





Stability is a term that evokes a sense of strength and firmness. It is a state of equilibrium, which allows an organization to function optimally. It is an understatement to say that the Rescue Mission has been working to achieve a state of stability for the last few years. In 2021, we achieved what may be our new standard of being able to fundraise and provide services while supporting others with similar missions and values.

In the midst of the pandemic, I remember watching an online leadership conference that encouraged organizations to look for other like-minded organizations to help support them during these most difficult times. At first, I thought, how could anyone put any additional time and resources into anywhere but their own organization? What a great challenge to push our organization into not just surviving but thriving.

As the pandemic changed and restrictions were lifted, we were able to return to a more normal level of retail operations by opening two new stores to generate the needed revenue for our essential programming. Additionally, we were able to have several of our annual fundraisers, mainly the ones we host outdoors. Finally, our donor and government support remained constant and

strong. The four legs of our table were all in place, enabling us to provide our essential services while preparing our new Youth Shelter in Syracuse and our new Women's House in Binghamton.

We then looked outside our organization to support a local nonprofit that works with at-risk youth in Syracuse. Pass Da R.O.C.K. has been redefining realities for 20 years and the Rescue Mission was able to come alongside and help support their work. Additionally, we were able to partner with the Salt City Market to launch the Ambassador Program to give formerly homeless men and women a new path towards employment.

Stability isn't sedentary. Stability starts with providing essential lifesaving services for vulnerable men, women and children in our community. It continues by stretching outside of the comfort zone to new areas and new programs in order to address different and diverse needs. Love in action keeps us moving!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan S." in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Dan Sieburg
Chief Executive Officer



In 2021, the Rescue Mission worked alongside community partners to bring two unique programs to life. Working with the Syracuse Urban Partnership (SYRUP), the Salt City Ambassador program was launched in April. Over the summer, students from Pass Da R.O.C.K.'s Life Empowerment Program spent six weeks learning culinary skills at the Rescue Mission's Clarence L. Jordan Food Service and Culinary Education Center. These successful programs have established meaningful training and employment opportunities for individuals from the Syracuse community who were once marginalized by poverty, giving them the opportunity to live independent and stable lives.

The Ambassador Program is a

workforce development initiative that connects Rescue Mission program residents with job training. Ambassadors are current and former residents of the Rescue Mission. The Ambassador's job is to provide hospitality to enhance a customer's experience at the market. A few of the Ambassadors' everyday tasks include opening doors and greeting customers, answering questions, bussing tables, and carrying groceries to customers' vehicles. In return, the Ambassadors earn steady income and build their resume with valuable training and customer service experience.

For the students in Pass Da R.O.C.K.'s Life Empowerment Program, youth receive training in practical areas like food service, that they can imme-



diately apply to their daily lives, giving them a sense of empowerment in a positive and safe community environment. Upon completion of the full summer program, Pass Da R.O.C.K. provides students with a stipend which serves to reinforce responsibility and hard work.

TOP LEFT: Roger, who lives at the Rescue Mission's Gifford Place supportive residence, loves working as a Salt City Market Ambassador. He especially enjoys working with people from many different cultures.

TOP RIGHT: The Rescue Mission's Food Service Center hosted Pass Da R.O.C.K., a youth outreach program offering culinary training. Under the guidance of our Food Service Director, the sessions ran for six weeks during the summer.

MY STORY

A Place to Call Home

For Joan, life has always been a series of ups and downs.

Traumatic experiences and illness led her to addiction. And Joan's addiction led her to the Rescue Mission.

Joan's history seemed to repeat itself. As a child, her father left, leaving Joan and her mother alone. As an adult, Joan's husband left, leaving her as a single mother. It was challenging, but Joan remembers a good life with her two sons. An unforeseen medical diagnosis changed everything. Joan was unable to work, and her medications led to dependency. Joan says she found herself going off the deep end.

"Things seemed to be happening, like I couldn't afford where I was living, so I would get evicted, and I lived on the streets for a little while," she recalls. She eventually found her way to the Rescue Mission.

At the Rescue Mission, Joan knew she needed to take the next steps to put her life back on track, including finding a place to call home. Her Rapid Re-Housing case manager, Valerie, was there to help.

