

# homewardbound

Your support helps guide lost souls home.



The holidays are a wonderful time for me . . . now that I'm safe in the arms of Jesus

by Catina

Thank you for your donations . . . and for helping to give me a fresh new start at life

**My name is Catina.** I always felt I was a good person. If I found a stray cat on the road, I'd pick it up and take it to a shelter. I figured God Himself would do something like that. One day I hit a squirrel while driving. I stopped, confessed my transgression to God, and said *I'm sorry I killed your animal. God, you know I'm a good person, don't you?* All that was well and good, but down deep I didn't know Jesus. So the day my life fell apart, I had no place to turn.

#### **Killing myself would've been a cowardly act**

I had been a property manager for many years, but when the company was sold, I lost my job — *and eventually my life savings.* The day I was no longer employed I felt like I'd died. I went into a deep depression, walking around in a cloud. I stopped checking the mail.

Why bother? I couldn't pay my bills anyway. It got so bad I attempted to take my life. I'm grateful I received help by spending some time in a psych ward. Killing myself would've been a cowardly act.

**"I know I'm where God wants me to be at this point in my life."**

I'm grateful I heard about the Durham Rescue Mission. I know I'm where God wants me to be at this point in my life. I have a full-time job and am saving my money so that I can get a place of my own. Now as we come to the holiday season, it's already a happy time for me. At Thanksgiving and Christmas it will be good to know I am finally on the right track. I want to be sure to say thank you to you who give so much of yourself and your donations to keep the doors of the Mission open for someone like me.

Mission Statement of  
**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.”

**REMEMBER OTHERS  
THIS CHRISTMAS**

From **November 27th to December 22nd**, the Durham Rescue Mission needs your help to make Christmas an extra special day for men, women, and children living at the Mission. Many have not experienced the joy of Christmas in years.

Visit our **Wish Tree at the Northgate Mall** in Durham, choose a name, and purchase a special gift for one of our residents!

To volunteer at our Wish Tree, call **(919) 688-9641 ext. 5025**



## An Encouraging Word from the Founders

Dear Friend of the Durham Rescue Mission,

We know you join us in being glad there was at least some place that Bethlehem night for the Son of God. It certainly wasn't a five-star hotel. It was a place for animals, and a manger was the only spot available for our Lord to lay His head — a manger out of which a donkey may have been eating only minutes before.

So there He was — Jesus . . . a homeless child who would soon be recognized as the Son of God. Perhaps this is one of the reasons Jesus identifies so strongly with each person who comes through the doors of the Durham Rescue Mission — a place where we always make room for a person or family in need.

And because of your generosity here's what happens in the lives of our guests, because there is room for that one more person . . .

- People discover there's hope after all
- Men and women overcome addictions and begin to live clean, sober lives
- Entire families are reunited as they make Christ the head of their households
- The very expressions on their faces change — with smiles taking the place of frowns and sadness . . . and the list goes on and on

It is our love for Jesus and the desire to make Him known that makes the Durham Rescue Mission a special place of rescue for so many. In fact, we've recently learned that of the 11 shelters in our community, 64% of the homeless come to the Durham Rescue Mission. We're honored so many want to come to a Christian shelter where they know their lives will be changed for eternity. Now as we come to the holiday season, hundreds more will come through our doors . . . and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

*Ernie & Gail*

Ernie & Gail Mills, Founders

“It is our love for Jesus and the desire to make Him known that makes the Durham Rescue Mission a special place for so many.”

## I'm glad God always holds up His end of the bargain

by Greg

I have been in other programs . . . but *nothing compares to the Durham Rescue Mission*



**My name is Greg.** At one time I might have told you I was 51 years old. But today I feel *51 years young*. I say that because of what this Mission and its staff mean to me. I grew up in the church and, in fact, my father was a Baptist minister. I now reflect on those early days and realize the power of the truths I learned as a child.

So why am I here at the Mission? For this reason: my wife died of a brain tumor a few years ago. Without life insurance there was no extra money to help with expenses. I was now alone and unhappy for quite a while. Here I was . . . an educated person with majors in economics and political

science, but suddenly without money and in need of food and shelter. That's when the Durham Rescue Mission came into the picture.

### Thank you for your generosity during the holidays and throughout the year

Because I had done work in human resources in the past, I was given a similar assignment here. The Mission has been great in tapping into my business skills, trusting me to continue to work in an office setting. I can say so far it's been a win/win situation. In working with people I try to treat everyone as I would like to be treated. I feel I'm respectful of everyone I come

in contact with — regardless of one's faith or life circumstance.

“Here I was . . . suddenly without money and in need of food and shelter.”

I'm learning God always holds up His part of the bargain. It's now my responsibility to continue to do good work and be the kind of person He wants me to be. I also want to thank you for your generosity during the holidays and throughout the year. We rely on you and your kindness. God bless you at this special season.

