

homewardbound



He never knew “blessed” meant happy . . .

It is an age-old story of a small-town boy raised to fear and respect God . . . working hard after high school . . . partying with friends on the weekends . . . then suffering an injury that leads to opioid addiction. Many know someone with this same story. It is tragically a growing epidemic.

“I was terrified of withdrawals, so I quit getting sober. Then I found myself homeless with a choice to make at my final rehab hospital.”

Richard’s story is a familiar one. The slide into addiction is slippery. It is easy to one day look up and find yourself so far gone it is hard to realize the world could be different. However, like so many who find themselves here at the Durham Rescue Mission, God stepped into the picture, and a new life began to unfold for this broken young man.

Richard was sitting in a hospital and had to determine his next step to find sobriety and a roof over his head. After calling down the list of facilities, he reached the Mission. He was told we didn’t have an open bed, but we would find one for him. He was given twenty dollars for a tank of gas that brought him and a friend to the Mission doors. As they pulled into the Mission, the car died; as if God was Himself saying, “This is it . . . this is where you are to be.”

He was scared and timid, but he was encouraged by the other clients who knew the difficulty of becoming and

staying sober. Circumstances forced Richard to lift his head to heaven and ask God for help; his heart and his mind were then opened to the programs that the Mission offers. He entered the Victory Program, where he truly learned about God and God’s endless love for us all. **For the first time in his life, he “knew” God and he felt blessed and happy in a deeply fulfilling way that the world does not provide.**

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33). Richard started trusting God and putting Him first. Even on hard days, he would write over and over “Trust in the Lord.” Five years sober, Richard is now working in the Durham Rescue Mission Development Department.

When you faithfully support the Mission, your donations pass over Richard’s desk and remind him that your support enables the Durham Rescue Mission to help anyone who is seeking a life free from addiction; especially those who have no other means like Richard.

“Thank you to the donors and volunteers who give of their selves. You are an inspiration. You are giving back to families who are broken, and I am so grateful,”

– Richard

The Official Newsletter of

DURHAM

RESCUE

MISSION

Restoring Families and Giving Hope

RESCUE

MINISTRIES, INC.

Restoring Families and Giving Hope

Inside:

- 2 | A Word of Thanks and Encouragement from the Founders
- 3 | One person can make a lasting difference
- 4 | Help us prepare financially for 2021 . . .

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.”

2020 has been a year of UNSHAKABLE faith

Dear Friend of the Durham Rescue Mission,

We are nearing the end of one of the most difficult and unique years in recent history. 2020 has surely been a test for everyone. It has brought the unexpected in ways that no one could have planned.

Yet through it all, God was present, and everyone stepped up to make it an incredible year for the Mission! We weathered the storm of a global pandemic while still serving our clients and providing a haven for them.

This has us reflecting on a simple word with two very important definitions . . .

The word “unshakeable” is very familiar. It is defined as, “not able to be shaken, firm, solid, resolute.” It is a worldly word that we all can relate to. But have you ever looked up its counterpart “Unshakable”?

The spelling without an “e” is more than it seems. It means “cannot be shaken or moved, unfaltering or unwavering, having no errors or loopholes.” **God is UNSHAKABLE!** He alone did not allow us to falter from our mission to help others even when the world was shaken!

“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.” (Hebrews 12:28)

Despite the pandemic, economic instability, a year’s worth of event plans being upended, we were able to remain steady serving God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. Because of that, He rewarded the Mission by making it **unshakable** despite our fears and doubts as unexpected situations came our way.

As we finish out 2020 and look to 2021, **we are thankful for you — our faithful friends and supporters** — who stood with us throughout this unpredictable year. **Please join us in prayer and support** as we prepare for the year to come and the lives yet to be impacted because of the work you make possible.

We are so grateful for your support,

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 contributing through a generous gift to provide meals and clean safe shelter to the most vulnerable during this holiday season.

**We all have
a way we can
help and give
back.**

Celia



One person can make a lasting difference

She could be called a trifecta in the philanthropy world. She prefers her meeker example of being the hands and feet of Jesus at work at the Mission. Ms. Celia is a familiar face at every Mission event and has been for years.

Too many years ago to remember, Celia heard about the Durham Rescue Mission from a fellow church member who was volunteering. Celia likes to volunteer in the community where she can, so she made a point to spend some time at the Mission. That was years ago . . . these days she is a Volunteer Ambassador helping to spread the word about the events that she volunteers at.

Celia has a favorite quote that she models in her walk through life. **“No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care,”** said Theodore Roosevelt. Celia agrees . . . how you care for others speaks to who you are.

If you attend any of the regular Mission events, Easter, Back-to-School, Thanksgiving, or Christmas, you will find Celia in the food line serving food and visiting with the Mission clients and guests so they will feel welcome. She loves to see the joy in others’ faces.

“There is something for everyone here at the Mission,” says Celia. “People are in need for so many reasons. Here they are welcomed and not looked down upon. The kids come and play and are welcomed into what feels like a normal experience.”

“We all have a way we can help and give back.” Through her service at the Mission, monetary donations and donations of gifts-in-kind, Celia is making a lasting impact. In turn, her faithfulness helps her grow personally, spiritually and emotionally which will keep her playing a vital part at the Mission for as long as she is physically able.

If you feel led to volunteer, you can contact the Volunteer Department at 919-688-9641 x5025 to help this holiday season. Ms. Celia will welcome you to the Durham Rescue Mission Volunteer team!

Help us prepare financially for 2021 . . .

As we approach year-end, the Mission needs to prepare for 2021. This year has been an incredible lesson that we must always be prepared for a financial emergency. Because of faithful supporters like you, we weathered this year's obstacles! We humbly ask for your help now to ensure 2021 will be started on solid footing. Your blessings to us are tax-deductible and can be given in the forms of cash, online giving, stocks, estate giving, etc.

Summary: For the year 2020, a provision of the CARES Act allows people *who do not itemize deductions* on federal income taxes to deduct up to \$300 (cash only) of charitable contributions from taxable income.



**Now more than ever
we are called to
make a difference.**

**Save The Date
GIVINGTUESDAY
December 1, 2020**

CARES Act*

Expanded Charitable Giving Tax Incentives

-  **Suspends Required Minimum Distributions**
-  **Creates New Universal Above-the-line Charitable Deduction**
-  **Increases Charitable Deduction Limit for Cash Contributions**

* Enacted March 27, 2020

Please remember ...

...to invest in the life of a person in need during this holiday season. Often friends ask if we receive government support and especially now during the coronavirus crisis. In the forty-six-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. 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/novnews20.

Thank you for being a friend to those who are discovering new life through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

