




As we enter the month of April and the spring season, we express gratitude for your participation in a community of supporters, volunteers, and partners. Our community is filled with kindness that positively impacts numerous lives.

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Success Story



Overcoming Loss After Retirement

Many of those we serve have worked hard their whole lives but become homeless after life circumstances cause them to lose their housing. Harry, a retired welder and pipefitter, fell into homelessness after a series of challenges in his life. Raised in Jacksonville, Florida, he had what he calls a “fortunate upbringing” – his father owned a successful pipe company.

Harry moved to Salisbury in the 1980s with his mother and two sisters. His mother passed away, followed by his sisters. Harry was left on his own. He worked as a skilled tradesman and built a life in Salisbury.

After his retirement, he met the woman who would become his fiancée. They were the victims of a theft that depleted their savings, and they were forced to move out of their house. He and his fiancé became homeless, moving into a makeshift tent in the woods.

For over a year, they endured heat, humidity, rain, and freezing temperatures, sometimes spending frigid nights shivering under an ice-covered tarp. When the cold became unbearable, the couple would take refuge in our warming station. Tragically, Harry’s fiancée passed away in her sleep in 2023. He continued to live in the woods, racked by sorrow and loneliness. “I thought I was gonna go crazy, but I didn’t”, he remembers.

During this period, our Street Outreach team kept in touch with Harry through periodic wellness checks, offering him support and encouragement. Our Outreach to Housing Coordinator, Dianne, connected him to resources and potential landlords, and he was able to find a small house that he could afford on his modest retirement income. Our Crisis Assistance Network assisted him with the first month’s rent, and for the first time in years, Harry had a place to call home.

Harry often returns to Rowan Helping Ministries with a friend to eat lunch in Jeannie's Kitchen. In his free time, he builds and sells realistic models of Harley-Davidson motorcycles that he meticulously carves out of popsicle sticks. He is enjoying his new home. He says with a laugh, "It's a lot better than the streets – a lot warmer and drier!" Harry is grateful to Rowan Helping Ministries, and his advice to others going through hard times is simple: "Don't lose faith in God because he will always help you."

Seniors are one of the fastest growing groups in the homeless population. People are often surprised to learn how many people experiencing homelessness are elderly and have worked diligently for decades, but are now on the streets due to illness, injury, death of a spouse or partner, or simply being unable to afford housing on a fixed retirement income. Thanks to the support of a compassionate community, we can continue to help these vulnerable individuals reclaim safe, stable, and dignified lives.

March Outcomes



IMPACT AT A GLANCE

MARCH 2024



Helped

96 FAMILIES

stay in their homes and keep their utilities on by providing **\$35,492** in financial assistance



We housed **154** guests in our Shelter and helped **18** successfully move out.



Provided **59** CLIENTS with **144** showers



Distributed

3,357 FOOD BAGS

to students in 28 Rowan-Salisbury Schools



Provided clothing to **375 FAMILIES** Equalling **5,478** items



We served **7,103 MEALS**

in Jeannie's Kitchen

&

1,181 FAMILIES

with food through our 3 Food Pantries



561 VOLUNTEERS served **3,316** hours

Volunteer Highlights



Kathy Robertson is celebrating her one-year anniversary of volunteering with Rowan Helping Ministries! Kathy, who volunteers in our Clothing Center and participates in Food for Thought packing parties with her church, St. John's Lutheran, supports our mission and loves to help others. She feels good about volunteering and loves that she is helping those we serve in a respectful manner. We are so glad she chose to support our programs through volunteering and hope she continues for years to come.



Long-time volunteer Sylvia Worth has dedicated thousands of hours to working in our Salisbury Food Pantry, with over 250 hours served so far this year! Our Food Pantry volunteers receive donated food, pre-shop groceries for clients, re-stock pantry shelves, and help load food items into clients' vehicles. We are grateful for Sylvia's dedication, especially as we have seen an increase demand for our food pantry services.



