LIVES CHANGE THROUGH GRACE

Last summer, I received a letter from a mother whose family had been torn apart by addiction. She recalled reading about a young man who had come to the Rescue Mission and was able to maintain sobriety and change his life. Touched by the story, this mother had prayed that her son, Brandon, would one day have a similar experience.

*Her heartfelt prayer was answered.*

“This July, 2016, your newsletter included our son’s story,” she wrote. “He is now almost 9 months sober.” Brandon came to the Rescue Mission fighting to reclaim his life after years of devastating addiction. (See his story on page 4.) In November, Brandon received a Rescue Mission Hope Award with his wife and two young children proudly watching. After living at the Binghamton Rescue Mission, Brandon is maintaining sobriety, rebuilding family relationships, and working full-time.

Thanks to supporters like you, the Rescue Mission Alliance touched the lives of 10,298 individuals in the 2016 fiscal year. For some, it may have been an occasional meal to help them make ends meet. For others, that assistance led to extensive life change, through supportive case management, shelter, spiritual care – and through the hope, faith and love many of our guests tell us they feel when they come through our doors.

The daily work that goes into changing lives, into ending hunger and homelessness, is sustained by friends like you who believe that all of God’s children deserve to be treated with dignity and love. The Rescue Mission extends far beyond its walls because it is truly the mission of a caring community.

Each individual that we serve has his or her own story. When one person is lifted up and strengthened, that blessing extends to their family, their friends, and back out to our community.

Thank you for supporting the Rescue Mission’s life-changing work.

Alan Thornton
Chief Executive Officer
The Syracuse Rescue Mission provides a wide range of programs to end hunger and homelessness, including a 183-bed emergency shelter for men and women, and 96 units of permanent housing, including Crossroads Adult Home. The Willing to Work employment training program offers 13 units of transitional housing.

Shelter guests and housing residents receive case management, and have access to employment resources and spiritual care, and connections to community services.

The Food Service Center serves three meals every day of the year, and the outreach store provides clothing to anyone in need. Street outreach staff travel throughout the county to find and assist individuals experiencing homelessness.

In 2016, the Syracuse Rescue Mission:

- completed its first year operating a new and expanded shelter and day center for men and women.
- increased employment placements, held an on-campus job fair, and provided employment training.
- was recognized with a Syracuse/Onondaga County NAACP Human Service Award.

Building a New Life

For Cristi, giving thanks is a daily practice. She’s thankful for her five children, 10 grandkids, and also for something she has never had before: a safe home.

Cristi was abused as a child and during her 27-year marriage. After her grown children had moved out, she began drinking, even though she hated alcohol from her childhood experiences. She left her husband, and wound up homeless on the streets.

In and out of rehab, one day she found herself in the hospital after a life-threatening episode due to her addiction and mental illness. After being released, having nowhere to go, she came to the Rescue Mission’s emergency shelter. There, she began treatment for both alcoholism and the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder she suffers from. This, she says, has been very helpful in establishing stability.

Cristi’s initial search for housing was disappointing, but she ultimately found suitable housing, with support and encouragement from her case manager. “She is a miracle worker,” Cristi says.

Now Cristi has a safe home and is feeling stronger than ever. She shares her story to offer hope to domestic violence victims. “A lot of us don’t feel worth anything, because no matter what we do, we still get kicked down,” she says.

One message she wants to convey to other victims, “No matter how you feel about yourself, you are worth it,” she says.
A Better Life For Her Son

Charnita had a difficult childhood, bouncing through the foster care system and never feeling like she had a supportive family. She and her young son recently became homeless after a relative they were staying with asked her to leave. She was placed in a motel for emergency shelter and a case manager with the Auburn Rescue Mission began visiting her there.

Charnita was so motivated to find her own place that she negotiated with a landlord to clean out one of his apartments if she could stay the first few weeks rent-free while she saved for the next month’s rent. She cleared out trash and decrepit furniture, filling the front porch. She scrubbed the floors and bathroom, and painted the walls. She did this all within one week, while working a full-time job and caring for her toddler.

