

the mission Gate

A Publication of the Southern New Hampshire Rescue Mission



“The biggest thing that gives me joy is helping somebody else.”

—Brian

*One of our guests gives back
(page 4)*

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Beets, Beans and Blessings

Dear Friend,

Have you seen the community garden in Greely Park? It's a small garden, but that little plot of land makes a big difference at Southern New Hampshire Rescue Mission.

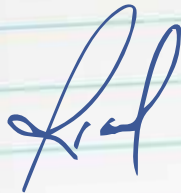
Volunteers from the Mission and the community use the garden to grow beans, tomatoes, lettuce, beets and all sorts of other vegetables. We use some of them in the kitchen here at the Mission, and when we have a surplus, we give vegetables away to bless those who come for meals.

Now that winter is finally behind us, the gardening is in full swing, and it's just a matter of time before our plates are full of locally grown produce.

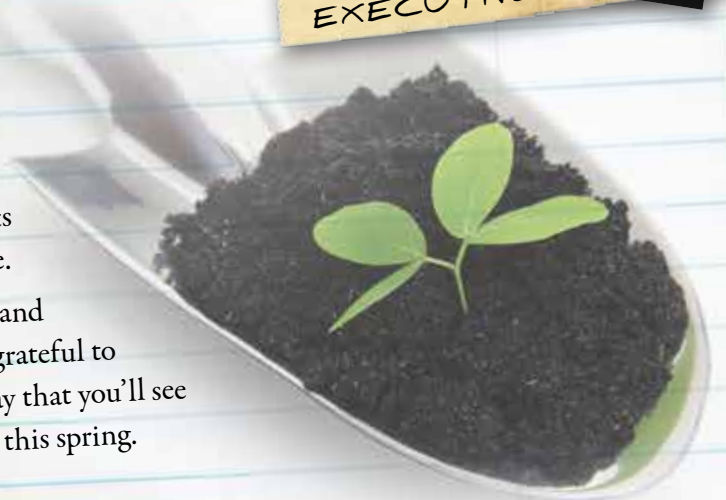
Nurturing that garden is a lot like nurturing the men in our program. Men like Brian, who you'll read about this month, come to the Mission searching for redemption, and when the soil of their hearts is right, the Lord brings a harvest of new life.

Thank you for helping tend the literal and figurative gardens at the Mission. We're so grateful to God for His steadfast provision, and we pray that you'll see evidence of His new life in your own home this spring.

Sincerely,



Rick Rutter
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. —Luke 8:15



Southern New Hampshire Rescue Mission was the February winner of Sanford Temperature Control's \$500 Community Commitment contest!

Life, Simplified

We met Bertha about two years ago when she started donating hand-made mittens and hats for our guests. Before long, she was volunteering in the kitchen and organizing meals for those in need.

Bertha is happy to partner with the Mission, and her time as a volunteer has helped her simplify her own life.

“I’m downsizing right now,” she chuckles, “and I found a wedding gift that I’ve never even used. If my husband had survived, we would have been married for 48 years. Isn’t that ridiculous? Too much stuff! I don’t need material things. Here I meet people who hope they get a hot meal today.”

Bertha regularly recruits her friends to join her at the Mission, and she hopes you’ll consider volunteering to make a difference in the community.

“Come volunteer!” she says. “We will find something for you to do, even if it’s chopping celery or washing dishes. It’s not something you have to go to school for. God has been good to me, so this is my chance to give back.”

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

- **Office Assistants** — Help with data entry, processing and mailing letters and answering phones.
- **Mentors** — Spend time with the men in our programs and provide Biblically based encouragement and support.



Our interns step up to the plate

As men graduate from the AR12 Discipleship program, their next steps typically include finding a home and a job. For recent graduates Shawn and Jeff, those steps led them right back to the Mission.

After they completed the program, Rick reached out to both men and asked them to consider remaining at the Mission as interns. Both agreed, and now they’re a familiar sight on our campus.

Shawn works in the kitchen. He’s responsible for the meals, but his favorite job is building relationships with the volunteers. “I love talking to them and planning with them,” he says. “I love what I do here. Sometimes it gets hard, but everyone steps up and helps. I’m learning to let God lead!”

“God definitely opened this door for me,” Jeff agrees. “I like this atmosphere, and I like giving messages at lunch



Jeff (left), Rick (center) and Shawn (right)

and working with the guys as they come into the shelter.”

Jeff handles many of the Mission’s administrative responsibilities: teaching classes, doing intake evaluations, and helping with school work. He’s also working toward a Bachelor’s degree in Addiction Studies, an opportunity he says he never would have had outside the internship.

Shawn and Jeff’s work at the Mission is invaluable. Throughout this year, we hope to expand the internship program and add additional staff members so we can continue to care for the hundreds of hurting men who walk through our doors each month. Your gifts will make this possible! Thank you for partnering with us as we invest in the lives of these men.

“The biggest thing that brings me joy is helping somebody else.”



Brian is no stranger to the Mission. He spent years struggling with addiction, mental illness and incarceration, and after his resources were exhausted, he spent a year and a half here enrolled in the work program.

Once he saved enough money, Brian moved out. Unfortunately, a hospital stay left him homeless and

alone once again. This time, he knew exactly where to go.

“My first thought was that I know I’ll have a place to stay at the Mission, and I was looking forward to it,” he says. “So I came back and signed up for the R12 Discipleship program.”

Brian has been in the R12 program for several months now, and as his relationship with God grows, his heart for others is growing as well. In fact, Brian has found great joy in serving others.

“It’s not just the Bible studies,” Brian shares. “It’s the things we do for others that help me grow spiritually. We serve lunch, host a food bank, do clothing drives... we are helping the community, and I find myself praying for others who are struggling which is something I never would have done before.

“I think it’s because I’ve been there... once you’ve been homeless, you know how it feels. The biggest thing that gives me joy is helping somebody else. It’s just amazing what we do here, and I’m glad I can be a part of it.”

Brian is glad to put a smile on someone’s face, and he’s grateful for friends like you who give to support the Mission.

“It’s amazing to me how many people send money, food or clothes to help this place run. It gives a guy like me a place to sleep, eat, do laundry and learn the Bible. It’s inspiring, and it makes me want to help people like that!”

As Brian finishes the R12 program, we’ll continue to support and encourage him as he serves those around him. It’s always a blessing to see God change lives!

ways to give

Now through May 31 — Canned Food Drive

Non-perishable and canned food helps us prepare the three meals we serve each day. Donations are always welcome, but if your office, Sunday school class or VBS would like to host a canned food drive, please contact us.

June 1–30 — Sock Drive

Socks are one of the most needed items here at the Mission. Help care for our guests by collecting new men’s and women’s socks and dropping them off during the month of June. All sizes are needed.

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.
- ✓ **September 15 – Planting Oaks, our annual banquet**
Merrimack Valley Baptist Church

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.

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.