



## 2024 Impact Report



*They saved  
my life.*

*My outlook on life  
changed so much.*

*I got the help  
we needed.*





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## Small Statement Big Impact

A message from Dan Sieburg—  
CEO of the Rescue Mission

This past year marked a personal milestone — 25 years of working in the nonprofit sector, with the last 17 spent here at the Rescue Mission. In that time, one truth has become undeniable: our clients' stories define the work we do. They are the heartbeat of this mission.

You may have seen our holiday billboards across town — striking black-and-white portraits of our clients, accented with our signature Rescue Mission Red. The artwork was beautiful, but it wasn't the images that stopped people in their tracks. It was the words. The quotes.

"I got the help we needed," said a father navigating homelessness with his young son. "My outlook on life changes so much," shared a mother who survived domestic violence and is now thriving in a nursing career. "They saved my life," offered quietly by an older veteran who had nearly given up hope.

These voices — raw, simple, and powerful — speak volumes. They tell the real story of transformation. And transformation is rarely quick or clean. It's a daily grind. A fight. For many of the people we serve, it's a miracle they're still here at all. Trauma, tragedy, addiction, isolation — these aren't buzzwords. They're lived realities. And yet every day, people wake up and choose to work towards something better.

In the Bible, Timothy says, "Fight the good fight of faith." At the Rescue Mission, we are here for that fight — to hear the stories, to support the individual, to believe in a better tomorrow. And yes, to catch the quotes. Because every quote is a declaration: "I'm still here. I'm not done yet."

Thank you for helping us amplify these voices. Thank you for standing with us.

With Gratitude,

Dan Sieburg  
CEO, Rescue Mission Alliance of Syracuse

## Garcia House Officially Opens



Front entrance of the Garcia House



Chief Programs Officer, Amber Vander Ploeg,  
cuts ceremonial ribbon on front steps



One of nine bedrooms

# 32

individual  
youth served  
in first year



Fully equipped kitchen space

On May 31, 2024, Rescue Mission representatives, government officials, donors and community members celebrated the grand opening of our newest program, the Alejandro Garcia Runaway & Homeless Youth House, an emergency youth shelter for children between the ages of 12-17 years of age. Garcia House provides shelter for nine youth at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness.

The Garcia House provides a safe and affirming space for young people, with added support for LGBTQ+ kids. Garcia House offers private bedrooms, meals, laundry facilities, an entertainment room, and 24/7 staffing. Youth receive trauma-informed care and personalized

case management, with the goal of reunification with family or trusted adults when safe and possible. Our dedicated care team supports residents year-round with shelter, food, clothing, transportation, access to education, job training, vital documents, legal aid, and healthcare referrals. We help youth build a brighter, more stable future, together. Since 2024, Garcia House has served 32 individuals— offering shelter, safety, and support on their journey toward a brighter future. Today, we are operating at full capacity, housing nine runaway and homeless youth, each with their own story of survival—most having fled environments marked by abuse, neglect, or instability.

Extraordinary things continue to happen within the walls of Garcia House. For example, one of the very first youth we welcomed in June '24 arrived to us lost in the system; on probation, disconnected from education, and estranged from her family. Today, she is actively pursuing her GED, completed community service requirements, and is no longer on probation. She's engaged in individual mental health counseling and is working to rebuild her relationship with her family through functional family therapy.

Her story is not just a success, it's a transformation. And it's possible because the Garcia House exists.



# Social Enterprise

## Turning generosity into action

At the Rescue Mission, every donated item is the beginning of something bigger. It may look like a coat, a set of dishes, or a pair of nightstands, but it's also a hot meal, a safe night of rest, or a second chance.

