



# APRIL NEWSLETTER



Spring is beginning to blossom on the campus of Rowan Helping Ministries!

April is also National Volunteer Month! This month we continue to celebrate and honor the volunteers that dedicate their free time to helping us to fulfill our mission. Rowan Helping Ministries volunteers show up each day to do the work to assist Rowan County residents in need. We appreciate you for your dedication and commitment.

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they are worthless, it is because they are priceless. - Sherry Anderson

## *Celebrating Success*

### **Widower with 4 children find their pathway home**

After losing his wife and mother in the same year Derrel Pagan leaned on his faith in God to get by with 4 children depending on him.

Derrel worked as a truck driver for 29 years and was forced to quit after getting hurt on the job. His disability combined with depression from losing his only support system left him feeling defeated and helpless, "When you lose your mother and wife, the two most significant women in your life, you wake up and realize you are on your own now, I had to step up. I went through a deep depression" Derrel explained.

In April 2021, Derrel was unable to maintain his expenses; as a result, he lost his apartment. He hit the road with his children in search of a place to stay. He tried to stay with friends and family, and it didn't work. He came to Rowan Helping Ministries but due to our new COVID safety protocols, we could not provide him and his family housing at that time. Derrel found temporary housing at the Salvation Army in Gastonia and thought things were headed in the right direction. Until one day while driving from Salisbury back to Gastonia his car broke down. With no money to fix his vehicle and hungry children in the car, Derrel walked into our doors seeking help. Our Outreach to Housing Coordinator went into immediate action to secure a space in our shelter for Derrel and his

family. Derrel was relieved. "I prayed and I prayed, I didn't know what I was going to do," Derrel explained.

Since his first night at the shelter, Derrel went into immediate action to work with his case manager to develop a plan to find his pathway home. His case manager provided him with a list of housing resources and Derrel tackled the list - calling landlords one by one. "Staying here I was able to get my thoughts together, I was refreshed, and had a chance to start over and have hope". Derrel stated.

With a place to stay and a clear mind to get the work done Derrel was able to secure income through disability benefits and found an apartment for his family. He resided in our shelter for 4 months and turned his life around during his short stay. Derrel reflected on his time here, "My biggest goal was to find a place to live, that is what I put all of my energy into."

## *Volunteer Highlights*

### Rowan Helping Ministries Honors Volunteers

After postponing the annual volunteer appreciation banquet for two years, Rowan Helping Ministries hosted an in-person event at the First Baptist Church of Salisbury Ministry Center on Tuesday evening, March 15th. Board members, staff, and volunteers came together to celebrate volunteerism and hear an inspirational message from Rowan County native Dr. Gary Chapman. Debbie Suggs Catering prepared a delicious dinner and L.A. Murph's provided a variety of yummy desserts.

The following volunteers were recognized for their outstanding service: For service during **2020**, the honorees were: David Preslar, Steve Henman, and the CAN interviewers. For service during **2021**, the honorees were: Trinity Wesleyan Church, Sandy Bevels, and Walter Wyzisk & Eva Knight. For service during **2022**, the honorees were: Rev. Steve Combs, Chris Bradshaw, and the Salisbury Rowan Runners. Read more about the event in the [Salisbury Post](#).







# Congratulations!

## 2022 Governor's Volunteer Service Award Winners

DAVID PRESLAR  
STEPHEN COMBS

CHRISTOPHER S. BRADSHAW  
SALISBURY ROWAN RUNNERS

FOR YOUR  
DEDICATED  
SERVICE TO  
ROWAN  
HELPING  
MINISTRIES

## First Church of Nazarene serves in Jeannie's Kitchen

Members of the First Church of Nazarene serve dinner in Jeannie's Kitchen every month. The group goes above and beyond each visit to make dinner special for our guests. They decorate Jeannie's Kitchen to celebrate the change of season or an upcoming holiday. This month our guests enjoyed a tasty meal joined with Easter decorations with a great message "Jesus is the way, truth & life." Thank you so much to the members of First Church of Nazarene for going the extra mile to ensure our guests feel special and included during dinner.



## Zetas of Salisbury

Thank you to the members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. for coming in on a weekend to prepare and serve lunch in Jeannie's Kitchen. Because of your effort and commitment, our shelter guests and those hungry in the community enjoyed a delicious meal.