The Rapid Re-Housing program helps individuals transition to independent living. The program pays for an individual's first and last months' rent, and partially funds the second and third months' rent. Beginning in the fourth month, the client is



responsible for the full rent payment.

After meeting certain criteria and receiving approval for the Rapid Re-Housing program, Joan began searching for a new apartment. Finding an affordable place was challenging, but she was determined. "The rent is very expensive out there for people on a fixed income," she notes.

This November, after a six-month stay in the Rescue Mission women's shelter, Joan finally found a place she could call her own. She moved into an apartment located in a stately, older house on Syracuse's west side. In addition to her rent support, Joan still gets help from Valerie with paperwork, vouchers, and other details that can be hard to manage.

Joan is one of 44 people the Rescue Mission moved into a home in 2021 through the Rapid

Re-Housing program.

Now, having been in her apartment for several months, Joan is settled and happy. She received donated furniture and found a like-new living room set on Craigslist. She refurbished an old wicker baby carriage and displays it under her large sunroom windows. The sunroom faces northwest and is very pretty, especially at sunset.

Joan likes her new neighborhood and enjoys listening to the children playing outside. She loves tending to the flowers and garden she has planted in her yard.

Content on her new path, Joan is thankful for the Rescue Mission and Rapid Re-Housing for getting her this far. "This is a great program and I wouldn't have succeeded without it," Joan says, confident in her future.



TOP: The kitchen and dining room will be a casual and inviting area for meals and snacks. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be provided daily by the Rescue Mission Food Service Center.

BELOW: Common spaces are open and spacious settings, conducive to group meetings and relaxation.

In 2021, we reached a major milestone in the youth shelter project as construction and renovations were finished on the historic city property, and furnishings were moved into the shelter. We hired a program manager to oversee the youth shelter, and we look forward to being able to serve youth in need from our community.

The Rescue Mission has partnered with many community stakeholders to renovate and develop the nine-room Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter. An informal needs assessment conducted by the

Rescue Mission in 2014 pointed to unique barriers that the LGBTQ homeless youth population face both here in our community, and across the country. The shelter, which is open to all youth, is especially focused on the LGBTQ population, which typically faces homelessness at a rate that is 120% higher than its peers.

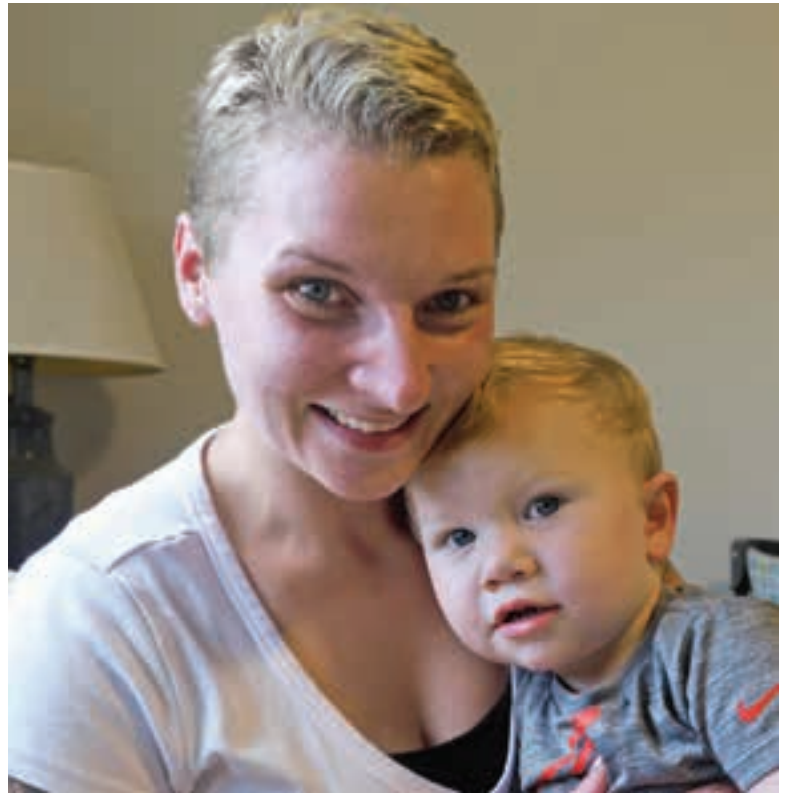
The Rescue Mission's Auburn program serves homeless families in partnership with the Auburn Housing Authority. We operate a 28-unit neighborhood that is the only shelter option for homeless families aside from hotel stays provided through the Department of Social Services.

