



Open Door

Opening Doors of **Hope** for the Poor and Homeless

Raleigh Rescue Mission Newsletter

November/December 2008

Christmas Treasures FOR Teka

When Teka first came

to Raleigh Rescue Mission's Community Medical Respite Program, her heart was filled with shame and loneliness. Drugs had stolen her health and she suffered almost daily seizures. Her three children lived with Teka's mother and though she longed to see them, Teka was not allowed to venture past the gate of her mother's home.

Then, as we reported in the Winter 2008 *Open Door*, Teka's life was transformed through the Mission's Life Plan Program. After giving her heart to Christ and overcoming her addiction, Teka's seizures subsided. Better yet, her mother welcomed her for visits to see her children.

Today, Teka is living in our transitional housing, and her life is busier and happier than ever! "I'm enrolled at Wake Tech to get my associate's degree in human services. I want to be a substance abuse counselor. My kids are getting good grades in school and my youngest just gave me a heart she made. I am truly blessed."

For the first time in years, Teka will join her family overnight for the Christmas holidays. "My mom lets me stay the night now and we all pile into her king-size bed to watch TV. I'm hoping to have the weekend—or maybe a whole week—there for Christmas."

Though her children have hinted about gifts they'd like to receive from their mother, the family is simply glad to be together. "If I could have anything for Christmas, it would be a whole box of hugs from my kids," Teka says.

Looking back, Teka admits she never knew what being a mom was until she found a new way of life at Raleigh Rescue Mission. "The staff talks to you when you are down. They really care. People give money so you have what you need to keep your hair nice, your body clean, and so we can have activities and classes that inspire us to do better."

As Teka looks to the future, her hopes for her children mirror those of any mother: "I want them to have the best life. I want them to do what I couldn't do. That would be the best treasure I could receive."

Thank you for partnering with Raleigh Rescue Mission to offer hope and new life to precious people like Teka and her children. May you treasure this Thanksgiving and Christmas season with your own family.



Because You Gave AUGUST 2008

Your compassionate prayers and generous financial gifts made it possible for RRM to provide these services in August. Thanks and God bless you for sharing.

Decisions for Christ 0

Total nights lodging 3,017

Total meals served 6,184

Nights lodging for men 1,191

Nights lodging for women and children 1,880

Employment opportunities 77

Jobs obtained 10

Adult education attendance 16

Student hours accrued 56

Visits to RRM medical clinic 269



Last summer, the Mission held a festive celebration for members of the Life Plan Program who completed their program courses. Here, Lynn Daniell and program member Tina take a moment to show off her Certificate of Achievement.

and clients show their gratitude to God, the Source of all blessings.

As we enter into the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, we want to give you every opportunity to touch our clients' lives. We appreciate your generosity and extend an invitation to each of you to help meet the needs of the homeless and poor all year long through our ministry.

Please pray for us as we share the true treasures of the season with each and every hurting soul who comes through our doors. And, may you and your loved ones enjoy every blessing God can provide in the coming months.

With Thanksgiving

Lynn Daniell
Lynn Daniell
Executive Director

HE HAS BROUGHT DOWN THE
POWERFUL FROM THEIR THRONES,
AND LIFTED UP THE LOWLY;
HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY
WITH GOOD THINGS.

LUKE 1:52-53 NRSV

I Had No Idea!

Each Christmas, little ones in our W.E. Mangum Children's Development Center enjoy a variety of traditional Christmas activities.

This year, the children will visit a tree farm where they'll choose their own tree, put on a nativity play and even "buy" gifts for their siblings and parents in a Christmas Store set up just for them. To learn more about our children's ministries, call (919) 828-9014, ext. 115.



314 E. Hargett Street
Raleigh, NC 27601
(919) 828-9014

www.raleighrescue.org



Join Our Annual Campaign

September 15, 2008-January 15, 2009

Our Goal: **\$1.6 million**



Last year during October, November and December, donors contributed 54 percent of the income we needed to cover our budget in 2008!