Charnita says the Rescue Mission provided a support system she had never had before. “They helped me get furniture. They helped me get cleaning supplies. They helped me with everything I needed: dishes, paper towels, toilet tissue, diapers, wipes, towels, rags. I could go on and on,” she says.

Charnita says she loves her retail job. Her wishes for the future revolve around her son: “I want a better life for my child than I had. That’s all I really worry about is giving my son a great life.”

24,452 overnight stays provided
70 family permanent housing placements
50 secured employment
200 families served

The Auburn Rescue Mission assists families and women who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. Services include supportive permanent and transitional housing, assistance with basic needs, housing placement, employment and education resources, spiritual care, and positive youth and family activities.

The vast majority of families the Rescue Mission serves have experienced significant trauma, such as domestic violence. Rescue Mission case managers are trained in trauma informed care, advocate for clients, and help them connect with health care, schools and other community services.

In 2016, the Auburn Rescue Mission:

• Prepared for the 2017 opening of 28 new housing units and a community center that will serve as the home of the Auburn Rescue Mission through an expanded partnership with the Auburn Housing Authority.
• Offered numerous youth and family activities, including holiday celebrations, summer camp, recreational activities, and a women’s Bible study.
• Provided case management, housing placement assistance, and meal deliveries for families staying in motel rooms as emergency shelter.
Faith to Face Addiction

“When I first got here, I didn’t have faith in much,” Brandon recalls of his arrival at the Binghamton Rescue Mission’s residence. Brandon came to the Rescue Mission from an inpatient treatment program, which he had entered after being hospitalized from a dangerous alcohol withdrawal. From the age of 14, he had been drinking. Then an addiction to a prescription painkiller opened the door to opioid and heroin use and “a life wracked with criminal activity,” he says. “I was very mentally weak, and I’d been beaten into submission by the disease of addiction. I was mentally and physically exhausted.”

With intensive treatment, and then a supportive and sober place to live at the Rescue Mission, Brandon began to regain control of his life, he says. “I really credit the people and staff here with helping to save my life,” he shares, explaining that staff helped him “regain touch with a higher power,” and experience a major attitude shift.

Brandon says he is grateful for the Rescue Mission and staying focused on his recovery. He is now employed and reconciled with his wife and children. In November 2016, Brandon received a Rescue Mission Hope Award for his remarkable progress.

- 19,062 meals served
- 10,195 overnight stays provided
- 22 permanent housing placements
- 15 secured employment
A Message of Gratitude

Ashley was working full-time, but she lost her housing after a roommate stopped paying her share of the rent. Ashley remembers ending the night shift of her food service job at 4 am, and wondering where to go. In the wee hours of the morning, she sometimes tried to sleep in the bathroom of a grocery store, or in a laundromat.

At work “there were times I would just go somewhere on break and cry, and come back and pretend that nothing had happened,” Ashley recalls. After some reluctance, Ashley came to the Rescue Mission’s emergency shelter. It was a key step for moving forward with her life, Ashley acknowledges: “If I didn’t come here, I still would be on the streets.”

Now Ashley lives in the Rescue Mission’s permanent supportive housing, and she’s making progress on her goals. In addition to her night job, she took a second job at the very grocery store where she used to sleep in a bathroom stall. She is saving her second paycheck to buy a car and earn her High School Equivalency degree. She would eventually like to attend college.

If Ashley could send a message to the Rescue Mission’s supporters, she says it would be a message of gratitude: “If it wasn’t for them, there probably wouldn’t be a Rescue Mission here in Ithaca. This place is a welcoming community.”

| 30,804 meals served |
| 16,143 overnight stays provided |
| 178 permanent housing placements |
| 67 secured employment |
Serving Others in Many Ways

Volunteers are the hidden engine of the Rescue Mission, helping in nearly every area of the organization.

The Rescue Mission Syracuse Volunteer Center and regional programs offer a wide range of volunteer opportunities, with different levels of time commitment. The Rescue Mission is overseen by a volunteer board of directors, and volunteers play important roles in serving meals in every program location and assisting in Thrifty Shopper stores.

