

# homewardbound



## William came to the Mission lost and alone.

If you were to tour the Development department at the Mission, this would surprise you as William is an integral member of the Mission team. But his story did not start there.

William, a North Carolina native, was living in Chicago. Drugs and alcohol had taken their toll on his life, and he lost his job due to them. He returned to North Carolina, ending up living with family, but quickly found himself being asked to leave his family home. Bad choices, jobless and alone, he found himself at the Social Security Office where he learned of the Durham Rescue Mission.

Like many who come to the Mission, William joined The Victory Program. He quickly realized he needed the year of structure and lessons that reminded him of growing up and his grandparents' influence on his life. After living the hard way, he knew these were lessons he needed to start a new life. Once finished with the Victory Program, William continued serving in the volunteer department.

It was in these days that he found focusing on others and helping those around him outweighed just trying to finish a task at hand. William felt good that he had finally accomplished something he had started and

looked forward to a new chapter in life.

**William has now been on staff at the Mission for 5 years! He enjoys every single day in a job he loves and looks forward to serving those who support the Mission.**

Because of the support of teachers, co-workers and friends at the Mission, William has been able to not only rebuild himself but rebuild his family relationships and, most importantly, rebuild his relationship with his Heavenly Father, who he now trusts with his future.

William's wish is for donors and volunteers to **KNOW** they are making a difference in people's lives. When they see William working, sober, restored with family, and serving the Lord, they are witnessing their money and time at work changing lives for eternity!

William is grateful for your support, prayers, and witness! **"I am enjoying a growing relationship with Christ!"** he says. **"Twenty years down the road, I hope to be still filling whatever capacity God has for me at the Mission."**

**"I am enjoying a growing relationship with Christ!"**

– William

The Official Newsletter of

**DURHAM**

**RESCUE**

**MISSION**

Restoring Families and Giving Hope

**RESCUE**

**MISSIONS**

MINISTRIES, INC.  
Restoring Families and Giving Hope

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## A WORD OF THANKS AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE FOUNDERS



**“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**

## 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.”**

## There is no need to fear! God has not forsaken us.

Dear Friend of the Durham Rescue Mission,

I think we can all agree that this has been the strangest time we have lived through . . . for many in their entire lifetime.

As the country began to shut down, uneasiness settled into everyone's lives. We quickly realized the Mission would have to change how we manage day-to-day. These have not been days we planned for or budgeted for.

This is where faith really steps in! **The goodness of the Lord has been abundant here at the Mission, and we are so very grateful.**

Our desire has always been to be the vessel in Durham that shares the message of love, grace, and new life in Christ with those who are the most vulnerable. You have helped us do just that in these past months.

Our donors have stepped up and given in ways that allowed us to focus on keeping those who call the Mission home safe from the coronavirus. Our volunteers have been irreplaceable as they scoured for essential supplies. Watching our community come together has been a blessing beyond words. We are so grateful!

**With the Thrift Stores closing in March due to the coronavirus, we lost up to 50% of our normal monthly income that supports the outreaches of the Mission and daily needs. We continue to have faith that the Lord will provide through friends like you who value the work we do to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the Durham community.**

Please join us in thanking God for His faithfulness at the Durham Rescue Mission. The grace of God is a beautiful thing because it allows Him to tell a glorious story through broken people! The worst of times brings out the best in people. Thank you for all you do to support the Durham Rescue Mission.

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 giving a generous gift to provide meals, and clean safe shelter to the most vulnerable during this time of great need.

“  
**At 4 AM, a grandmother was there waiting with her grandkids for the event.**  
”

*Chuck*



That was 20 years ago, and Chuck McLean remembers how it impacted him like it was just yesterday. Chuck realized that day the Mission had so much more to teach him than he had to give to it by volunteering.