Members of LifeWay Church have served in our Food Pantry and in Jeannie's Kitchen since 2021. This month, the group served our shelter guests a delicious dinner they prepared in Jeannie's Kitchen. Many thanks to LifeWay Church for providing our guests a nourishing meal and a smiling presence – your support is deeply appreciated!

Jeannie's Kitchen Volunteers Needed!



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

Weds. 4/3, Mon. 4/8, Sun. 4/14, Mon. 4/15, Sun. 4/21, Mon. 4/22, Weds. 4/24, Fri. 4/26, Sun. 4/28, Mon. 4/29, Tues. 4/30

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

Weds. 4/3, Sat. 4/6, Sun. 4/14, Mon. 4/15, Thurs. 4/18, Sat. 4/20, Sun. 4/21, Sat. 4/27, Mon. 4/29

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

Thurs. 4/4, Sun. 4/14, Sat. 4/20, Tues. 4/23, Sat. 4/27, Mon. 4/29, Tues. 4/30

Donation Highlights

Thank you to the staff at Bostian Retirement Planning for their donation to our food pantry. They collected 300 pounds of food and made a generous financial contribution that will help us provide nutritious meals to those in our community who are struggling to put food on their tables.



We are grateful to Sheila Hebert and the Vision Recovery team for their donation of over 100 pairs of reading glasses that will be distributed through our Clothing Center and to participants in our New Tomorrows program. These glasses allow our clients and guests to work, study, and take part in other activities as they work towards their dreams and goals.



The congregation of Bethel Baptist Church in Rockwell came together to collect 1,012 pounds of food for those in our community experiencing food insecurity. We rely on our generous community to keep our pantry shelves stocked. Many thanks to Bethel Baptist for their contributions!



Representatives from the Catawba College Nursing Department presented us with a financial donation from Kenneth Clapp as well as canned food and toiletries collected by their team. These gifts will help keep our community healthy and thriving. Thank you, Catawba College Nursing Department!

Community Partners

Shelter Art Program



North
Carolina
Arts
Council
www.NCArts.org



For over a decade, Rowan Helping Ministries has been awarded an annual Grassroots Arts Program grant by the Rowan Arts Council, which provides funding for our Shelter Art Program. This program provides our New Tomorrows participants with the opportunity to attend two arts classes each month, covering a variety of artistic mediums, at the Waterworks Visual Arts Center. This collaboration allows our participants to tap into their creativity, unlock hidden talents, and experience the therapeutic benefits of art. We are grateful to the North Carolina Arts Council and Rowan Arts Council for their ongoing support and to Waterworks Visual Arts Center for hosting the program and providing outstanding instructors. We will host a reception and art show at Waterworks in June featuring art created by our guests. Event details will be provided in an upcoming newsletter.

City of Salisbury



Rowan Helping Ministries and Shelter Ministries of Rowan County were awarded the Salisbury Community Appearance Commission 2024 Community Enhancement Award for our Eagle's Nest III project. We are honored to receive this award and are grateful for our architect – Gray Stout, our contractor - Central Piedmont Builders, and our community of donors and supporters who made this important transitional housing project possible.

Event Recap!

Volunteer Banquet 2024



On March 19, 2024, Rowan Helping Ministries hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation

Banquet at St. John's Lutheran Church. Each year, we celebrate our volunteers for their dedication and service to our community.

The event drew over 200 volunteers, board members, and staff, and featured a keynote address by retired journalist David Whisenant titled "Now, Go Do Something Good", in which he emphasized the importance of volunteerism and service to the Rowan County community.

Mike Drinkard, Debbie Hill, and Circle of Friends were recognized as this year's outstanding volunteers.

Our Executive Director Kyna Grubb presented the 2024 Governor's Volunteer Service Award, awarded annually to North Carolinians who make a significant contribution to their community through volunteering, to three recipients: Sabra Mills, Sheila Prevatte, and Circle of Friends. We are truly blessed to have so many dedicated volunteers who support us in everything we do – we couldn't do it without you!

[Learn more about the Volunteer Banquet here.](#)

Mark Your Calendars !