In 2016, volunteers contributed a wide range of skills, from quilting and knitting blankets, to landscaping and painting, to stocking store merchandise.

4,188 volunteers gave 121,714 hours in 2016.

Offering Specialized Skills

Carolyn Christie-McAuliffe, a nurse practitioner, gives her time and skills in the Syracuse day center nearly every week. She provides medical triage, referrals, and tries to address gaps in medications for chronic conditions such as hypertension and diabetes. “I’m also another person here that people can connect with. I give them a chance to be heard and seen,” she says.

Years of Service

The Rescue Mission honored Dr. Peter Huntington in 2016 with a Hope Award for volunteer service. A retired cardiologist, Dr. Huntington began volunteering at the Rescue Mission by providing a medical clinic with a colleague. Now he dedicates his time to landscaping and beautifying the Syracuse Rescue Mission campus.
Ride and Run for the Rescue

At the 11th annual Ride and Run for the Rescue, 327 cyclists and 269 runners raised $145,000 – enough to provide 64,732 meals to men, women and children at risk of going hungry. The event helps to raise critical funding for meals the Rescue Mission provides over the summer months.

The Ride and Run took place June 25, 2016, at Long Branch Park in Liverpool and offered a range of events, including a 5K run/walk, cycling routes of various lengths, and a family fun ride.

Major sponsors AXA Advisors, Welch Allyn, C&S Companies, O’Brien & Gere, and 28 other sponsors helped to cover the costs of the event and raise funds. One hundred volunteers assisted throughout the day, supporting participants at rest stops, helping with set up and clean up, facilitating activities for children and families, and greeting participants.

Freeze Out 5K to End Homelessness

In the depth of winter, 515 runners and walkers came out in Syracuse and Binghamton for the Rescue Mission’s Freeze Out 5K to End Homelessness. In all, participants raised $36,748 at the January and February events for Rescue Mission programs. The evening 5K is a festive event, featuring glow accessories and an after-party.

Movie with a Mission

NewsChannel 9 dedicated its airtime the afternoon of Sunday, Dec. 4, 2016, for its live telethon to raise funds for the work of the Rescue Mission. The 27th annual Movie with a Mission featured the classic movie, “A Christmas Story” and raised more than $40,000 for Rescue Mission programs. The telethon is made possible by NewsChannel 9’s donation of airtime and talent.
Street Outreach

The Rescue Mission strives to meet the individuals it serves wherever they are in their lives. Sometimes that means seeking them on the streets, or in abandoned buildings where they may be taking shelter.

Rescue Mission outreach staff travel the streets of Onondaga County searching for individuals who may be homeless. They pack a vehicle with warm clothes, coffee, hand warmers and snacks in winter; water, food and clothing in summer. As important as these items are for those on the streets, the primary goal is to help them into shelter or safe housing.

Increasingly, the outreach team is placing men and women directly into permanent housing, often working with community partners. In 2016, the outreach team placed 51 people directly from the streets into permanent housing, 19 into emergency shelter, and seven into inpatient treatment programs.

Will, a Navy veteran, was one of those people. The outreach case manager found Will just two blocks from the Syracuse Rescue Mission, yet Will was unaware of the shelter and meals so close by. At first, Will recalls telling the case manager to go away. Then he requested help getting into a drug treatment program, as he had struggled with addiction and homelessness for 10 years.

The Rescue Mission was able to get Will into treatment and housing. Will says he sees his case manager as a mentor as he continues to live clean and sober and he seeks employment: “He always treated me like a person, as an equal.”

Pathways to Employment

In all of its program locations, the Rescue Mission provides employment and education resources to address barriers to employment faced by those experiencing homelessness.

The Rescue Mission works to develop relationships with prospective employers, and to connect clients with job fairs and other resources. In May, the Syracuse Rescue Mission held its first on-campus job fair, drawing numerous employers and job-seekers alike.

In 2016, Onondaga County’s JobsPLUS! transferred its “Dress for Success” program to the Rescue Mission, offering work-appropriate clothing for those in need, ranging from professional wear to medical scrubs to specialized footwear. The Ithaca Rescue Mission also provides a career closet, stocked and supplied by volunteers.

