

MARCH 2021

Your support helps guide lost souls home.

homewardbound



**Faith took her on
an amazing journey . . .**

Read more inside . . .

A WORD OF THANKS AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE FOUNDERS

Building a Legacy!

Dear Friend of the Durham Rescue Mission,

As we have begun this new year together, we realize that before we can look to the future, we must show gratefulness for all the ways we were blessed in one of the most difficult years any of us have ever seen.

We are forever grateful for Duke University Medical Center working closely with the Mission to mitigate the spread of COVID. As we watch the news and speak with other missions, we know how fortunate we have been.

You, our donors and friends of the Mission, have helped us to install state-of-the-art air purifiers and purchase disinfecting equipment to help mitigate the virus on our men's and women's campuses. You protected the lives of hundreds, and we are eternally grateful you stepped up when we know times were hard for you as well! **Thank you for your love and support!**

With these steps, we are well on our way to reducing the spread of the virus in this new year. But the long-term impact of this pandemic is still at our doorsteps. The COVID-19 pandemic has created a "perfect storm" that is already **increasing homelessness** as we see homeless tents popping up in downtown Durham. It is **increasing mental health issues and addiction** as our neighbors struggle with shattered lives. These rising statistics are not just numbers to us . . . **they are God's creation needing help and HOPE restored.** We are stepping up to do just that.

We're excited to announce we are close to completing our fundraising goal to break ground on dorm #3 to help meet the rising needs. Our Philosophy is we do not break ground until we raise the money!

We also want to announce that after 47 years of being at the helm of the Mission we plan to step down from day-to-day operations of the Mission beginning next year. We will be focusing on raising funds for the Mission's endowment fund, Rescue Legacy Fund, to help ensure the future financial stability of the Mission for years to come.

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

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 season of great need.



Faith took her on an amazing journey . . .

Sitting alone, scared, broken, and untrusting, a mother of two sought God. Then through a simple internet search, she found her destination — the Durham Rescue Mission. She loaded up her girls and left their life behind to come to the Durham Rescue Mission.

She knew she wanted better for her children and realized it would only be through her own hard work to change their circumstances that they would one day be able to say, “My mommy did it!”

This young mother walked through the doors of the Mission with trust issues. She had no family. So the instant love and support the Mission extends was an experience that even today still overwhelms her.

She not only found a program to help her redefine her path in life, but she also found a home for her children. “There is no program like this where I came from,” she shares.

“I had to make myself uncomfortable to be open to God! I had to stick it out. It is not a race; it is a marathon to change a life.”

Her profound words as a young woman illustrate that she is on a mission and not simply in the Mission.

She is thankful for the donors who give hope to women like herself. Her mindset today is “the sky is the limit,” as she prepares for college. She has her sights on a degree that will allow her to help others in similar need.

Please remember ...

...to invest in the life of a person in need during this season of great need. Often friends ask if we receive government support and especially now during this pandemic economy. 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 and enables us to prepare for the expanding need in our community!



Please use the remittance slip enclosed with this newsletter. You may also give your donation online at www.durhamrescuemission.org/marchnews.

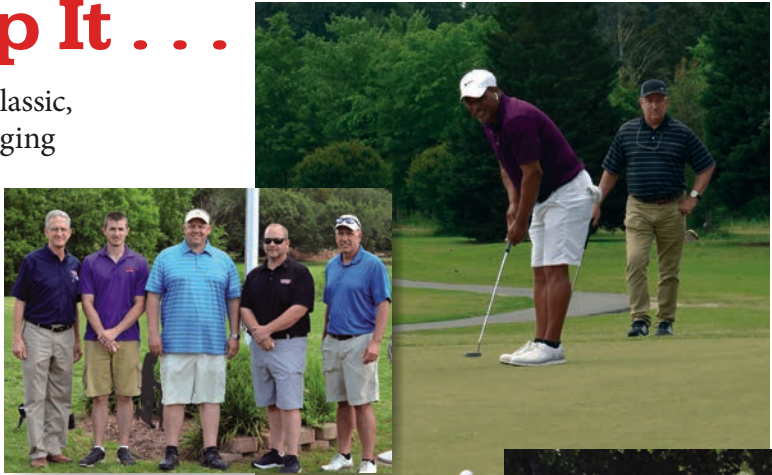
Thank you for being a friend to those who are discovering new life through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

10th Annual Grip it 'N Rip It . . .

We are so excited to be hosting our 10th Annual Grip it 'N Rip It Golf Classic, sponsored by Couch Oil and Carolina Sunrock, to support the life-changing work at the Mission. This exciting day of golf and fellowship is one we are delighted to share with you at a new course this year. Join us!

Governors Club, 11000 Governors Dr., Chapel Hill, NC 27517

Contact Tony Gooch at 919-683-4027 or go to golf.DurhamRescueMission.org to register.



A new role for a well-known face

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought new challenges, new needs, and new opportunities to the Durham Rescue Mission. Thanks to the Clegg Family Dorm and the Ball Family Dorm, this past year's challenges were met with great efficiency. The smaller rooms in these dorms allowed the Mission to segregate clients as needed for safety. However, the pandemic has laid the framework for a coming “Perfect Storm” of increasing homelessness, mental health issues, and addiction.

This problem has led the co-founders, Ernie & Gail Mills, to devote their time to building a legacy fund that will provide a third dorm like the Clegg and Ball family dorms. The Mills will be stepping aside from their roles of leading the “day to day” operations of

the Mission and focus on this need for more efficient dorm space.

There is no one more prepared to step into their shoes as CEO of the Durham Rescue Mission than Rev. Rob Tart! If you have been involved with the Mission in any capacity over the past 25 years, you know this face of one of the Mission's most faithful servants.

He has served the Mission in many roles over the past two and a half decades, 25 years, and has dedicated his life's work to those who seek shelter and a new life in Christ. He addresses the client's needs with the word of God in order to guide them to healed lives. He has led the daily operations of the Mission and is the brains behind the thrifts stores.



Rev. Rob Tart

Rev. Tart is the unanimous choice for taking the Mission into future years. He will assume the CEO position on January 1, 2022.

CONGRATULATIONS!

THANK YOU FOR BEING A FRIEND TO SO MANY IN NEED!

SERVING **OVER 400** MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN A DAY FOCUSED ON THE HOMELESS, SHELTERING & ADDICTION RECOVERY

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF HOPE & PURPOSE



#1 RANKED RESCUE MISSION in all of North Carolina in 2020 by Charity Navigator. Charity Navigator is the nation's largest and most utilized evaluator of charities and has rated the

Durham Rescue Mission with its highest 4-star rating for the ninth year in a row and a perfect score of 100 for four consecutive years.

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.