## Thank you for your ongoing generosity throughout the year . . . and especially during the holiday season

Once in the year — and only once — the whole world stands still to celebrate the advent of a life. Only Jesus claims this worldwide, undying remembrance.

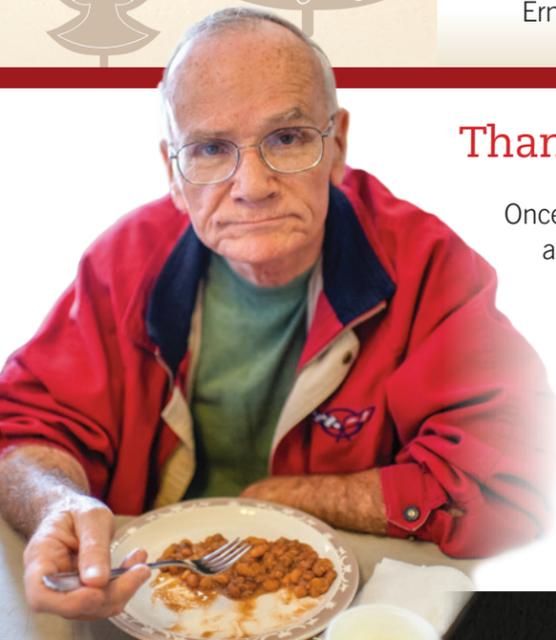
Christmas celebrates that moment when God stepped down from the stairs of heaven as a baby. Aren't you glad the light shining from a humble manger is strong enough to lighten our lives? Thank you for helping us share this divine light with so many who've lost their way.

You've been generous month after month, season after season. Even when times are tough, you stand alongside those in need. *Thank you.*

The Christmas season continues to be *one of the greatest opportunities we have all year to share the good news of freedom in Jesus Christ*. Now with God as your strength, please continue to carry on your own personal ministry of rescue.

To send your donation today to help our friends during the holiday season, please use the remit slip enclosed. You may also give your gift on our secure web site at [www.DurhamRescueMission.org](http://www.DurhamRescueMission.org). God bless you for being one who cares.

“Even when times are tough, you stand alongside those in need. Thank you.”





by Reverend Rob Tart  
Chief Operating Officer

Paul said in Ephesians 4:1,  
"I . . . beseech you that ye  
walk worthy of the vocation  
wherewith ye are called."

Most Christians miss the  
theological truths bursting  
from this verse because  
they limit "vocation" to their  
job. Vocation is not limited  
to one's job. As we read  
the rest of Ephesians we  
see Paul instructing believers  
about marriage (5:21-33);  
about raising children  
(6:1-4), and about work  
relationships (6:5-9).

Christians are constantly  
looking for their "callings  
or vocations," but we fail  
to recognize our marriages,  
children, and even our  
ministries in our local  
churches as "vocations"  
we are called to do. Frankly,  
many men miss God's  
blessings on their jobs,  
because they are slack  
in their vocations at home  
and church.

## GIVING TUESDAY

December 1, 2015

The Tuesday after Thanksgiving is a movement to create a national day of giving at the beginning of the Christmas season. Join others around the country as they share one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and give to help others.

If you would like to help the men, women, and children at the Durham Rescue Mission, you can give online at [www.DurhamRescueMission.org](http://www.DurhamRescueMission.org) or call (919) 688-9641, ext. 5025 to learn about volunteer opportunities during the upcoming holidays.

## FOOD PANTRY RE-STOCK

**Our food supply is running low.** With the holidays upon us, we know folks will come to us seeking assistance. Please ask your church, co-workers, neighbors or your grocer to help us re-stock the pantry for the holidays. Collect nonperishable food items for the Durham Rescue Mission and help your neighbor in need.

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY DINNER AND TOY GIVEAWAY — We need NEW TOYS

December 23rd, we are hosting our Annual Christmas Community Dinner to help the Triangle's neediest. Please help provide toys for at-risk children in attendance. Last year, with your help, we distributed almost 6,000 toys!

Visit [www.DurhamRescueMission.org](http://www.DurhamRescueMission.org) to learn how you can help and/or to make a secure online donation.

### Needs:

- Hams
- Turkeys
- New Toys
- New Games
- Volunteers

Items may be dropped off at:  
1201 East Main Street in Durham  
by December 20th.

To volunteer, contact (919) 688-9641  
ext. 5025 to register.



## Year-End Reminder!

With 2015 winding down, now is a great time to plan your year-end gift. Below is a list of opportunities to make your final donation and receive your tax deduction for this year. To put your gift to work even faster, donate online [www.DurhamRescueMission.org](http://www.DurhamRescueMission.org).

- Cash Gifts
- Stocks and Bonds
- Real Estate
- Vehicles, Boats, Trailers, RVs, ATVs, Motorcycles