

the mission Gate

A Publication of the Southern New Hampshire Rescue Mission



A Lifeline to LifeChange

Frank celebrates the new year with hope (page 4)



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this issue

- *It Takes a Village* from Rick Rutter, Executive Director
- Join the “Village” that makes a difference!

It Takes a Village

Dear Friend,

They say it takes a village to raise a child. I'm not sure who "they" are, but as the father of 8 and the grandfather of 3 more, I wholeheartedly agree!

The ministry of rescue takes a village also. From those who volunteer in the office, to the kitchen staff, to those who selflessly give of their time and resources, each one plays an important role in the "village" that makes up Southern New Hampshire Rescue Mission.

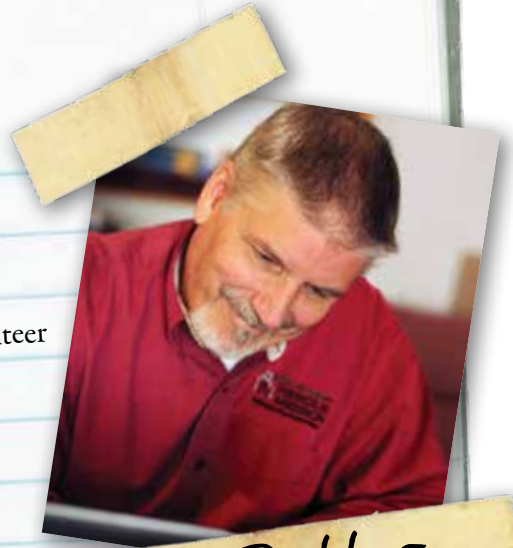
This month you're going to hear from Frank, a man who's found new hope through our LifeChange program and some very special members of our village. You'll also meet Pastor Wilder, one of the men who impacted Frank, and learn how you can join him in making a difference at the Mission.

2016 was an exciting year for us. The Lord accomplished many things (see below!), and as we look ahead to 2017, I know we can count on Him again to meet our needs as we serve the hurting in Nashua.

Thank you for being a part of our village. Your steadfast support makes a lasting difference to Frank and many others who come to us in search of new life, and for that, we are so grateful.

**And let us consider
how we may spur one
another on toward love
and good deeds.**

—Hebrews 10:24



Rick Rutter
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sincerely,



2016 highlights

In 2016, you helped us:

- Serve almost 31,000 meals to the hungry
- Provide nearly 10,500 nights of shelter to homeless men
- Support 15 men through our long-term LifeChange Discipleship Program
- Lead 39 men through the Transitional Employment Program, which provides shelter to men who are employed but struggling with homelessness

thank you for accepting the Leadership Challenge!

In 2016, through the generous support of our Leadership Challenge participants and others who gave to match this effort, just under \$15,000 was raised to provide help and hope to men in our care. The need continues to grow, and we are grateful for those who give so generously.

Second Annual Fall Fundraising Banquet

Last September, friends gathered at the Mission to celebrate the amazing work God had done in our midst. We enjoyed a good meal, worshiped together and celebrated a year of changed lives, volunteer service and generous giving. We look forward to hosting our third annual banquet in the fall of 2017!



Leading by Example



When Pastor Montel Wilder encourages his congregation to serve at the Mission, he's not asking for anything he doesn't do himself.

The pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Pepperell, MA has been part of our "village" here for many years, teaching men like Frank

as part of the LifeChange Program and encouraging our volunteers as they serve in what can be a challenging field.

"I'm a pastor," he says to our team, "but here, you're on the front lines. You have an opportunity to reach the community with the gospel. You can reach people that I cannot, and it's an exciting thing!"

"No matter who you are, there's some way you can

help out. This is a good organization, and when you volunteer, you'll walk away enriched because you've been able to put your faith in action."

