School event and needy kids in our community were so excited to get brand-new backpacks for school! We are so thankful for the many partners who helped make this event possible. Our friends at GlaxoSmithKline donated over 3,000 backpacks filled with school supplies. The backpacks were so heavy with the school supplies that some of the little children nearly toppled over when they tried to carry the backpacks!

Because of friends in the community, we had 10,000 pieces of clothing from which families could choose school outfits for their children. Other friends came together to cook 9,000 hot dogs for our picnic lunch that day!

The children really enjoyed the carnival games that they played and

their eyes really lit up when they were handed a prize for winning . . . and EVERYONE won!! Ernie says the games at the state fair are rigged so you can't win and our games are rigged so you can't lose!!

We appreciate our local officials attending our Opening Ceremony, including: City Manager Tom Bonfield, County Manager Wendell Davis, Congressmen George Holding, U.S. Senate Regional Representative Austen Shearer, Superintendent of Durham Public Schools Dr. Bert L'Homme as well as Food Bank representative Gideon Adams. We were also blessed to have the President of U.S. Pharmaceuticals, Jack Bailey; and senior GlaxoSmithKline representatives: Jamey Millar, Matt Lasmanis, Lisa Benna and Tom Scales.

And of course, the day was made complete by sharing an inspiring Gospel message: That with God's help we can be successful in life!

“We are so thankful for the many partners who helped make this event possible.”



chaplain's corner

Rev. D. Rob Tart, COO

In Ephesians 1:3-14, we are commanded to bless God. Our word, eulogy: to speak well of, to praise or commend, comes from the Greek word for "blessed." We are to speak well of God for the spiritual blessings He has graced to us:

- a) He chose us, verse 4
- b) He adopted us as sons/daughters, verse 5
- c) In Him, we have redemption, verse 7
- d) He makes known to us the mystery of His will, verse 9
- e) He has given us an inheritance, verse 11
- f) He sealed us with the Holy Spirit, verse 13

Today, take time to bless God for His blessings!

Thanksgiving Needs

- Donate frozen turkeys or hams
- Donate gently used coats for Thanksgiving Dinner
- Volunteer to set up, serve, host game booth, or clean up at holiday events

To register to volunteer or for more details on how you can help others during the holidays, call (919) 688-9641, ext. 5025 or visit www.DurhamRescueMission.org.

Bring 5 Canned Food Items, Receive a Free Chick-fil-A Sandwich

On Wednesday, September 30 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., if you bring 5 canned food items to a Chick-fil-A in the Durham/Chapel Hill area, you will receive a free Chick-fil-A sandwich. Chick-fil-A is once again partnering with the Durham Rescue Mission to help stock our pantry for the holidays. Bring 5 canned food items and you will have

the joy of knowing you have helped the hungry and you can satisfy your own hunger with a Chick-fil-A sandwich!

Fall Cleaning Time — Prepare for the Holidays

As you "Fall Clean," donate gently used clothing, shoes, and household items to help others. Bring your donation and receive a tax receipt at any of our five current locations:

1. RTP Thrift Store
3220 NC Hwy 55, Durham
2. Brier Creek Thrift Store
10701 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh
3. Chapel Hill Blvd. Thrift Store
3900 Chapel Hill Blvd., Durham
4. Men's Campus, 1201 E. Main St., Durham
5. Women and Children's Campus,
507 E. Knox St., Durham

Your donations help sustain 70 jobs at our stores!



Year-End Reminder!

The Durham Rescue Mission accepts donations of:

- Stocks and bonds
- Cars, trucks, motorcycles, ATVs
- Real estate
- Campers, RVs, boats

As 2015 winds down, now is a great time to plan your year-end gifts. Make your final donation by December 31 to receive your tax deduction for 2015. To put your financial gifts to work even faster, donate online at www.DurhamRescueMission.org. Call (919) 688-9641, ext. 5028 for more information.