In 2016, 29 men participated in the Syracuse Rescue Mission’s Willing to Work employment training program, which provides life skills and job training, and transitional housing. In May, 10 participants completed Jobs for Life, a biblically-based course that pairs participants with mentors and focuses on career goals and employment skills.

The Rescue Mission Alliance assisted 386 individuals to secure employment in 2016.
MEALS

On the Frontlines of Hunger

A meal at the Rescue Mission can be the first step to life change.

The Rescue Mission’s Syracuse Food Service Center is open every day of the year, providing breakfast, lunch and dinner to anyone at risk of going hungry. Some of the guests are staying in the Rescue Mission’s emergency shelter right across the street. Others have housing, but are struggling to make ends meet. The Food Service Center provided 227,110 meals to 9,451 individuals during the Rescue Mission’s 2016 fiscal year.

Guests sign up to get meals at the Rescue Mission’s day center, where they can easily access other services, including emergency shelter, spiritual care, mental health and other medical screening, employment and education resources, and referrals for other community services.

The Syracuse Food Service Center:
- serves as a workforce training site for the Syracuse School District and the Rescue Mission’s Willing to Work program.
- is the Rescue Mission’s most requested volunteer opportunity, with volunteers serving at nearly every meal.
- receives food donations from businesses and local institutions, lowering the cost of meals.

“\textit{It’s the only place in Syracuse that offers three meals a day.}”
- Robin

Local Meals

In each of the four communities the Rescue Mission serves, meals meet an essential basic need. Food and meal programs are tailored to fill in gaps in local services.

The Ithaca Rescue Mission provides three meals a week in its Friendship Center at times when no local soup kitchens are open. Its community food pantry is visited hundreds of times every month. The Rescue Mission keeps a separate pantry for shelter guests and residents of its supportive housing.

The Binghamton Rescue Mission provides breakfast, lunch and dinner to its residents. Often, the residents volunteer to take a shift cooking and cleaning in the kitchen. The Mission also serves a monthly community meal at United Presbyterian Church. In 2016, the Mission and its volunteers handed out hygiene supplies at this meal to give a further assist to families in financial hardship.

The Auburn Rescue Mission maintains a food pantry for the families it serves and typically serves meals at its family events and excursions, including its popular Music & Mission summer cookouts. In addition to this, it coordinates with churches and other volunteers to deliver weekly dinners to families sheltered in motels by the Cayuga Department of Social Services.
Activities Support Hope and Healing

For families and individuals facing homelessness or poverty, accessing food and safe shelter can be a daily struggle. The Rescue Mission’s programs cover these basic needs, but they also strive to address the whole person. Thanks to generous supporters, the Rescue Mission is able to offer recreational and spiritual activities throughout the year.

Kids Camp

In 2016, the Rescue Mission sent 52 children from Auburn, Syracuse, Binghamton and Ithaca to overnight summer camp. For many, it was a rare opportunity to experience swimming in a lake, kayaking, campfires and chapel fun. The Rescue Mission offered the program for children from families it serves, as well as from other low-income families. Support was provided by individual donors and the Jim and Juli Boeheim Foundation.

Family Activities

The Auburn Rescue Mission provides a range of family activities, particularly over school breaks, for the families it serves. Popular events include a February break bowling party, summer Music & Message picnics, a fall harvest party, and Easter and Christmas celebrations.

Retreat and Recreation

Residents of the Rescue Mission’s Crossroads Adult Home enjoyed regular outings in 2016, including a spiritual retreat at a nearby camp. Other outings included a baseball game, scenic railway trip and football game.

Holiday Celebrations

Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter are marked in all Rescue Mission programs with holiday meals and celebrations. In 2016, volunteers and donors gave 1,455 Christmas gifts for men, women and children staying in Rescue Mission shelter or housing.
From Homelessness to Hope

At the annual Hope Awards dinner, guests hear about the work of the Rescue Mission directly from men, women and children that have come through its programs. Held in Syracuse and Binghamton, this event celebrates the personal achievements of individuals and families served by the Rescue Mission. Award winners have an opportunity to take the mic, and many share their personal stories, express their gratitude, and offer inspiration to others.