If you, your church group or coworkers would like to be a part of the "village" that makes a difference at the Mission, consider taking on one of these volunteer positions:

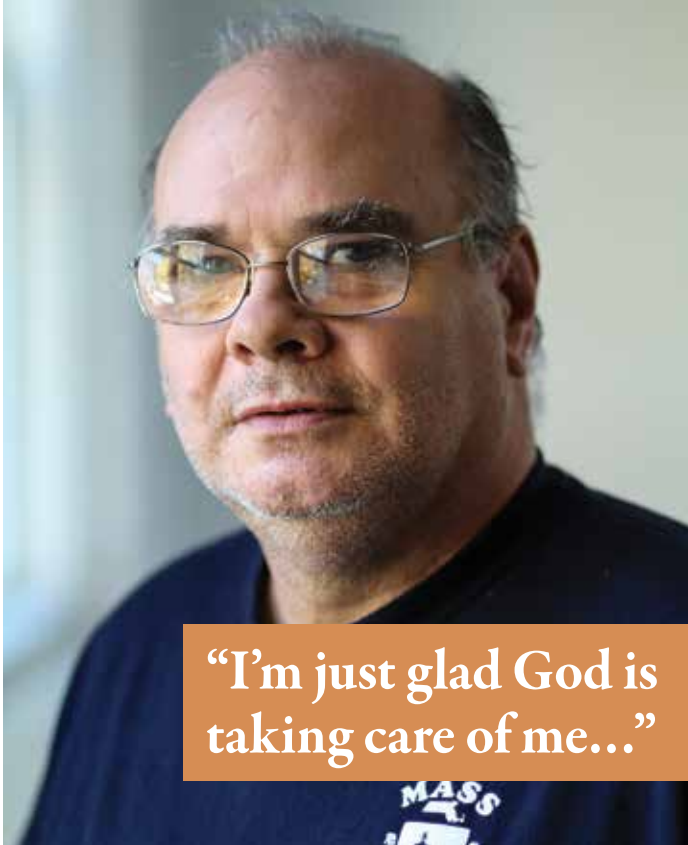
- **Food Pick Up** — Volunteers are needed to pick up fresh produce, bread and meat on Sunday mornings at the Hannafords in Hudson.
- **Office Assistants** — Help with data entry, processing and mailing letters and answering phones.
- **Mentors and Prayer Warriors** — Walk alongside men in the LifeChange Program, and pray for our staff, volunteers, donors and guests.
- **Social Enterprise** — Use your entrepreneurial spirit to help develop a small business that would employ Mission students while raising revenue to support the Mission.



It takes a village

Frank was out of options. After he lost his job, a series of painful injuries prevented him from finding another one. Eventually, he had no choice but to move into a tent.

The weather was freezing, though, so Frank did his best to keep warm. “I put pallets under the tent to keep it flat,” he says, “and I put carpets on top of the pallets.



“I’m just glad God is taking care of me...”

How caring people led Frank to new life

I had five comforters too, so even though it was cold, the covers made it ok.”

Fortunately, Frank heard about the Mission from someone at the clinic where he was receiving medical care. He made his way here, grateful to find a place that would encourage him in his faith.

“I’ve been a Christian for a long time,” Frank shares. “I’m happy to be here because this is a place that loves Jesus. The Bible studies have helped me grow closer to God. I like going to Montel’s classes.* We’re studying the book of John, and it helps me to not worry about things.”

Frank is working through our LifeChange Discipleship Program and trying to figure out his next

steps. In the meantime though, he’s grateful to have found support and compassion from so many different people at the Mission.

“Shawn is a great cook! He helps people who need meals but don’t have enough money. It gives them a place to come eat, and it gives us an opportunity to tell them about Jesus.

“I’m just glad that God is taking care of me and that I have the opportunity to be close to Him. I’m really benefitting from this place, and I know a lot of other people are also. It’s really a good place!”

ways to give

Now through April 7 — Toiletry Drive

Bring items to the Mission before Easter, Monday–Saturday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Most-needed items include:

- Men’s body wash, soap or shampoo
- Razors & shaving cream
- Toothbrush, toothpaste & dental floss
- Washcloths
- Combs
- Deodorant

mark your calendar

COMING SOON!

Mark your calendar, and join us for these exciting volunteer opportunities.

- ✓ **April 14 – Good Friday Lunch & Service, 12 PM**
We’ll serve a hot meal for the homeless and then worship together.
- ✓ **April 16 – Easter Banquet, 5 PM**
Come serve a delicious Easter dinner to the hungry.

For more information about these and other volunteer opportunities, call (603) 889-3421.

*See page 3 to read more about Pastor Montel Wilder.