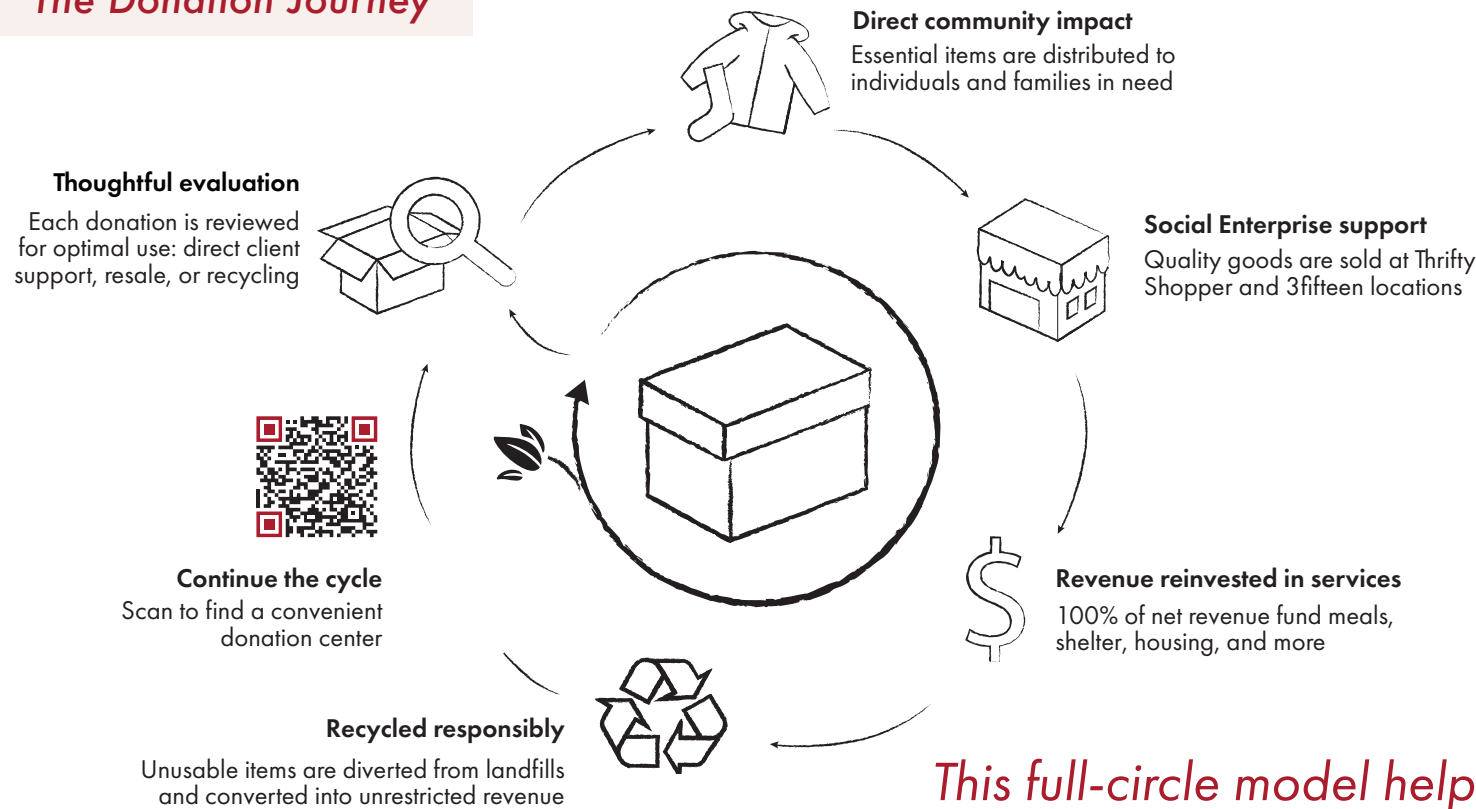
Our **social enterprise** model turns generosity into tangible impact. Donations are carefully sorted and assessed. Some go directly to people in need— warm clothing for shelter guests or kitchenware for families moving into housing. Others are sent to our **Thrifty Shopper** and **3fifteen** stores, where 100% of net revenue supports the Rescue Mission.

This same system also keeps basic essentials accessible. With an **average item price under \$5**, our 17 Thrifty Shopper stores provide affordable options for families, especially during times of economic strain. Every item sold helps fund programs that provide food, shelter, clothing, and hope to individuals and families facing hunger or homelessness.

In 2024, **more than 60%** of the Rescue Mission's total revenue came from this cycle of giving, powered by the simple act of donating goods.



