



# SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



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Happy September! This month as we transition from summer to fall we are excited to celebrate the groundbreaking of the first of our Miracles on the Horizon capital projects. We can't wait to provide additional transitional and permanent supportive housing units for our clients. September for us is not only about a transition in weather, but also a transition in our programs to better serve our community.

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## *Celebrating Success*



**Thomas Webb, Former Shelter Guest (GPD Veteran Program)**

**“Homelessness for me was a choice because I knew I was not going to stay homeless”**

Here at Rowan Helping Ministries, we strive to meet our shelter guests where they are in their journey toward housing. Our case managers work closely with each guest to assess their personal needs and guide them in developing a case plan tailored to meet their goals. Some guests arrive motivated and with a plan, needing a little guidance and extra support. As was the case with Vietnam Veteran, Thomas Webb. After watching his monthly Veteran benefits dwindle due to his \$109 a night stays in a hotel, Thomas was in desperate need of affordable stable housing. With nowhere to go, Thomas turned to the only place he knew for help, the Salisbury VA which guided him to Rowan Helping Ministries. He moved into the Robertson-Stanback Center and stayed for only 2 weeks. He spent his short stay with us working diligently with his Case Manager to find an apartment, “My plan wasn’t to come here and make a home out of this, I planned to



find a place and move.” Thomas moved in with determination to succeed because he had the “memories of his past on his back.” This was not his first time being homeless.

Thomas spent many years living on the streets of several states in the U.S. He lived a life of crime filled with drugs, prostitution and so much more. God pulled him from that lifestyle one day when a prison Chaplain prayed over him in a jail cell, “I remember it like yesterday, my eyes were red filled with rage and anger and the Chaplain came into the cell and asked to pray for me. He shared his church information with me and when I was released, I went straight there,” Thomas reflected on this time in his life. Since that experience, he continued to follow the Word of God and spread his testimony to others. He went on to start his journey in ministry, got married, and traveled the world with his wife. When asked what caused his homelessness recently, Thomas replied “I separated from my wife, she left and took a job out of state, since then I was living in hotels.” Thomas shared that experiencing homelessness again was different this time because of his faith in God. “I never give up on God because he never gave up on me. A lot of the things I’ve done I would’ve never gotten away from that old lifestyle, if it wasn’t for Him. So I pray, and I hope, and I trust and believe,” Thomas said.

Thomas is currently in an apartment he said, “God made just for him.” Referring to his landlord, he said, “I had confidence and faith that God was going to touch the heart of another Christian man.” Thomas expressed how thankful he was to receive help from Rowan Helping Ministries, and he truly appreciates his case manager, Solomon, whom he calls, “a miracle worker.”

## *Volunteer Highlights*



### **Food For Thought Drivers**

In August we kicked off our Food For Thought program for the 2022-2023 school year! This year we started the program with 694 Rowan-Salisbury School students receiving Food For Thought bags. These bags are filled with breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snack items for students to enjoy over the weekend.

Thank you to our Food For thought volunteers who helped us to prepare for our large program start! We are so blessed to be able to help students who are at the most critical risk of food insecurity, as identified by school counselors and our Communities In Schools partners at the Rowan-Salisbury School system.

### **Monday Morning Packers**



Our Monday Morning Packers truly embody what it means to serve. They are always willing to meet the needs of our organization, no matter how tedious the task. On this day they went through a large donation of canned goods. They sorted, checked dates, and even cleaned cans to make sure we can use them in our pantry.



## Jeannie's Kitchen Volunteers

Last month, individual volunteers came together to assist our Food Operations Manager, Caroline, in Jeannie's Kitchen. This was a unique experience because we usually have groups sign up to serve together. This day of service turned into a great networking opportunity as complete strangers worked together for the same cause. If you are not a member of a group, we encourage you to still sign up as a volunteer, you may leave with a lifelong friend.



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

### Second Baptist Church Bible Camp

Youth members of Second Baptist Church of Kannapolis spent their summer learning the stories of the Bible and collecting food for those in need. Thank you for donating 117



pounds of food and hand sanitizer to our Food Pantry.



## Mr. & Mrs. Paul T Finn

Several times a month for many years Paul and Jean Finn donate fresh bananas to our food pantry. Thank you for providing fresh produce to individuals facing food insecurity. We appreciate your continued support throughout the years.



## St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church

Thank you to the Missionaries group at St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church for organizing a food drive and collecting 261 pounds of food for our food pantry.

*Community Partners*





## Rowan Helping Ministries Joins Rowan Moves for Walking Wednesdays!

Rowan Moves is a county-wide initiative to improve the health and lives of all Rowan County residents. The goal is to register 2,000 Rowan residents by the end of 2022. Wednesday, August 17th, Rowan Helping Ministries accepted the challenge and hosted a walk. Eight members of our staff and one member of the board came together and completed a 1.6-mile walk through downtown Salisbury! We had an added bonus of a coffee stop at Koco Java. Thank you Rowan Moves for a great initiative and to all everyone that participated.

*Event Recap*



## Rowan County Church Golf League Tournament

Wednesday, August 30, 2022, The Rowan County Church Golf League wrapped up their 17th season of the Church Golf League presented by McLane Food Service! Every year members of the league vote to support two local Charities! This year Rowan Helping Ministries and Meals on Wheels Rowan were chosen to split **\$6,019**. Thank you McLane Food Service and to the Rowan County Church League organizers and players for your support. This gift will be used to provide turkeys to families facing food insecurity this Thanksgiving!

*In Other News!*





## 12th Annual Ted Luther Memorial Golf Tournament

Our annual Ted Luther Memorial Golf Tournament will take place Saturday, September 17, 2022, at the Revival at the Crescent. We have limited team slots available so reserve your spot TODAY! There is still time to sponsor, volunteer, and provide a door prize. If you are interested, please call Resource Development Assistant, Karen Taylor, at 704-637-6838 ext. 100.

For the event, details [click here](#).

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*September Needs List*





# SEPTEMBER WISH LIST

## JEANNIE'S KITCHEN

2% Milk  
Breakfast Sausage  
Fresh Onions  
Fresh Lettuce  
Fresh Fruit

## CRISIS ASSISTANCE FOOD PANTRY

Pasta /Tomato Sauce  
Canned Vegetables  
Jelly • Grits  
Low Sodium Options of Canned Goods



## SHELTER SERVICES

Bath Towels  
Pillows  
Blankets

## HOUSING SERVICES

All-Purpose Cleaner/Wipes  
Sponges • Bath Towels  
Dish Towels/Dish Rags

## HOMELESS STREET OUTREACH

Beef Jerky • Snack Crackers • Protein Bars • Rain Ponchos

### Equipment & Specialty Items

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

Donations can 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





Try email marketing for free today!