In the summer of 2000, Chuck received a call from a high school friend who was in the program at the Mission asking if he could borrow a BBQ pit for the Back-to-School event. Not sure what to think, Chuck agreed. It was 4 AM the day of the event when he drove through the Mission gates and saw that grandmother and her grandkids sitting waiting in anticipation for food, school supplies, and back-to-school clothes . . . he didn't understand. Intrigued, Chuck stuck around that day to help cook. He witnessed the generosity, the gratitude, the laughs, the love, and he has been part of almost every event since.

As a retired UPS driver in his hometown of Durham, Chuck thought he knew his community until that day. He never realized there was so much need and all within

just walking distance of the Mission. These days he is part of a large team of 15 men that have become like family. They take great pride in cooking for Easter, Back-to-School, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and any need in between. You likely will not attend an event where he is not present.

Today Chuck brings his teenage children along to help. “The Mission has given me so much more than I have given to it!”

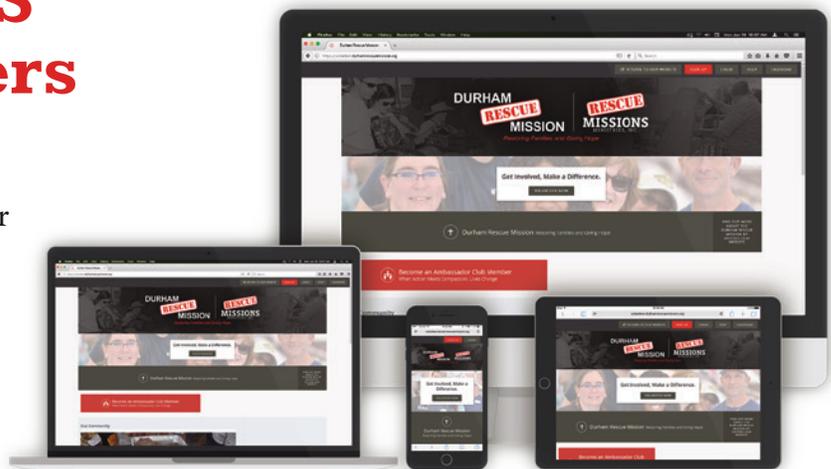
Chuck shares that it is the atmosphere Preacher (Ernie) and Gail have built that draws volunteers in. They are down to earth, hands-on, sharing messages like **“Look at what you and Jesus are doing!”** with their volunteers as they thank the volunteers for their hard work and support.

“The Lord calls us to be leaders even when unexpected.” Serving the Mission and leading the cooking team is a labor of love that you will find Chuck continuing for as long as the Lord makes possible.

## **EXCITING NEWS for our Volunteers**

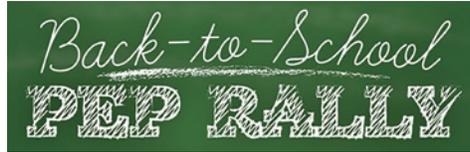
**We miss your smiles and hands helping at the Mission!** While we all stay apart to stay safe, we are making updates to the Volunteer Software, so when we are together again, it will be even better than ever.

You will be able to sign up online, look up your hours, and much more. We cannot wait to all be side by side again, working to serve those who call the Mission home.



# Don't Forget . . .

Annual Back-to-School Party  
**August 19, 2020**



9th Annual Grip It N' Rip It  
Golf Classic rescheduled  
for **September 18, 2020**



Annual Fall Banquet  
**October 15, 2020**



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

**Proverbs 19:17**



## How the Durham Rescue Mission is Ranked:

**#1** ranked charity in all of  
North Carolina in 2019  
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 eighth year in  
a row. Charity Navigator has also  
now given the Durham Rescue  
Mission its highest rating of all  
charities in North Carolina (100%)  
for the third straight year.

**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.

## Please remember . . .

. . . to invest in the life of a person in need during this season of uncertainty. Often friends ask if we receive government support and especially now during the coronavirus crisis. In the 46-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. However, while the Thrift Stores were closed, we had a shortfall in income up to 50% each month. 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/junenews](http://www.durhamrescuemission.org/junenews). 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!



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