## The Donation Journey



*This full-circle model helps sustain our mission.*



## Creating impact through sustainability

In 2024, our social enterprise operations diverted over **15 million pounds** of usable materials from landfills, giving new life to everyday goods and reducing environmental harm across nine Central New York counties.

Sustainability goes far beyond responsible recycling. It's about building a system that supports people, strengthens communities, and stewards resources with care.

Through retail and warehouse operations, we offer **job training** and **employment pathways** for individuals with disabilities and others facing barriers to employment.

In collaboration with organizations such as **CNY Works**, **Exceptional Family Resources**, **Community Options**, **Aurora**, **Unity House**, and **Access CNY**, participants gain real-world experience, build confidence, learn skills, and grow their independence.

Together, this work reflects the Rescue Mission's core values — **people, community, integrity, and fiscal responsibility** — showing that sustainability isn't just about having an eco-friendly mindset. It's about creating lasting impact where we live, work, and serve.

From **donation** to **reuse**, every item has **value**, and every act of **generosity** helps build a more **sustainable, compassionate community**.

## 2024 Environmental Impact

**5.7 million+**  
items sold through Thrifty Shopper and 3fifteen stores

**8.1 million+**  
pounds of goods recycled or salvaged

**1.56 billion\***  
gallons of water conserved

**120 million\***  
pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions preserved

**3.5 million\***  
kilowatt-hours of energy saved through electronics recycling

\* These savings are based on national EPA estimates for the environmental benefits of textile and electronics recycling calculated using the volume of goods reused or responsibly recycled through our social enterprise operations.

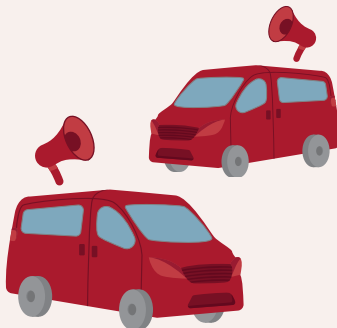


# During the 2024 Calendar Year...

528

HOUSING  
PLACEMENTS  
WERE MADE

FUNDED BY GRANT  
SUPPORT: TWO NEW  
STREET OUTREACH  
STAFF WERE ADDED



VOLUNTEERS GAVE  
**33,400**  
HOURS OF SERVICE

89

CHILDREN RECEIVED  
SERVICES IN AUBURN

MORE THAN  
**72,000**  
NIGHTS OF SHELTER  
WERE PROVIDED



## RMA Housing Corporation

In response to a notable lack of affordable housing in Central New York, RMA (Rescue Mission Alliance) Housing Corporation was established in October of 2024.

Shortly thereafter, RMA Housing Corp. purchased two apartment complexes located in Syracuse. When renovations are complete, these apartments will be offered to Rescue Mission clients as an affordable housing option.

## From the Streets to Stability: Nick's Story of Redemption

After years of hardship and homelessness, Nick's powerful transformation fueled by hope, help, and resilience proves it's never too late to rebuild a life

Nick's journey is a testament to the power of hope and second chances. About 20 years ago, he left Syracuse for Arizona with his young son, determined to build a new life as a single father. He eventually fell in love, his family grew, and things were going well for a while. But life's challenges led him down a troubled path.

"I got into drugs," Nick admits. One by one, his relationships fell apart, and he found himself alone and depressed. He realized a change was urgently needed. "I knew that if I didn't get out of there, I wouldn't make it," he says.

Returning to Syracuse, Nick sought refuge with his dad. However, even within these familiar walls, Nick's struggles persisted, and he relapsed. His father, knowing he could no longer enable Nick's dangerous lifestyle, eventually asked him to move out. What followed were 14 grueling months of Nick living outdoors—a time marked by precarious shelter in the woods and an entire winter sleeping under a bridge.

"It's not fun. Every day things are a struggle," Nick recalls, his words carrying the weight of the uncertainty he'd faced for so long.

While enduring the hardships of street homelessness, Nick encountered Jim and Alicia from the Rescue Mission's Street Outreach team. They checked on him regularly, offering food, water, words of encouragement—and the opportunity to access safe housing and ongoing support at the Rescue Mission.

