

homewardbound

Your support helps guide lost souls home.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Word of Thanks and
Encouragement from the
Founders... Page 2

I Once Had Nothing to
Live For... Page 3

Save the Date!... Page 4



#1 Ranked Charity in NC!

The Durham Rescue Mission is Charity Navigator's highest ranked charity in all of NC!! **Charity Navigator is the nation's premier rater of charities and we are honored and humbled to receive this high ranking (99.44 out of 100). All the glory goes to God for a successful year!** We have been blessed and will continue to work toward, as Charity Navigator's President, Michael Thatcher, said, "The Durham Rescue Mission's financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency." By God's grace, we will continue to expand, continue to serve, and continue to spread the message of hope in Durham, North Carolina.

DurhamRescueMission.org

**"Today, I'm a
different person."**

"Thank you for giving me a second
chance at life."



I NOW KNOW HOW GOD WANTS ME TO LIVE MY LIFE

The good news for me at this Easter season is I'm no longer addicted to drugs. It's been a long road, and along the way I have made some poor decisions. As I look back, I should have known better because I grew up in church. However, I was abused early in my life and became so distraught I began to use drugs to numb my pain. Before long I was hooked.

From age 15 on, I used crack cocaine. I then started having babies. I would have one child and then go back to drugs. Have another child and go back to drugs. Meanwhile, I was in and out of jail for stealing. And when I wasn't in jail, I engaged in prostitution. I'm not happy with my résumé, but what I'm telling you is the truth.

I just never fit in...
I never felt good enough.

How did I feel about myself during

this period of my life? Terrible. Wretched. I felt I was never good enough. I always felt I was "less than." I always wanted to fit in, but I didn't fit in anywhere. I always seemed to be on the outside looking in. And instead of taking care of myself, my goal in life seemed to be to try to fix everybody else.

Only when I came to the Durham Rescue Mission did I begin focusing on LaTonya and her needs. That's when miracles began to happen. In the past I lived with stress and trauma. I can hardly remember a happy day. Today, I'm a different person. I am happy, and I am content with where God has me at this point in my life. I will also be eternally grateful for the Mission's Victory Program which is helping me rise up from the depths of despair to a life worth living. Thank you for your love and support.

Your friend,

LaTonya
LaTonya



Exciting News from the Founders!

Dear Friend of the Durham Rescue Mission,

43 years ago, when Gail and I started the Durham Rescue Mission, our goal was to create a quality program to offer help and hope to men and women struggling with devastating addictions, just like my dad struggled with for so many years.

Alcohol destroyed my Dad, and at the young age of 40, he died from cirrhosis of the liver. As I watched him suffer, I promised to dedicate the rest of my life to helping others overcome their addictions. I have kept that promise, and because of your ongoing support, the Mission continues to touch the lives of thousands who have lost their way.

Charity Navigator gives the Durham Rescue Mission top honors.

Recently, Gail and I were humbled and filled with joy when we received notification from Charity Navigator that the Durham Rescue Mission had received the highest ranking of all charities in North Carolina (99.44 out of 100). I know my Dad

would be proud of our quality programs that help thousands overcome their addictions.

As you read these two moving stories in this Easter newsletter, you will see immediately how

your generosity keeps offering men and women an opportunity to allow God to put their lives back in order. So many come to us having lived lives of defeat. They have lost every battle. The word success was never in their vocabulary. However, as they go through our intense Victory Program and a risen Lord captivates their hearts and lives, nothing is ever the same for them. God bless you for helping us make the Durham Rescue Mission what it is today. Gail and I both wish you and your family a blessed Easter.

Your friends to the homeless,

Ernie & Gail Mills

Ernie & Gail Mills, Co-founders

God bless you for your compassion and ongoing generosity for people in need.

Philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer was walking down the street one day. He was lost in thought. Quite accidentally, he bumped into a pedestrian. Still lost in thought, he kept walking. The pedestrian shouted, "Well, who do you think you are?" The absent-minded philosopher was heard to mumble, "Who am I? How I wish I knew!"

The late astronaut John Glenn says a standard test for astronaut candidates was to have them provide 20 answers to the question "Who am I?" The first few answers, Glenn said, "were easy. After that, it got harder."