In Syracuse, 49 individuals and families from Syracuse, Auburn and Ithaca were recognized at the Hope Awards, held in the restored historic Marriott Syracuse Downtown – formerly the Hotel Syracuse.

- Community Hope Awards were presented to Le Moyne College and News Channel 9 WSYR for outstanding support of the Rescue Mission and to Richard and Eunice Tabor, and Dr. Peter Huntington for outstanding volunteerism.
- The Allyn Family of Skaneateles received the Clarence L. Jordan Hope Award for outstanding service and leadership in addressing poverty, supporting youth and families, and improving the lives of those in need.
- Special guest speakers were Congressman John Katko, Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick and Ed Riley - Managing Partner, Brine Wells Development, who led the Hotel Syracuse restoration.

The Binghamton Rescue Mission recognized 11 current and former clients at its Hope Awards dinner.

- Dan Mori, president of Employment Solutions and director of Incubation at Binghamton University, was keynote speaker.
- Community Hope Awards were presented to Tim Brown and Vivian Novak for outstanding support of the Binghamton Rescue Mission, and to Lois Strope for outstanding volunteerism.

“The Rescue Mission “helped me through one of the worst nightmares of my life.” – Chris

“I’m going to give back to my city because someone did that for me.” – Heriberto
The Rescue Mission strives to provide a pleasant and satisfying shopping experience for Thrifty Shopper customers, and to reach prospective new customers. In 2016, the Rescue Mission:

- Renovated several Thrifty Shopper stores, hosting grand re-openings at the Watertown and Valley stores. The East Syracuse store expanded to include a furniture section and the Auburn, Cicero and North Syracuse stores were reconfigured to provide customers a better shopping experience.
- Debuted the Pop-Up Thrifty Shopper at community events, including Amy’s Slumber Party, the Ride and Run for the Rescue, and Syracuse’s Largest Indoor Garage Sale. The Pop-Up showcases and sells items from Thrifty Shopper stores.
- Held nine sale events, including “flash” sales, which are advertised by email on the day of the event. On average, big sale events can increase a typical day’s revenue by 300-400%.

**Deals Turn Into Meals**

How does one person’s unwanted shirt or jeans provide a meal for someone at risk of going hungry?

Thanks to donations of clothing, furniture and household items from the public, the Rescue Mission is able to raise 52% of its revenue through sales at its network of 15 thrift stores and salvage operations. This provides critical funding for Rescue Mission programs to end hunger and homelessness. The Rescue Mission’s social enterprise system includes a network of donation centers, a regional distribution center, five trucks, and 15 thrift stores that range from Watertown to Binghamton.

Donated items are sold in Thrifty Shopper stores in seven counties, as well as the 3fifteen boutique near Syracuse University. (In addition, clothing and household items are given directly to individuals in need.) Damaged or unmarketable clothing and textiles are bundled and sold on the salvage market.

To facilitate much-needed donations, the Rescue Mission staffs 15 donation centers, accepts donations at all Thrifty Shopper stores, and offers home pick-up for large items in Onondaga County and Cazenovia. Numerous businesses, schools, churches and civic organizations helped the Rescue Mission in 2016 by leading donation drives for coats, clothing and shoes.

For information on stores, donation locations and more, visit ishopthrifty.org.

*The Valley Thrifty Shopper store grand re-opening drew lines of eager shoppers.*
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

**SOURCES OF REVENUE**
- 52% Stores and salvage operations
- 24% General contributions
- 11% Government agencies
- 6% Program fees
- 5% Legacies/bequests
- 1% Investments
- 1% Other

**WHERE YOUR DONATIONS GO**
- 77% Program services
- 16% Management and general
- 7% Fundraising

Total Fiscal 2016 Revenue .................. $20,796,730
Net Assets at September 30, 2016........ $16,429,851

Information is for fiscal year ended September 30, 2016
For complete copies of audited financial statements and IRS Form 990, please visit RescueMissionAlliance.org/financials
Be a catalyst for unimaginable life change