

# homewardbound

Your support helps guide lost souls home.

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[DurhamRescueMission.org](http://DurhamRescueMission.org)



"Thank you for being  
there for me at my  
greatest point of need...  
I will always remember  
your kindness."

### **IF I HAD A CHOICE BETWEEN BUYING FOOD AND BUYING DRUGS, I WOULD ALWAYS BUY THE DRUGS**

I used to want to get off work so  
I could go get high; now I just want  
to get back to work... and because of  
your donations and prayers I'm about  
ready to do just that. God bless you for  
supporting the ministry of the Durham  
Rescue Mission and for giving me  
an opportunity to be a student in the  
Mission's Victory program.

After 21 years of drug use, all I  
got in return was stress, despair and  
disappointment. In spite of my use of  
drugs, I was always successful in real  
estate, with big checks coming in all  
the time. I was living the good life, or  
so I thought. Trouble was my finances  
weren't keeping up with my habit.

Whenever there was a choice between  
buying food and buying drugs, I always  
went for the drugs. Ultimately, the drugs  
won the day...that is, up until now.

**Thank you for your support, which is  
helping to give me peace of mind.**

Today, because I'm at the Durham  
Rescue Mission, everything has changed  
in my life. I am grateful for the food,  
clothing and a roof over my head. But  
there's something even more important  
to me, and that's peace of mind. I used  
to think drugs were making me happy.  
How wrong I was. I now know what I  
should have known many years ago: that  
I needed a Savior to rescue me. I also  
see why I could never enjoy true success  
on my own. I was designed to be God's  
child, and I know He has a plan for me.

And some of those plans are  
already beginning to take shape. I have  
20 notebooks full of real estate ideas.  
Here at the Mission I'm able to use the  
computer lab, where I'm working on  
my resume.

I'm lining  
up lots of  
interviews,  
and I'm  
eager to get  
back into the  
real estate field. But none of this would  
have been possible were it not for a  
loving God, a compassionate Mission  
and a friend like you who is giving me  
the confidence to return to society.  
Thank you and God bless you.

Your friend,

*Thomas*

Thomas

**"God bless you  
for supporting  
the ministry  
of the Durham  
Rescue Mission."**





## A WORD OF THANKS AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE FOUNDERS!

Dear Friend of the Durham Rescue Mission,

You are reading the testimonies of Rokelia and Thomas. As you do, please remember your prayers and support of the Durham Rescue Mission are contributing to the transformation of their lives.

You also see three photos here with the caption: "What do these Mission guests have in common?" Simple answer: these folks were all once homeless and addicted to drugs...but this month they are in the process of buying their own homes. They are moving on in life because they have been transformed by the power of Jesus Christ. Each of these Mission guests will tell you in Christ old things have passed away and, for them, all things have become new.

### From Hopelessness to Victory.

So many come to our doors in physical and spiritual shambles. They are broken, with little or nothing to live for. And then, to use a golf term, they get a mulligan – a do over – but this time it's with Christ at the center of

their lives. And therein lies all the difference.

And this reminder...for every dollar you give to the Mission, we're able to stretch that one dollar to \$4.09 to help people in need. And because of your involvement – and strong support for our Victory Program – once again Charity Navigator has given the Durham Rescue Mission its highest rating of all charities in North Carolina (99.44%).

"...for every dollar you give to the Mission, we're able to stretch that one dollar to \$4.09 to help those in need."

We thank God for you and your heart of compassion for the homeless... and for so many others who've lost their way.

Your friends to the homeless,

*Ernie & Gail Mills*

Ernie & Gail Mills, Co-founders

## What do these Mission guests have in common?





"Thank you for helping me understand what life is really all about... a life with Christ at the center."

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*"I'm rekindling my relationship with the Lord, and I am being embraced by His grace and mercy."*



**I HEARD GOD SAY, "JUST BE CRAZY ENOUGH TO TRUST ME." THAT WAS THE DAY THAT TURNED MY LIFE AROUND.**

The sheriff said I had five minutes to get out. I said "You've gotta be kidding." Then I learned the harsh truth. The person from whom I had just rented my place didn't own it. It was all a fraud. We had just moved back to North Carolina, and a few minutes before my kids had gone off to school. You've never seen a person pack as fast as I did. I had a house full of furniture... five minutes to leave and nowhere to go. At least I thought I had nowhere to go. But God always has a place for people in need... and the place for my kids and me was the Durham Rescue Mission.

I thought I had been living the American dream. Good job, wonderful kids and an academic degree. But something was missing – a relationship with Jesus Christ. While I came to the Mission because I had nowhere to go, something much better is happening to me here: I'm rekindling my relationship with the Lord, and I am being embraced by His grace and mercy.