This fall, growing concerns about the economy, higher gas and grocery prices and the distraction of the presidential election seem to threaten our ability to raise our *Mission of*

Hope goal of \$1.6 million. But we know our donors will come through as they have in times past.

Your compassion and concern for homeless men, women and children motivate you to give even in tough times. And, because you do, you provide hope and healing for men like Johnny, who found his way back to the heart of his family.

JOHNNY'S STORY



Plagued by decades of living with bipolar disorder and drug addiction, Johnny didn't want his family to see how he lived on the streets. "My pain was so great, but I couldn't commit suicide. I just hoped someone would kill me," he says today.

January 20, 2007, after a three-day binge, Johnny came to Raleigh Rescue Mission to hide from another drug addict who kept pestering him. He surprised even himself when the intake counselor told him a bed was available and Johnny took it! "I'd lost my family and I was at the bottom of the barrel. I wanted something different."

The Mission's free Medical Clinic took time to educate Johnny about his bipolar condition, then worked with doctors to straighten out his medications. Soon, he began to see the world in a new way—one that didn't include drug abuse and did include a relationship with Jesus Christ.

"I've learned the fruits of the Spirit, budgeting and how to say no. After being in 40 or 50 different programs, this staff legitimately cares about me as a person."

As Thanksgiving 2007 approached, Johnny hoped for one thing—reconciliation with the family he'd hurt so much. Before he'd come to the Mission, his 2-year-old grandson had told his mommy he wanted his "Pa-Pa," but Johnny hadn't wanted the child to see him living on the streets. However, at the Mission his physical, mental and spiritual conditions had changed. Perhaps his family would welcome him back.

Johnny's prayers were answered and on Thanksgiving Day, he gratefully held his grandson as he stood in the family circle at his daughter's home, thanking God for His blessings. "My grandson had prayed for me every day. God used him to strengthen me," he says. "Lots of folks gave up on me, but God knew the person I was. And I never gave up on myself."

Your Gifts MAKE IT POSSIBLE

We often can't find the words necessary to tell you how grateful we are for your support and friendship, especially in troubling times. So, we'll let Johnny say it as only he can: "The folks at Raleigh Rescue Mission gave me new life and I'll always be grateful. Thanks for giving so I could be here."

To learn more about *Mission of Hope* and how your gifts minister to the hurting, call (919) 828-9014, ext. 115. We'll be delighted to talk with you and thank you personally for your support.

Holiday Compassion IN ACTION



Gobbles to Go

RALEIGH RESCUE MISSION

Can you imagine eating a sandwich or bowl of soup for your holiday dinner? Neither can we! That's why Raleigh Rescue Mission will deliver more than 1,100 hot, fresh, turkey dinners to low-income families, the elderly and homebound this Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve.

Join this project by sending a gift or gift cards in the envelope provided, or bringing donations from the list below to 314 E. Hargett Street. You can also answer our *Gobbles to Go* hotline, or help with meal preparation or delivery. Call (919) 828-9014 or visit www.raleighrescue.org to get started.

Food We Need **Most!**

- Ham and turkey
- Stuffing mix
- Canned collard greens
- Fresh celery, onions
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Canned, fresh or frozen garden peas, green beans, corn
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Fresh or canned sweet potatoes, yams
- Turkey, brown gravy mix
- Canned chicken and turkey broth
- Butter, margarine
- Ready-to-serve rolls
- Whipped topping
- Pumpkin, apple, pecan pies
- Poultry seasoning, sage, salt, pepper
- Cinnamon, allspice, nutmeg
- Brown, white sugar
- Coffee, tea, lemonade, fruit drinks
- Milk

WINTER **Warmth!**

Each fall and winter, the Mission distributes almost 2,000 blankets, coats, hats, gloves, toboggans and other winter wear to the homeless and needy. Bring your donations of new or gently used warm stuff to 314 E. Hargett Street. We promise to put them to good use!