Pass the Plate

Presented by
GREG AND MISSIE ALCORN
& **FOOD LION**
FEEDS


Tickets
\$70

PASS THE PLATE
DINNER, DRINKS & ENTERTAINMENT
APRIL 6-9PM, F&M TROLLEY BARN

*Benefitting
Rowan
Helping
Ministries*

**MUSICAL GUESTS
THE LEGACY
MOTOWN REVUE**

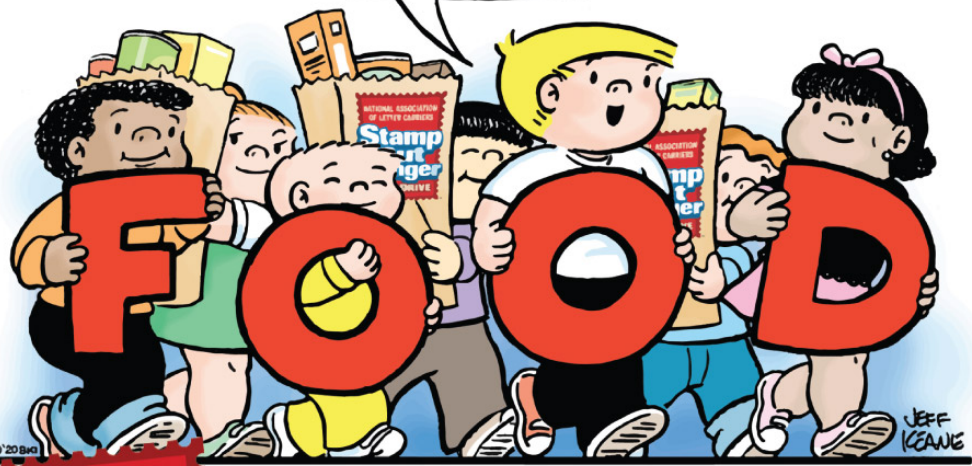
ROWANHELPINGMINISTRIES.ORG/DONATE



Learn more about Pass the Plate here.

Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

THIS SPELLS
HELP FOR LOTS OF
FAMILIES THIS
YEAR!



Put Your Non-Perishable
Donation In A Bag By
Your Mailbox.

May 11, 2024

Cheerwine Festival



**ALL THE PROCEEDS FROM
CHEERWINE DRINK SALES**

will go to



SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024

Join us at the Cheerwine Festival on Saturday, May 18, 2024. Rowan Helping Ministries was chosen again this year to receive the proceeds from Cheerwine's drink sales. Thank you, Cheerwine!

HOPE Calendar



CELEBRATE *Your* MOM

*with a
gift that
gives back!*

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



Looking for a meaningful Mother's Day gesture? Our HOPE calendar campaign offers the perfect opportunity to make a difference by sponsoring a meal for the day, week, or more. Whether it's to honor a mother's love, celebrate a special occasion, or simply show you care, your donation will have a lasting impact!

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**
- **Facilities Assistant**

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](#)

April Wish List



APRIL WISH LIST

FOOD PANTRY

Cereal, Grits, Oatmeal
 Protein & Granola Bars
 Canned meat (esp. chicken & tuna)
 Canned fruits & vegetables
 Peanut butter
 Pasta & Pasta Sauce

Rice
 Jelly
 Soup

PLEASE HELP
 WE ARE
 SERVING
 40% MORE
 HOUSEHOLDS
 THIS YEAR

JEANNIE'S KITCHEN

Sugar
 Eggs
 Milk
 Grits
 Breakfast meats
 Syrup
 Jelly
 Snacks for bag lunches

Butter
 Pasta
 Salad Greens
 Fresh Fruit
 Instant Potatoes
 Salad Dressing
 Salt & Pepper
 Mayonnaise

SHELTER SERVICES

Gallon Ziploc bags
 Travel size shampoo, bar soap, deodorant & lotion
 Size M and L scrubs (for pajamas)
 Washcloths & Towels

CLOTHING CENTER

Socks Undergarments

CRISIS ASSISTANCE

Travel size deodorant
 Washcloths & Towels
 Quart size Ziploc bags

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](#).

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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



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