As the seasons changed and temperatures began to drop, Nick finally decided he'd had enough. "I couldn't

*"I couldn't do another winter out there,"*

do another winter out there," he reflects, acknowledging the deep sense of relief that came from choosing hope over despair. He agreed to follow Jim to the Rescue Mission, and he never looked back. Gifford Place turned out to be a

good fit for Nick, which is one of our Syracuse-based permanent supportive housing campuses. Moving into his apartment in August of 2023 was an exciting milestone in his journey to independence.

With our team supporting him every step of the way, Nick has been rebuilding his life—steadily maintaining his sobriety, securing full-time employment, and rediscovering the joy of simple daily routines like cooking



his own meals. He celebrates every milestone, especially those achieved by his son, like his recent graduation that Nick was so proud to attend. Little by little, Nick is stitching hope back into the fabric of his life.

Jim, who has witnessed Nick's transformation sums it up perfectly: "I've seen Nick at the lowest point of his life, and now Nick is very happy and comfortable where he is at. He's got a job, food and a roof over his head. He's doing great."

Nick is now chasing new goals. He hopes to purchase a car, find an apartment with a close friend, and start playing basketball at the YMCA. Honored with a Hope Award for his extraordinary comeback, Nick's story shines as a beacon of courage and resilience—a reminder that even in our darkest moments, there is always a path toward light.



## Board of Directors

**Chair: John McCabe, MD**

Upstate Medical University

**Vice-Chair: David Allyn**

Allyn Family Foundation

**Vice Chair: Hal Wentworth**

Community Bank System, Inc.

**Secretary: Regina Spause McGraw**

Axia Women's Health Management

**Treasurer: Chris Gardner**

FMF&E Wealth Management

**Xenia Becher, LCSW**

**Eddie Brennan**

Beak & Skiff / 1911 Established

**Gary Campbell**

Teamwork Coatings Inc.

**Jim Cifaratta**

SmartestEnergy

**Sam Cosamano, P.E.**

IPD Engineering

**Andrea LaBarge**

FMF&E

**Ed Riley**

Brine Wells Companies, LLC

**Julie Shulsky**

Syracuse Police

**Lynn Yoder Thibault**

Amazon.com

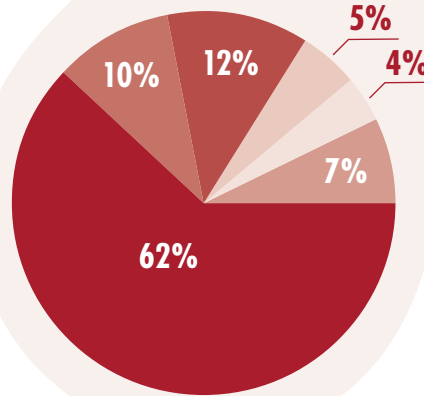
**Pastor Dan Williams**

North Central Church



rescuemission

## Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Summary



### Sources of Revenue

62% — Social Enterprise  
(Thrifty Shopper & Salvage Operations)

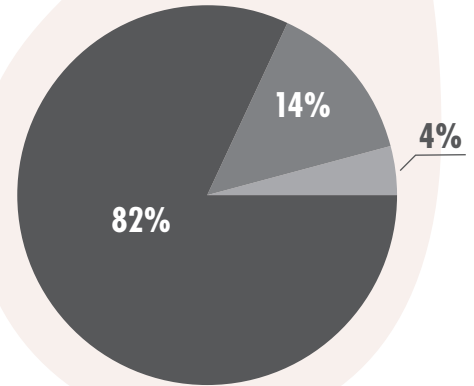
12% — Government Grants

10% — General Contributions

7% — Legacies & Bequests

5% — Investments, Other

4% — Client Housing Leases



### Organizational Expenses

82% — Program Services

14% — Administration

4% — Fundraising

Total Fiscal 2024 Revenue..... **\$35,000,378**

Net Assets at September 30, 2024..... **\$31,721,920**

Information is for fiscal year ended September 30, 2024. For copies of audited financial statements and IRS form 990, please visit: [RescueMissionAlliance.org/Financials](https://RescueMissionAlliance.org/Financials)



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