Christmas Treasures OF HOPE



Tubs of Love November 1-December 25

Call (919) 828-9014, ext. 126 for the Mission's own Christmas "wish list" for our men's and women's ministries, clinic, kitchen and other areas. Then purchase a large Rubbermaid-type tub with lid and fill it with one or more items from the list. We'll use your gifts throughout the Mission; our residents will use the sturdy tubs for storage and moving. You can also make a cash gift toward our needs listed at www.raleighrescue.org.

Homeless Angel Christmas Project November 4-December 11

Call (919) 828-9014, ext. 126 to ask for a "homeless angel." Or, pick one up and take a tour while you're here (call ahead, please). Each angel contains a Christmas "wish" from a man, woman or child at the Mission or in the low-income community. Just buy the gift on your angel, then label and return it unwrapped to the Mission by December 11.

Holiday Warehouse December 4-18

Our donors are so generous during the Christmas season! We need your help to receive, sort and wrap the many wonderful gifts donated to the Mission. Call (919) 828-9014, ext. 109 to learn more.

Take Note!

This Christmas, honor a friend, family member, coworker or boss with a gift to Raleigh Rescue Mission. Include his or her name and address, and we'll send a Christmas card notifying your honoree of the gift.



Year-end GIFTS OF Stock

More folks donate stock to Raleigh Rescue Mission during the Christmas season than at any other time of year—and for good reason! Your gift of stock, transferred directly to Raleigh Rescue Mission, benefits those we serve, and you, too.

When you give stock directly, you avoid paying capital gains tax on the sale, and because your gift is complete before year-end, you receive a charitable tax deduction for the gift.

To learn more about giving stock—or any other type of non-cash gift, call (919) 828-9014, ext 122 and let's talk!



Bruce Storer
Director of Development



If you're planning a Christmas vacation, traveling to visit family or would like to send a holiday bouquet, visit www.raleighrescue.org and click "Travel Raleigh Rescue." Prices are very competitive with other travel and florist Web sites, and 60 percent of the commission from your purchase goes to the Mission!

Prayer & Praise

I WILL PRAISE YOU AS LONG AS I LIVE, AND IN YOUR NAME I WILL LIFT UP MY HANDS.

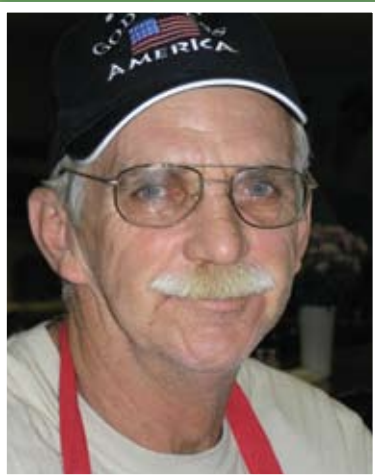
PSALM 63:4

Pray for:

- The success of our *Mission of Hope* annual fund-raising campaign.
- Comfort for residents struggling with addictions who, especially around the holidays, are reminded of the losses they've suffered. Studies show the festivities associated with Thanksgiving and Christmas can trigger a relapse.
- Restoration and reconciliation in our residents' relationships with their families and friends.

Praise Him for:

- A female resident's successful transition into permanent housing.
- Steve's successful Lasik surgery! Thanks to this procedure, he will no longer need to wear or buy glasses anymore!
- The licensing of our W.E. Mangum Children's Development Center after months of hard work.



Steve was featured in the September/October 2007 issue of *Open Door*.

Memorials and Honorary Gifts

July 16 – Sept. 15, 2008

Memorials

Eric L. Field
Martha Hayami
Blanche G. Ipock
Bobby Jones
John Montgomery Kennedy
Lt. Col. John Edward Miller
Grace Waller Honeycutt Miller
Mildred E. Nadeau
David Alan Roberts
Aiken Sarvis
Johnny W. Wyatt
Guy R. Zummo

Honorary Gifts

In honor of
Given By
Barbara Foulkrod
John and Alanna Linden
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Godwin
Mr. and Mrs. David G. Griffin

Would you like to become a member of Raleigh Rescue Mission's Intercessory Prayer Team? Contact Leslie Currin, public relations director, at (919) 828-9014, ext. 115 or lesliec@raleighrescue.org.