

homewardbound

Your support helps guide lost souls home.

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Clothing Donations bring smiles to the needy!

The Durham Rescue Mission desperately needs your clothing that you no longer need or want to help homeless and needy men, women, and children in the Triangle. That's right! Used clothing can put a smile on the face of a needy person.

If your clothing is no longer becoming to you we'd like it to be coming to the Durham Rescue Mission!



DurhamRescueMission.org

"My addiction made me homeless. I felt like less of a woman. For a while I thought I'd lost my mind."

"Thank you for giving my family and me a chance to start over."



FROM AN ADDICTION... TO GIVING GOD COMPLETE CONTROL OF MY LIFE

I have not thought about picking up a bottle of vodka since I walked through the doors of the Durham Rescue Mission. And that's a first for me. The ABC store lost a good customer when I decided to make Jesus the center of my life. My past was all about drinking, anger and having a heart harder than stone. Because of a relationship that went sour I felt betrayed, depressed, alone and trapped in an unfriendly world.

In my daily fits of anger I'd take my frustration out on my children by yelling and screaming at them nonstop. When I was drinking I wasn't thinking. My addiction made me homeless. For a while I thought I'd lost my mind.

I will be eternally grateful for your kindness.

I'm sure you see why I'm so grateful that I've been given another chance to make it in life. No longer is my world crashing down around me. Today, God is transforming my life in every way. He is helping me deal with my anger. I am becoming a better mother. Every day I am developing a deeper relationship with my Heavenly Father. I'm also learning to forgive those who have hurt me in the past. And that's a big step for me. If I don't forgive then that pent up anger will always weigh heavily on my shoulders. But I could never make these momentous changes alone. Every day I need Christian counsel, wisdom from God's Word and the person of Jesus Christ to keep me on the straight and narrow. I'm so grateful my children and I will be able to enjoy a wonderful holiday season here at the Durham Rescue Mission. So please let me thank you in advance for your ongoing support to help people like me.

Your friend,

Idalis



A Word of Thanks and Encouragement from the Founders

Dear Friend of the Durham Rescue Mission,

When people in need come through the doors of the Durham Rescue Mission, they feel no one loves them. They've been hurt, abandoned, wounded mentally and physically. They feel lost in this big world. When they arrive at the Mission they hope someone will love them and show them a way to a better life. When that day finally comes for our guests, they begin to say things like... *When I felt real love here at the Mission everything in my life began to change... The day I surrendered completely to my Lord and Savior all things became new... I used to live in a world of darkness and hopelessness so pervasive I thought it was normal. Today I'm living in the saving light of Jesus Christ —and I know God loves me.*

Your gifts and service as a volunteer help change lives for eternity

We share this good news with you because it is your support for the Mission that's helping to change lives forever. Every gift you make helps to transform a life. Every prayer you utter on behalf of the homeless makes a life-changing difference in a troubled heart.

So many come to us with little hope and no sense of a future. But all that changes when they come to

grips with the fact that someone loves them. Our staff listens to folks...we hear their stories... we get to know their children...and we are able to carry out these acts of caring because of your generosity.

“God bless you and your family for being a friend to so many who need the touch of the Savior.”

When Jesus was born that night in Bethlehem it was a moment in time that set off a chain of events that changed the world. The good news is for every man, woman and child who come through our doors the Christian message of salvation is free for the taking. Aren't you glad Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever? Thank you for your ongoing support during this holiday season when so many of our guests are even more receptive to this message of hope. God bless you for being a friend to those who need the gentle touch of a loving Lord. It's our prayer you and your family enjoy a blessed holiday season.

Your friends to the homeless,
Ernie + Gail Mills
Ernie & Gail Mills, Co-founders

The greatest Christmas gift is not one that costs the most money, but the gift that carries the most love.

During this time of year your kindness and generosity help us move mountains of pain from the hearts of those who come through our doors. Thank you for your donations, prayers, volunteer work and your continued support of this vital ministry of rescue. Now the holidays are upon us, and your Durham Rescue Mission continues to do all it can to provide food and shelter for the needy. But the greatest gift you help us give our friends is hope their lives can be changed.