One question we continually ask our residents is who are they today, and through God's mercy and love what do they hope to become in the days ahead? It's something for all of us to ponder. And while you are prayerfully considering your next investment in the lives of those who come through our doors, we urge you to give your best Easter gift possible. Your generosity helps people rise up from a life of despair to a life worth living.



**I ONCE HAD NOTHING TO LIVE
FOR ... NOW I HAVE GREAT
HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.**

Alcohol and heroin are a life-destroying combination. I know, because for too long they were the main ingredients of my life. I started drinking when I was a teenager. My drug use came much later... starting with an abuse of pain pills and eventually escalating to heroin. In addition to my deliberate use of drugs, I have always had a rebellious spirit. Nothing in my life was ever positive. Last year, I was so desperate, I resolved to die. I wanted to see how far out on the edge I could get before I ended my life. I did everything but pull the trigger. I honestly didn't think I'd get out of last year alive. Now I realize Jesus was at my side all the time.

**When God spoke to me it was the first
time I really listened.**

Then, just a few weeks ago, while doing dope in my truck, I heard God say, "James, this

**"... I'm getting closer to God,
and I'm patterning my life after
the life of Jesus."**

is it; you're running out of time – you better get some help, and you'd better get it fast." That was my wake-up call. I grew up 38 miles southwest of Durham and probably drove by the Durham Rescue Mission many times. Little did I know I would one day end up here... and little did I know what I'm learning here would change my life.

I don't think there's anything finer in this country than the Mission's Victory Program. As result of these courses I'm getting closer to God, and I'm patterning my life after the life of Jesus. I used to wake up bitter, angry and needing a fix. Now I wake up sober. I look forward to each day. I arise with a smile on my face, grateful for the food, shelter, clothing and the opportunity to get my life back on track. I just wish I'd known about the Durham Rescue Mission 20 years ago. Now, at this Easter season I'm especially grateful I serve a risen Lord, and that He looks out for me every day. Thank you for all you do to keep the Mission's doors open for people like me.

Gratefully,

James

To invest in the life of a person in need during this Easter season, please use the remit slip enclosed with this newsletter. You may also give your donation on our secure web site www.DurhamRescueMission.org. 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 those who are
discovering New Life
through a relationship with
Jesus Christ."**



Blessings Abound

This year so many of you blessed the Durham Rescue Mission Thanksgiving feast. Your generosity covered our tables with food and personal blessings. The beautiful table runner pictured here is made of hundreds of cloth pieces, each of which hold a blessing returned from many of you especially for the guests at the Mission.

Thank you for your generosity and your continued support.

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.”

God bless you for reaching out to so many in need with your ongoing support of the Durham Rescue Mission.



Save the Date!

WHAT: 6th Annual Grip It 'N Rip It Golf Tournament
WHERE: 1600 Hillandale Road, Durham, NC 27705
WHEN: 9:00 AM Friday, May 5, 2017
CONTACT: Tony Gooch at (919) 683-4027 or visit www.DurhamRescueMission.org/golfregistration

Annual Easter Community Dinner and Easter Basket Giveaway

We're preparing our **Annual Easter Event on Friday, April 14, 2017**. You can help the needy celebrate the miracle of Easter!

We Need:

- Easter baskets for the children
- Volunteers to help set up and serve

You can help by purchasing an Easter basket and dropping it off at 1201 E Main St., or by simply making an online donation at www.DurhamRescueMission.org and marking it "Easter Baskets" (\$15 will provide a lot of joy for an at-risk child). *NOTE: Deadline to help with Easter Baskets is Friday, April 7.*

To volunteer, please call (919) 688-9641, ext. 5025, or sign up online by visiting www.DurhamRescueMission.org.

The Durham Rescue Mission has been ranked...

#1 - ranked charity in all of North Carolina in 2017 by Charity Navigator. Charity Navigator is the nation's largest and most utilized evaluator of charities.

64%, almost **2/3**, of homeless in our area choose the Durham Rescue Mission for help according to the 2015 Durham County Point in Time Count. Thank you for your ongoing support as together we help men and women in need discover New Life.

