



March

NEWSLETTER

As March begins, we want to thank you for being a part of a family of supporters, volunteers, and partners whose generosity lays the foundation for a community where each act of kindness multiplies and touches the lives of so many.



Celebrating Success

Herman's Story



A native of Salisbury, Herman spent over 17 years in prison. When he was released, he had nowhere to go and lived on the streets for years - sleeping in the cold and rain, often hungry, and uncertain of where to turn next. He cycled in and out of our shelter, determined to better his situation but struggling to overcome the issues that had led to his homelessness.

One day in 2023, he developed a high fever and became sicker and sicker. He sought help and was hospitalized as complications arose and his condition worsened. Thankfully, he turned a corner and began to recover. However, his release date was approaching, and he didn't know if he was going back to our shelter or if he would return to the streets.

Meanwhile, our staff at Rowan Helping Ministries, alongside our partners at CommunityLink, were working hard behind the scenes to find a suitable home in which Herman could start a new life. One housing possibility after another fell through until, through what seemed like divine intervention, a house became available near Herman's job.

While Herman was still hospitalized, staff raced to make sure fresh carpeting was installed in his new home, utilities were connected, and the lease and other documentation were signed. His team, who had guided him through the housing application process, worked together to gather second-hand furniture and everything else he needed to start anew. Two days after Christmas, Herman was handed the keys to his new residence. Through a permanent supportive housing voucher program, his rent will be subsidized, and he will have ongoing access to the supportive services he needs to stay stably housed.

As with so many of our clients, Herman is eager to give back. A fan of the meals in Jeannie's Kitchen, he plans to return to serve food to our current guests. "Any time you need me, let me know", he laughs. He happily shares his testimony about his journey and says, "When I see somebody homeless walking, I stop and talk to them and tell them to go to the shelter - you can do it, they'll help you!"

Now with a supportive companion by his side, who checks on him frequently, Herman is

enjoying this new chapter in his life. He continues to devote himself to his recovery and sobriety, and his next goal is to find a church home. "A place to stay and a good church, that's all you need", he says.

For so many of our clients, the road to stability and self-sufficiency is littered with setbacks and challenges. It takes time, patience, and teamwork to help them meet their goals. We are so proud of Herman and honored to be a part of the team that helped him find his pathway home.

February Outcomes



IMPACT AT A GLANCE

FEBRUARY 2024



Helped
79 FAMILIES
stay in their homes and
keep their utilities on by
providing **\$41,653**
in financial assistance



Distributed
5,049
FOOD BAGS
to students in 28
Rowan-Salisbury Schools



438 VOLUNTEERS served **3,316** hours



We housed **135** guests
in our Shelter and helped **14**
successfully move out.

We provided on-site transitional
and permanent supportive
housing to **19** households
(31 individuals)



Provided clothing to
341 FAMILIES
Equalling **5,744** items



Provided
47 CLIENTS
with **105** showers



We served
6,552 MEALS
in Jeannie's Kitchen
&
1,167 FAMILIES
with food through
our 3 Food Pantries

Volunteer Highlights

Circle of Friends, a program of First Baptist Church of Salisbury, is a group of young adults with intellectual disabilities who partner with mentors and engage in service to our community. This group of volunteers has been supporting Rowan Helping Ministries since 2019 in many ways, especially by assembling Food for



Thought bags and USDA food boxes that are distributed to Rowan County students and families in need. Circle of Friends is an inspiring and important group of volunteers and we appreciate their dedication to those in need.

Jeannie's Kitchen Volunteers Needed!



Open Breakfast Shifts (5:15-7:15 a.m.; 60-70 guests served)

Tues. 3/5, Weds. 3/6, Thurs. 3/7, Fri. 3/8, Sun. 3/10, Mon. 3/11, Tues. 3/12, Weds. 3/13, Thurs. 3/14, Fri. 3/15, Sun. 3/17, Mon. 3/18, Tues. 3/19, Weds. 3/20, Thurs. 3/21, Fri. 3/22, Sat. 3/23, Sun. 3/24, Mon. 3/25, Weds. 3/27, Thurs. 3/28, Fri. 3/29, Sun. 3/31

Open Lunch Shifts (9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; 90-100 guests served)