During 2021, our Auburn program served families made up of 148 individuals, of which 84 were children under the age of 18.

This year our Auburn families were able to begin returning to pre-pandemic family-building activities, including summer camp for the kids, a Seabreeze day trip, block parties with inflatable waterslides, outdoor movie nights, and many craft days.

Our Auburn staff also continued to work with each family every day, teaching life skills, identifying education and job opportunities, and helping them access community resources.

Families also received help in meeting their basic everyday needs through our food and clothing pantry. A total of 30,629 household items, food items, and articles of clothing were given out in 2021.



TOP: Mariah and her son are among the many families helped by the Rescue Mission's Auburn program.



It was an exciting year for our Binghamton Rescue Mission program, which provides permanent supportive housing for homeless men at Whitney Place. In August 2021 we opened the Women's House, at 50 Whitney Ave., expanding our Binghamton programming to provide housing and support services for women experiencing homelessness. The house offers affordable permanent supportive housing for up to three women who have experienced homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. Residents of this new program receive support from case managers as they take the next steps toward independence.

MY STORY

“I Got the Help We Needed”

Reeling from a broken relationship, Wayne found himself homeless with his young son.

“It was very hard. My family was split apart and I had to take care of my son, and get him into a safe environment,” Wayne said.

With no other choice, they stayed with Wayne’s friends. He applied for assistance, knowing he needed a long-term solution.

“It wasn’t even couch surfing. My son slept in a recliner and I slept on the floor,” he said. “My son would ask ‘when are we going back home? Is mommy home?’ It made me so sad that he didn’t understand and I couldn’t give him what he needed.”

Wayne and his son were eventually placed in a local hotel by social services. Although there was a bed for each of them, they were confined to a small single room. He and his son were kept awake by neighbors arguing loudly in adjacent rooms and noise in the parking lot at all hours. Food was a struggle as well. With only a small refrigerator, Wayne relied on local soup kitchens for food. He gave his son most of the food, while he would often just sip chicken broth from a can to take the edge off his own hunger.

“It felt like an eternity being in that hotel room,” he said. “It was very stressful because I didn’t know how long we would be there or what the next steps were.”



But thankfully things began to turn around. Wayne was notified that there was a housing unit for him at the Rescue Mission in Auburn. “This new apartment was paradise,” he said. “It was so clean, and there was a washer and dryer, which was a blessing after hand washing our clothes in our hotel room tub. I was in disbelief when they told me we could be here for a while, and I was happy we could be settled.”

After a year at the Auburn Rescue Mission, Wayne still feels like it was only yesterday that they were couch surfing, and in that tiny hotel room.

Wayne is thankful for all of the blessings that have come since those hard times, including the support of the Auburn Rescue Mission staff. And he’s looking forward to Thanksgiving, one of his favorite holidays, and celebrating with family.

“I remember where I came from and look where I am now,” he said. “I have family in my life, good health, and a roof over my head. God has given us what we need and I am happy with that and rich in my own way.”



Wayne and his son



442 Ride and Run participants supported the Rescue Mission by biking, running, or walking.



Most of our events were back in-person in 2021 after being held virtually or being cancelled in 2020.

In July, 442 community members participated in the Ride and Run for the Rescue at Longbranch Park. All were excited to be back in person after a virtual event in 2020. We had great weather and everyone was excited to ride or run to support the Rescue Mission. In August, 38 foursomes with 153 golfers, hit the links at Skaneateles Country Club to raise \$66,606 in a tee time format event. We were blessed with beautiful summer weather for our golfers.

And during the holidays, Scan

Away Hunger encouraged shoppers to provide meals for men, women, and children in need at Wegmans and other participating locations, including the Rescue Mission Thrifty Shoppers. With the support of our generous community the Scan Away program raised \$97,379.

Our Movie with a Mission telethon was held once again on the Rescue Mission campus, due to COVID restrictions at the News Channel 9 studios. We were, however, able to welcome volunteers to answer phones and to celebrate check presentations onsite. The event raised more than \$105,000, and featured matching gifts for every hour of the telethon.



