

the mission Gate

A Publication of the Southern New Hampshire Rescue Mission



“Just starting out”

*Eric finds the path to new life
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- Meet our volunteers: Cynthia adds some music to “A Message and a Meal.”

Changed for Good

Walking with God has been the greatest joy of my life. He truly is a friend who sticks closer than a brother, and the longer I know Him, the happier I am to serve Him.

At Southern New Hampshire Rescue Mission, I get to share my faith with the hurting in Nashua on a daily basis. It's a tremendous blessing to introduce our guests to Christ, and in doing so, welcome many of them into the family of God.

This month, you're going to hear from a man named Eric. Eric has been with us for just a few months, but his relationship with God is already growing by leaps and bounds. He's met a God who loves him in real, tangible ways, and it's opening his eyes to a hope he never thought possible.

Walking with the Lord changes us for good. He alone can truly bring freedom, and when we follow Him, He offers us a future and a hope that only He could dream up.

Thank you for supporting the work that God is doing at the Mission. As we serve Him together, we will celebrate each and every person who gives their life to Him and encourage them as they begin life's most rewarding journey.

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

—Ephesians 2:1



Rick Rutter
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sincerely,

become a hope partner!

Hope Partners help us plan for continued ministry by committing to a monthly gift. Become a Hope Partner today, and support our ongoing work to serve the hurting in Nashua! Call (603) 889-3421 or sign up online at Hope4Nashua.org.

planned giving

If you'd like an opportunity to make an eternal impact in the lives of the hurting and homeless, let us tell you about Planned Giving!

The easiest way to do this is to include Southern New Hampshire Rescue Mission in your will. Planned gifts can also take the form of gift annuities, gifts of stock and gifts of life insurance. Orchard Foundation has graciously offered to counsel donors through this process. If you're considering a planned gift or would like more information, call Joseph Padilla at the Orchard Foundation: (888) 689-6300.

Meal, Message, Music!

It all started with some towels. Cynthia, a licensed addiction counselor in Nashua, saw a post from the Mission stating that our guests were in need of clean towels.

“I thought, ‘Towels? I have towels. I’ll bring some over, no problem at all.’”

Cynthia did indeed bring towels, and as soon as she walked in, she saw an old friend who just happened to be leading worship at our Message and a Meal program. They reconnected, and he asked her to consider singing with him.

Cynthia recently became one of our board members, and she sings with her friend Tony a few times a month now, often staying to serve meals and eat with our guests. “The meals fill a tremendous need in the neighborhood,” she says. “The people are clearly hungry, and they come faithfully to hear the message.”

“At one of the holiday dinners, we ran out of space so we told a few people about another place where they could go to get a meal. One woman said, ‘Yes, but if I go there, then I can’t hear about Jesus!’ The message they get here can really be life-changing.”

“Volunteering here is as much a blessing to me as it is to others,” she continues. “God uses it so much, but you have no idea until you come experience it.”

If you, your church group or coworkers would like to join Cynthia in making a difference at the Mission, consider taking on one of these critical volunteer positions:

- **Gift Center Team** — sort and display donated clothing, toiletries and other items. Help clients “shop” in the Gift Center on Tuesdays.
- **Planting Oaks banquet** — come serve at our annual fundraising event! Greet guests at the door, serve food or help with silent auction items.



“The message they get here can really be life-changing.”

Planting Oaks

September 15, 2017 • 6:30 PM

Join us at The White Birch in Hudson, NH for our 3rd annual fundraising banquet. The evening will include dinner, testimonies of changed lives, a silent and live auction along with an inspiring message and live painting by Tucker Rodkey of Painting Freedom Ministries.

For tickets and more information, visit www.hope4nashua.org or call (603) 889-3421.

they will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the lord
for the display of his splendor.

—Isaiah 61:3c



“Just Starting Out”



Just a few months ago, Eric was addicted to drugs and alcohol. He lived with a friend and spent his days watching TV, wondering how to get back on his feet, until he got a serious wake up call.

“I watched my roommate die of liver failure,” he says, “and it was all from drinking. Just a few months earlier,

another roommate died of a drug overdose, so I knew someone was telling me something.”

Eric heard about the Mission from a family friend, and he decided to stay here while he considered his next move. But after a few weeks of Bible studies and classes, he began to notice a difference.

“I know this sounds like a commercial, but I didn’t realize how lost I was. Something was missing, but since I’ve been here, slowly the holes are being filled.

“Brad, the counselor here, opened me up like a can of tuna,” he smiles. “The negative things aren’t always pleasant to look at, but this is the best place I can think of to work through them.”

Eric is just beginning the R12 Discipleship program, and he is quick to point out that the program is about a journey rather than a destination.

“You don’t really *complete* this program. It’s an ongoing thing, as long as I’m breathing. For the first time, God is more tangible to me — He has a personality. He’s real, and I believe He speaks through His word. The Bible has become a different book for me these days. Whatever circumstance I’m going through, it has meaning.”

Eric will continue the R12 program, and we’ll continue to walk alongside him as he seeks the Lord’s will for his life. Your support provides a place for Eric — and many

others like him — to wrestle through the issues that lead to homelessness, and for that, Eric is very grateful.

“It’s refreshing to be

Eric was baptized, with three other men from the mission, on April 29th.

with people who care about us,” he says. “It’s nice to see that people want to give and don’t expect anything back.

“This place gives hope. I’m just starting out, but it’s good to know this is a place where I can do something positive.”

ways to give

July — Paper the Mission

Organize a paper drive at your church, office or school to help provide paper goods for the Mission. Needed items include:

- Paper plates
- Paper towels
- Bowls
- Toilet paper
- Cups
- Computer paper
- Napkins
- Plastic table covers

August — Hope Totes

Collect toiletry items to be distributed to the homeless and used by shelter residents — a great project for coworkers, neighbors or classmates. Donations should be new and for men (travel and standard-size are helpful) including:

- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Socks and underwear
- Soap and deodorant
- Combs and brushes
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Disposable razors and shaving cream

September — Food Drive

Host a drive at your office, community center or church to collect nonperishable food items for our pantry.

mark your calendar

✓ July 30 – Undy Sunday

This July 30, host an Undy Sunday! Ask members of your church or Bible study to collect new men’s underwear, which will be donated to our guests. All sizes are needed.

If you’d like a Mission team member to visit your office or church to share about our work, or you’re interested in helping with one of the opportunities above, call (603) 889-3421 or email office@nashuarescuemission.org to learn more.