Weds. 3/6, Sat 3/9, Sun. 3/10, Sun. 3/17, Mon. 3/18, Tues. 3/19, Thurs. 3/21, Sun. 3/24

Open Dinner Shifts (5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.; 80-90 guests served)

Sun. 3/17, Sat. 3/23, Sun. 3/24, Mon. 3/25, Weds. 3/27, Thurs. 3/28

Donation Highlights



Since 1990, individuals and groups across the nation have gathered funds and food donations in the weeks leading up to Super Bowl Sunday. These donations go to local charities of their choice. We are honored that many churches participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring and chose to support Rowan Helping Ministries. These churches include **Back Creek Presbyterian Church, Faith Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church of Salisbury, First Reformed Church, First United Methodist Church, Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church, Grace Lutheran Church, Rowan Christian Assembly, Sandy Ridge AME Zion Church, Thomas Street Church of Christ Unity Presbyterian Church, Word of Life Family Worship Center, and Haven Lutheran Church.** The total amount of funds raised so far is \$2,646.31 and the total pounds of food collected is 3,942, and contributions are still coming in.

We appreciate the enthusiastic participation of local churches in this year's Souper Bowl of Caring and their commitment to fighting hunger in our community. We were delighted as church members arrived with their gifts and sent pictures of their Souper Bowl of Caring!

If your church has a Souper Bowl of Caring photo you would like to share with us, please email it to lcabagnot@rowanhelpingministries.org.



Glynis Cole and Michaela Curlee from First Horizon Bank visited Rowan Helping Ministries and presented us with gift cards from their Random Acts of Kindness program. These gift cards will be given to our transitional housing resident when they are ready to move into permanent housing so that they can purchase household items for their new life. Thank you, First Horizon Bank, for helping our residents with the next step in their journeys!



Employees of La Alcancia supermarket delivered 929 pounds of donated food to Rowan Helping Ministries to help fulfill our February Wish List needs. La Alcancia collects and donates food items for our pantry and Jeannie's Kitchen every other month. We are so thankful for their support of our food programs.

Community Partners

Veteran's Affairs Medical Center



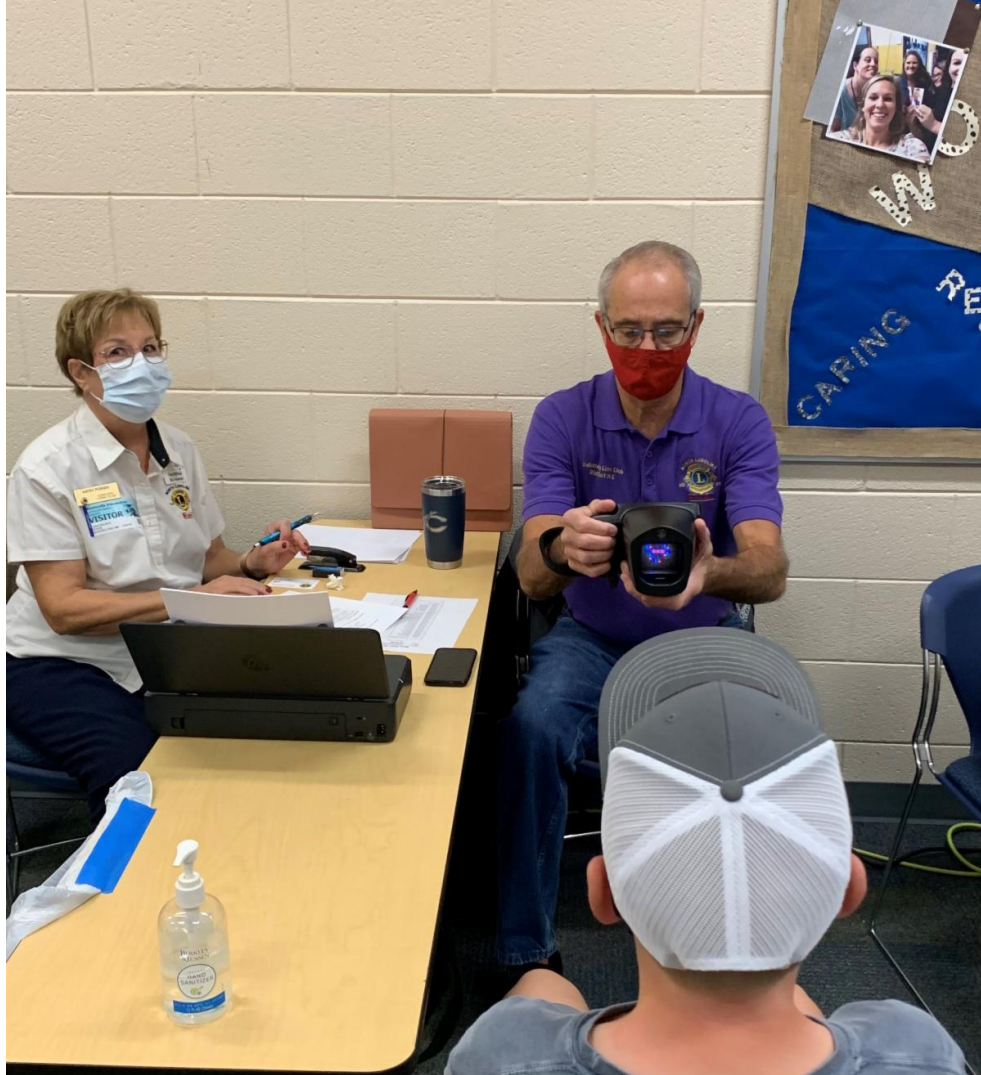
Because the Salisbury Veteran's Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) is such an important and prominent part of our community, we are often asked what role they play in our efforts to end homelessness among Veterans. Last year, 23% of those we served through our Shelter Services programs were Veterans. We partner closely with the VA and the VAMC to ensure that homelessness experienced by Veterans in our community is brief, rare, and one-time.