**The spirit of the Mission's Victory Program will stay with me forever.**

By the time you read this, I will have finished the classroom portion of the Mission's Victory Program. I don't know where I would be today without these practical classes and the Christian guidance I continue to receive from my counselors. The Victory program keeps reminding me I don't have to carry my burden alone. Jesus promises to do that.

I also want to thank you who give so much to help someone like me. Because of you, my family wakes up in a safe environment. We receive nourishing food and nice clothing. Everything about this place is positive. And it's all made possible because of your obedience to God, Who encourages you to help those in need. God bless you for being there for my family and me.

Gratefully,

*Rokelia*

Rokelia

**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."



## **EASTER REPORT**

On behalf of our clients and guests, we wish to send a big "THANK YOU!" to all who helped provide for the Easter season at the Durham Rescue Mission. On Good Friday, we hosted our Annual Easter Community Event. We are thankful we were able to give out 1,242 Easter Baskets to at-risk children and with the help of 336 wonderful volunteers we were able to feed 1,764 people a delicious meal. On display that day was the beautiful Easter Lily Cross made with the help of all our supporters. Thanks to all who helped make this a great Easter holiday at the Mission!



On display that day was the beautiful Easter Lily Cross made with the help of all our supporters.

## **BACK-TO-SCHOOL PARTY AND BACKPACK GIVE-AWAY**

Volunteers are needed to help with our Annual Back to School Event on Wednesday, August 23. If you would like to join us in helping at-risk children get off on the right foot for the new school year, please call our Volunteer Office at (919) 688-9641, ext. 5070 and sign up today. Last year we gave away 3,025 backpacks filled with new school supplies. Come join the fun and help the kids!

## **LEAVE A LEGACY**

Planned Giving allows you to continue to support a charity that has been important in your life. In addition, there are tax savings for making a gift to the Durham Rescue Mission in your will, trust or other gift plans; but, more than that, you can help ensure the Durham Rescue Mission will continue to help men, women and children in

our community who have lost their way. Please remember to include the Durham Rescue Mission in your legacy planning. Your remembrance can provide help and hope for the future. Please contact Gail Mills at (919) 688-9641 ext 5028, or Mills@DurhamRescueMission.org for more information on planned giving options.

To continue to help provide food, safe shelter and care for a homeless man, woman or child during the summer months, please use the remit slip enclosed with this newsletter. You may also give your donation on our secure website at [www.DurhamRescueMission.org](http://www.DurhamRescueMission.org). Thank you for being a friend to so many in need.

**"THANK YOU FOR  
BEING A FRIEND TO  
SO MANY IN NEED."**



## **SPRING GRADUATION**

On May 9, the Durham Rescue Mission held our Annual Spring Graduation. 20 men and 8 women were excited to walk the aisle in our lovely Storr Chapel and receive their certificate of completion for our Victory Program. Graduates shared their stirring testimonies of how God brought them from brokenness and despair to new life in Christ; restoring hope for a better life. The Chapel was full of family and friends who came to share in the joyous occasion.



## **CONGRATULATIONS, COLLEGE GRADUATES!**

We are so proud of the following clients who have completed their college studies! Chanda Drayton graduated on May 13 from North Carolina Central University (NCCU) with her degree in Early Childhood Education. Chanda is currently employed with a Child Care Center in Durham. Morgan Booker, graduated from NCCU, as well, while David Exner graduated from Durham Technical Community College (DTCC) with a degree in Industrial Engineering. We wish all these graduates much success!

## **ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT REPORT**

Our Golf Classic was a great success. 30 teams enjoyed a great day on the greens at Hillandale Golf Course. The Durham Rescue Mission wishes to thank Couch Oil Company for sponsoring this event again this year. We were able to raise over \$30,000 for our annual budget.





## **THE JAMES T. BALL, JR. FAMILY STUDENT HOUSING IS NOW OPEN**

On April 22, the Durham Rescue Mission held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the first affordable student housing facility for clients who are continuing their education. The highlight of this new facility is the Suttle Learning Center where students will have their learning needs assessed and then have a tailored program created just for them to help them successfully obtain their GED. On April 27, the first of our students were allowed to move into this beautifully decorated building.



## **SAVE THE DATE**

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for our Annual Fall Banquet on Thursday, September 21 at the Sheraton Imperial in the Triangle. If you would like to sponsor a table of 8 guests, you may contact William Henderson at (919) 688-9641, ext. 5037.

## **EASTER MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE UPDATE**

Praise the Lord! We are excited to share that, with the help of many new friends, we reached the goal of raising \$25,000! With the Matching Gift Challenge given by our friends, that results in a total of \$50,000!

## **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 and has rated the Durham Rescue Mission with a 4-star rating for the fifth year in a row. Charity Navigator has also now given the Durham Rescue Mission its highest rating of all charities in North Carolina (99.44%).

**64%**, almost **2/3**, of 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.