## Food Lion HR Department

Thank you to the HR Department of Food Lion. To prepare for spring break, we planned to pack over 1,500 food bags to send out to students in need. The Food Lion staff helped to pack over 1,000 bags! Thank you so much for helping us prepare to feed Rowan County students during spring break.

Happy National  
**VOLUNTEER**  
Month





April is National Volunteer Month. This month is dedicated to honoring all of the volunteers in our communities as well as encouraging volunteerism throughout the month. Thank you to our dedicated volunteers for your commitment and support of our mission. We can't do this work without you.

Are you interested in volunteering? Visit our website for a list of our volunteer opportunities, and to sign up and serve. For questions, contact Volunteer Manager Monica Seamon at 704-637-6838 ext. 112 or [visit our website](#).

[Sign up to Volunteer](#)

## *Donation Highlights*

### **8th grade student collects over 1,000 pounds of food**

Concord Middle School student Nancy Reynolds was tasked with completing a required school project for her social studies class. She remembered dropping off donations to Rowan Helping Ministries in the



past with her Dad so she decided to organize a food drive. With the help of her family & friends, Nancy collected 1,267 pounds of food for our food pantry. " I feel so bad when I see people waste so much food, so I wanted to help," says 8th-grade student Nancy Reynolds. Thank you Nancy for thinking of your fellow neighbors in need.



## Gray Stone Day School National Honor Society

The National Honor Society students at Gray Stone Day School in Misenheimer, North Carolina chose to support Rowan Helping Ministries for their March service project. The students organized a drive to collect hygiene items. 5 boxes full of products were donated to Rowan Helping Ministries. Ian Shank, Honor Society secretary stated "We are grateful to help provide for the community and we will continue to strive to create a positive impact on our community" Thank you to the students at Gray Stone day school for your support!

## Community Partners





Novant Health Director of Health Equity, Yvonne W. Dixon, MSN, MHS, BSN, RN facilitated our staff meeting this month to educate us on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. Ms. Yvonne Waiters- Dixon serves on the Rowan Helping Ministries Board of Directors and has an over 40-year career in healthcare. Ms. Dixon spoke on the topic "Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity. The Impact on Rowan Helping Ministries". She defined what it means to be inclusive and equitable in the workplace and gave us the tools to put it into practice in our programs and services. Thank you Ms. Dixon for taking the time to help prepare us to better serve our community!



This month Executive Director, Kyna Grubb and Director of Community Relations, Raeshawn Palmer participated in the "Dismantling Racism Workshop" hosted by Racial Equity Rowan. Over 30 participants representing several Rowan County organizations gathered at the Hood Theological Seminary to deconstruct the root of racism and have a conversation about how it affects us all. To learn more about Racial Equity Rowan visit their website at

<https://www.racialequityrowan.org/>



*In Other News..*



## Jeannie's Kitchen Pre-COVID



We are excited to announce effective April 11 Jeannie's Kitchen will be moving towards our pre-COVID full services, by opening the serving line to guests during our dinner meal. We are looking forward to serving our guests face to face, and we can only do this with the help of you, our volunteers. Face coverings are still required in the Robertson-Stanback Center.



# We Need Your Help!

The 2022 Ted Luther Memorial Golf Tournament will be on September 17, 2022 at the Revival At The Crescent. We are looking for volunteers to join the planning committee. There are several ways you can assist the committee, please give Volunteer Manager, Monica Seamon a call at 704-638-6838 ext. 112 for more details.

## *Upcoming Events/Event Recap*



## Garden of Eatin' Spring Planting

### Garden of Eatin' Season Opening

Wednesday, March 30, 2022, Rowan Helping Ministries staff, members of the board, volunteers, and shelter guests came together to kick off the spring planting at the Garden of Eatin'. Garden volunteer, Rev. Steve Combs lead the group in planting several fruits and vegetables such as potatoes and strawberries. All produce grown in the Garden of Eatin' is used in Jeannie's Kitchen. Thank you to everyone who came out, pulled up their sleeves, and helped to plant the crops for spring harvest. Special thank you to Rev. Steve for your commitment to Rowan Helping Ministries, we appreciate you.

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# MARK FISHER MEMORIAL CAR SHOW

MAY 7, 2022 - 9AM-3PM - WEST END PLAZA-SALISBURY NC  
RAIN DATE: 5-28-22



100% of proceeds will benefit Rowan Helping Ministries !