In 2010, we were awarded a Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) contract by the VA. The HCHV program aims reduce homelessness among Veterans, particularly chronically homeless Veterans, by providing them with healthcare and other needed services. The program provides outreach, case management and residential services to ensure that Veterans have access to quality housing and services that meet their needs.

In 2020, we were awarded a VA Grant & Per Diem/Per Diem Only (GPD PDO) grant. This grant supports transitional housing beds for Veterans working towards ending their homelessness. This award was followed by a GPD Capital Grant in 2022, which partially funded the construction of our new transitional housing units, 9 of which are reserved for Veterans. In 2023, we were awarded a VA GPD Case Management grant, which funds our Operation Home case managers who work to promote housing retention for previously homeless Veterans.

We could not offer these much-needed services to the Veterans in our community without the collaborative support of the VA, especially Monique Reynolds, GPD Liaison, and Alicia Wilson, HCHV Contract Liaison. Monique and Alicia work closely with our VA Case Managers Solomon, Tia, and Manessa, sharing best practices and other guidance to maintain our outstanding Veteran outcomes.

Salisbury Lions Club



Founded in 1932, the Salisbury Lions Club has long been committed to helping blind and visually impaired individuals in our community. In 2023, the Salisbury Lions provided vision exams and glasses to 49 Rowan Helping Ministries clients, with an approximate value of \$9,800. The program assists approximately 90 patients per year, many in public and private schools and preschools across Salisbury.

The Salisbury Lions Club accepts applications from individuals or through organizations like Rowan Helping Ministries. They partner with Salisbury Eyecare and Eyewear and Dr. Melanie J. Denton to provide exams and glasses at no charge. Beneficiaries of this program report that it has made a tremendous difference in their ability to be independent and self-sufficient, allowing them to work, attend school, drive, or perform other basic tasks necessary to support themselves.

The Lions Club of Salisbury welcomes new members who share their passion for service to the community. If you are interested in learning more about the organization's work or are interested in joining, please contact Rikki Spencer at rikspencer15@gmail.com.

Event Recap!

Winter Flight



On Sunday, February 4th, the 41st annual Winter Flight 8K/5K and Fun Run, presented by New Sarum brewery, took place at Catawba College. About 350 participants ran and walked in the event, which raised \$15,000 for Rowan Helping Ministries. Racers had a great time while raising funds for our programs, promoting a healthier Rowan community, and breaking or almost breaking course records in several categories. Many thanks to the Salisbury Rowan Runners, the generous event sponsors, and the participants who made this event possible.