TOP: Ralph Rotella, owner of Discount Shoe Repair, donated 37,370 pairs of shoes in his annual shoe drive for the Rescue Mission.

BELOW: The Rescue Mission again partnered with the Syracuse Mets as their official 50/50 Raffle Partner in 2021.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are special celebrations at the Rescue Mission. Although we continued to face the challenge of COVID restrictions in 2021, we were able to find safe ways to bring the warmth and joy of the holidays to those we serve.

For the second year, we expanded our home meal delivery service to any community members in need, instead of just the elderly and homebound. We continued the volunteer drive-up service for meal pick-ups, and with our volunteers' help we delivered nearly 2,000 meals on both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The families that we serve in Auburn, along with our Binghamton, Gifford Place, and Crossroads residents all received Christmas gifts purchased by generous sponsors. And our shelter residents received a warm blanket and hygiene items.



TOP: On holidays, the Rescue Mission prepares delicious meals to guests and residents, so they can celebrate just like other community members.

LEFT: Festivities extend into the summer months when we hold cookouts and picnics for our program residents.



Lighting Up the Christmas Season

Christmas was extra special for the families and children in our Auburn program. Thanks to a generous donation from Grace Chapel, we purchased enough Christmas lights and decorations to light up the entire neighborhood for the season. St. James Church helped co-host a Christmas party with a DJ, Dickens carolers, a hot chocolate bar and horse-drawn carriage rides with Santa. Our Holiday Helpers gave away 1,798 gifts to more than 40 families.

In 1961, the Rescue Mission in Syracuse opened its first thrift store in order to provide affordable clothing to the community, and to generate revenue to help support its programs.

Sixty years later, we celebrated a milestone by opening two stores – a brand new store in Rome and a new, larger location for our Liverpool store. We operate a total of 21 retail stores in Upstate New York: 18 Thrifty Shoppers, two 3fifteen boutiques, and a Thrifty Shopper Outlet which specializes in rock-bottom pricing.

The Thrifty Shopper stores continually strive to provide affordable

shopping for all and in doing so, have continued to enjoy a steady increase in sales and income. Thrifty Shopper stores now provide sixty percent of the revenue for Rescue Mission programs.

As an additional revenue stream, any items that do not sell in our stores

are often sold to salvage companies.

Through our store sales and recycling efforts, more than 7,000 tons of goods are kept out of the landfill each year, making us one of Onondaga County’s largest recyclers.



ABOVE: Dan Sieburg, Rescue Mission CEO, and Luana Lovenguth, Chief Social Enterprise Officer cut the ribbon at the new Liverpool Thrifty Shopper Grand Opening.

TOP RIGHT: The new Liverpool Thrifty Shopper location is our largest store.



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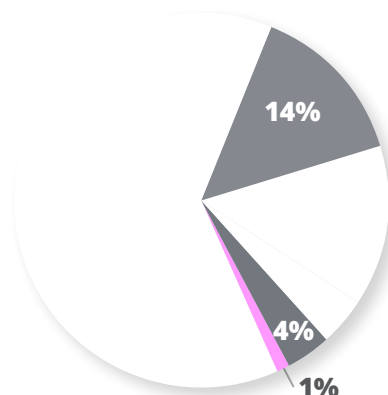
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63% Social Enterprise
(Thrifty Shopper & Salvage)

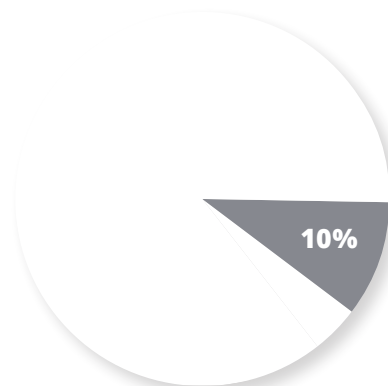
14% General Contributions

14% Government Grants

4% Investments/Other

4% Program Fees

1% Legacies/Bequests



86% Program Services

10% Administration

4% Fundraising

Total Fiscal 2021 Revenue.....**\$26,784,421**

Net Assets at September 30, 2021.....**\$24,095,976**

Information is for fiscal year ended September 30, 2021

**For complete copies of audited financial statements and IRS Form 990,
please visit our website: RescueMissionAlliance.org/financials**

rescue mission

RescueMissionAlliance.org

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