The Mark Fisher Memorial Car Show was created to honor a friend of the community and a big car enthusiast, Mark Fisher who recently lost his life to Covid. We are happy to announce Rowan Helping Ministries was chosen to be the benefit partner of the car show. To learn more about the car show and how you can support [click here](#).

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# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS RESOURCE FAIR



SAT, MAY 14, 2022  
10A.M. - 2P.M.



The Homeless Task Force will be hosting a Community Connections Resource Fair to provide resources for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness.

Saturday, May 14, 2022  
Park Ave. Community Center  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
632 Park Ave  
Salisbury, NC 28144



Vendor registration is open until April 29, 2022.

For more details

please contact Cathy Wood- Romero, Crisis and Housing Manager at  
704-637-6838 Ext. 107

email: [cwood@rowanhelpingministries.org](mailto:cwood@rowanhelpingministries.org)

## SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, May 14th is the National **#StampOutHunger** Letter Carriers' Food Drive. It is simple for everyone to participate. On May 14 place your non-perishable food donations in your mailbox and our local letter carrier will pick up your donation and deliver them to the local post office. Donations made in Salisbury will be donated to Rowan Helping Ministries & The Salvation Army!

Would you like to volunteer for this event? Contact Volunteer Manager, Monica Seamon to get signed up at 704-637-6838 ext. 112.

THIS SPELLS  
HELP FOR LOTS OF  
FAMILIES THIS  
YEAR!



**LETTER CARRIERS'  
FOOD DRIVE**

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**FOOD LION  
FEEDS**  
*presents...*

# PASS *the* PLATE

**Saturday  
May 21, 2022**

**Tickets \$65**



## **SAVE THE DATE**

Pass The Plate

May 21, 2022, at 6 p.m. at The Country Club of Salisbury

Rowan Helping Ministries' largest fundraiser of the year, Pass the Plate, generates over \$140,000 in unrestricted funding to assist our most vulnerable neighbors in need. With generous support from our community, we are able to support them during their darkest times by providing food, clothing, financial assistance, and more as they work to break the cycle of crisis. Over 90% of the funds raised will go directly towards our clients and guests. Visit our website to purchase tickets and learn more about sponsorship opportunities. [Learn More](#)

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### SAVE THE DATE

We are excited to announce that Rowan Helping Ministries was chosen to be the benefit partner of the Cheerwine Festival on May 21, 2022.

We are looking for volunteers to join us at the event. The festival hours are noon to 10 p.m. Volunteer shifts could begin as early as 8 a.m. for set up. Duties will include vendor load-in assistance, managing parking lots, serving in the information booths, and serving as a Cheerwine Festival street ambassador. Volunteers are asked to be available for at least one, three-hour period.

Please contact Volunteer Manager, Monica Seamon to sign up to volunteer at the event. 704-637-6838 ext. 112 or email at [mseamon@rowanhelpingministries.org](mailto:mseamon@rowanhelpingministries.org)

## *March Needs List*



Remember, items can be purchased and shipped directly to Rowan Helping Ministries at 226 N. Long Street, Salisbury, NC 28144. Donations can also 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.

### **Equipment & Specialty Items**

#### **Jeannie's Kitchen**

Fresh Onions  
Fresh Lettuce  
2% Milk  
3-Quart Large Cans of Vegetables & Fruit (no tomato products please)  
Frozen Vegetables (broccoli, cauliflower, mixed vegetables)

#### **Crisis Assistance Food Pantry**

Pasta Sauce/Tomato sauce  
Jelly  
Can Fruit  
Canned Vegetables  
Canned Soup  
Lower Sodium Options of canned goods  
Breakfast: Cereal & Grits

#### **Shelter Services**

Shampoo (travel size)  
Body wash (travel size)  
Towels  
Twin Size Sheets  
Blankets  
Pillows  
Facial Tissue

Small equipment for Jeannie's Kitchen and other specialty items are found on our *Amazon Wish List*. [Check it out](#)

*Don't forget to use Amazon Smile!*

Razors

**Housing Services**

Towels

Laundry Detergent

**Homeless Street Outreach**

Beef Jerky

Snack Crackers

Protein bars

**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](#)