Will Run For Food



On Saturday, February 24th, about 120 runners came out to participate in the annual Will Run for Food 5K, organized by the Salisbury Rowan Runners in collaboration with Centenary United Methodist Church. The event raised around \$9,000 for Rowan Helping Ministries, and participants also collected food and hygiene items for our clients. We couldn't carry out our mission without the dedicated support of the Salisbury Rowan Runners and our faith community partners!

Scouting For Food



This February, Rowan County's Boy Scout troops came together to collect food for the annual Scouting for Food campaign. Scouting for Food takes place on two consecutive weekends. On the first weekend, Scouts distribute bags and/or door hangers to let their neighbors know about the drive. On the second weekend, Scouts revisit those houses to pick up bags full of food, which is delivered to their local food bank or food pantry. This year, Rowan County scout troops collected and donated a total of 4,043 pounds of food – over two tons - to Rowan Helping Ministries. We extend our gratitude to all the participating troops for their valuable contributions to helping us fight food insecurity in Rowan County!

Mark Your Calendars !

Volunteer Banquet



Rowan Helping Ministries
Volunteer Appreciation
Banquet

ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
200 W Innes St
Salisbury, NC 28144

TUESDAY

MARCH

19

6:00 PM

Keynote Speaker
David Whisenant
Broadcast Journalist

Please RSVP to Marissa Gainey By
March 5th 2024 at
mgainey@rowanhelpingministries.org

Pass the Plate

Presented by
GREG AND MISSIE ALCORN

& **FOOD LION**
FEEDS

Tickets

\$70



MUSICAL GUESTS
THE LEGACY
MOTOWN REVUE

Benefitting
Rowan
Helping
Ministries



ROWANHELPINGMINISTRIES.ORG/DONATE

Learn more about Pass the Plate here.

HOPE Calendar

JOIN THE *Hope Calendar*

Sponsor a breakfast, lunch,
or dinner in Jeannie's Kitchen!



*In honor, memory,
birthday,
anniversary,
special occasion or
just because.*



Want to help someone in need? Our HOPE calendar campaign allows for you to do so by sponsoring a meal for the day, week, or more. Whether it's for a birthday, memory, anniversary, special occasion, or just because, your donation will make a difference!

Please contact Karen Taylor at **704-637-6838 ext. 100** or email her at **ktaylor@rowanhelpingministries.org**.

[Click here to learn more about our HOPE Calendar.](#)

In Other Other News!



JOB OPENINGS

- **Grants Compliance Specialist**
- **Food Operation Assistant**
- **Shelter Attendant**
- **Shelter Case Manager**
- **Shelter Operations Manager**

Join our expanding team! We have different job opportunities available for individuals who are passionate, motivated, and eager to make a positive impact in the community. If you fit the bill, we encourage you to submit your application on our website. Feel free to share this opportunity within your network—we greatly appreciate your help in finding the perfect candidates for our growing team!

[View Job Opportunities Here](#)

March Wish List



MARCH WISH LIST

CRISIS ASSISTANCE FOOD PANTRY

Travel size conditioner, shampoo, bar soap, deodorant, & lotion

Washcloths & Towels
Hats, Gloves, & Scarves

JEANNIE'S KITCHEN

Sugar
Eggs
Milk
Breakfast meats
Syrup
Snacks for bag lunches
Butter
Pasta
Salad Greens

Fresh Fruit
Instant Potatoes
Salad Dressing
Salt & Pepper
Mayonnaise
Bacon
Sausage
Jelly
Grits
Dried Pinto Beans

SHELTER SERVICES

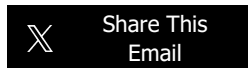
Gallon Ziploc bags
Boxes of tissues
Travel size conditioner, shampoo, bar soap, deodorant, & lotion
Size M and L scrubs

CLOTHING CENTER

Gloves Scarves
Hats Coats

Small equipment for Jeannie's Kitchen and other specialty items are found on our *Amazon Wish List*

Donations may be dropped off Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at our receiving dock facing Liberty Street at 226 N. Long Street in Salisbury. Clothing donations are accepted on Wednesdays only. If you want to order from our Amazon Wish list, [click here](#).



ROWAN HELPING MINISTRIES

Our mission is to serve, through cooperative community action, our neighbors in Rowan County who are in crisis, by providing essential life needs and educating and empowering them to break the cycle of crisis.

Donate Now



Rowan Helping Ministries | 226 North Long Street, Salisbury, NC 28144

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