If you've paid us a visit recently you were probably surprised to see the range of people who come to us. Often the homeless are not who you think they might be. It's true many are fighting to break free from addictions to alcohol and other drugs. Some are fleeing a life of domestic abuse. Others have spent years on the streets struggling to survive.

Your caring makes a world of difference.



“Today my life is being changed by the power of Jesus Christ. I now feel physically and spiritually alive.”

“Thank you for helping me to find a life worth living.”

OUT OF THE DARKNESS OF ADDICTION AND DESPAIR...TO A LIFE OF SOBRIETY AND JOY

The other day, someone asked me about my emotional state when I was using drugs, when I lived with depression, when I sat behind bars and lived in a world of abandonment. My answer was, *I had no emotions*. The only time my deepest feelings finally came to life was when I began to take the Victory program seriously here at the Durham Rescue Mission. Now, because I continue to study the Word of God my life is taking a 180° turn for the better. I now feel alive. Positive. Encouraged. My heart is right with God. And there's no more numbing my pain with drugs and alcohol.

My poor choices began early in life. I don't know who my real dad is, and the only relationship I had with my stepfather was that we used drugs together. Not a positive base on which to build a relationship. As I grew older, things got worse. I was sent to prison because

I kept getting DUIs. There were times, I'm sorry to admit, I did not even know I was driving. But that's all in the past. ***Today, my life is being changed by the power of Jesus Christ.*** I now feel physically and spiritually alive.

God bless you for your kindness.

I'm grateful God doesn't give up on people. I'm also glad you as a friend of the Mission are not giving up on me. If you hadn't reached out to me through your donations and other ways of supporting the Durham Rescue Mission, I'd still be out there doing bad things – and probably would be back in prison. However, because you bless the Mission with your support throughout the year, people like me are getting the opportunity to start over. You and I may never meet, but I will always remember your kindness and your open heart.

Gratefully,
Robert
Robert



To invest in the life of a homeless person this holiday season, kindly use the response slip enclosed with this newsletter. You may also give your donation on our secure website at **www.DurhamRescueMission.org**. Thank you for being a friend to the poorest of the poor in our community during the holidays and throughout the year. Thank you for helping us plant *seeds of hope* that promise new life in Christ.

“Thank you for being a friend to the poorest of the poor in our community during the holidays and throughout the year.”

Thanksgiving Community Dinner and Warm Clothing Giveaway

On **November 24th**, the Durham Rescue Mission will be hosting our Annual Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner and Warm Clothing Giveaway for homeless and needy men, women, and children in the Triangle.

Thanksgiving Needs:

- Hams
- Turkeys
- Gently used warm coats and other clothing items
- Volunteers

Drop off at 1201 East Main Street in Durham by **November 22nd**.
To Volunteer, contact: (919) 688-9641 ext. 5025

Remember Others This Christmas

From **November 25th 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 Northgate Mall in Durham.** Choose a name and purchase a gift for a resident!

To be a Wish Tree Volunteer, call: (919) 688-9641 ext 5025

Annual Christmas Community Dinner and Toy Giveaway – We need NEW TOYS

On **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.

Christmas Needs:

- Hams
- Turkeys
- New Toys and Games
- Volunteers



Drop off at 1201 East Main Street in Durham by **December 16th**.
To Volunteer, contact: (919) 688-9641 ext. 5025

Mission Statement of the 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.”

During the Holidays, visit www.DurhamRescueMission.org to learn how you can help and/or to make a secure online donation.

God bless you for reaching out to so many in need with your ongoing support of the Durham Rescue Mission.



#1- ranked Homeless Services Provider in NC, SC, GA, TN, and VA by Charity Navigator in 2016. Charity Navigator is the nation's largest and most utilized evaluator of charities.

64%, almost **2/3**, of homeless in our area choose the Durham Rescue Mission for help according to the 2015 Durham County Point in Time Count.

