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[Rowan County, NC](#)

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May

NEWSLETTER

The month of May means we are getting closer to those warm summer days! Thank you to everyone who contributed to Rowan Helping Ministries during the month of April and making an impact on our community.



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Celebrating Success



Sam's Winding Road Home

Sam, a Veteran and a native of Winston-Salem, took a winding road on his journey to stability. Tired, he says, "of doing the things he was doing", he first sought support at Daymark Recovery Services in Winston-Salem. He then went on to participate in a program at Daymark in Lexington, and when they asked him what his long-term goals were, he told them he was ready to get off the streets and find a place to call home. They referred him to the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center in Charlotte, where he successfully completed their 6-month program.

Unfortunately, near the end of the program, he injured his right hand and had to undergo surgery and begin extensive rehabilitation and occupational therapy. Frustrated by this setback, Sam became depressed. He called the Veterans Crisis Line, and one of the resources they connected him to was Rowan Helping Ministries. He made the journey to Salisbury, checked into our shelter, and was enrolled into one of our VA programs. He took advantage of our New Tomorrows classes, learning computer skills and participating in Veteran support groups.

After a brief shelter stay, he moved into a shared apartment in our Eagle's Nest transitional housing program. He lived in Eagle's Nest for nearly six months, diligently working towards his goals, until he had what he calls "a difference of opinion" with his roommate. Determined not to let this bump in the road deter him, he moved back into the shelter. After another short stay, he achieved his goal of securing an apartment in a quiet neighborhood in Salisbury, and in March, he moved in.

Today, Sam is continuing to work hard to regain the full use of his right hand after multiple surgeries. His next goal is to obtain his driver's license. Shortly after he moved into his new home, the Salisbury Housing Authority contacted him to let him know that he was eligible to move into one of their units. Once without a home, he now has options, which he is mulling over. His advice to anyone considering changing the path

they are on is: "Don't hesitate! Don't think about it, just do it. The longer you wait, the harder it's gonna be."

Sam's pathway home has had many twists and turns, but his determination and the support he found along the way have carried him through. His story serves as an inspiration to others who may be facing similar challenges - that by taking that first step, no matter how daunting, and continuing to persevere, the path ahead can lead to a brighter future. We wish Sam all the best as he builds his new life and continues to work towards his goals.

April Outcomes



IMPACT AT A GLANCE

APRIL 2024



Helped

108 FAMILIES

stay in their homes and keep their utilities on by providing **\$46,252** in financial assistance



We housed **146** guests in our Shelter and helped **18** successfully move out.



Provided **59** CLIENTS with **198** showers



Distributed

3,228 FOOD BAGS

to students in 28 Rowan-Salisbury Schools



We served

6,413 MEALS in Jeannie's Kitchen & **1,278 FAMILIES** with food through our 3 Food Pantries



Provided clothing to **375 FAMILIES** Equalling **5,271** items



467 VOLUNTEERS served **3,072** hours

Volunteer Highlights

Demand for our food pantry services has risen nearly 40 percent in recent months. We could not operate our pantries without the tireless efforts of our volunteers. This month,

we are highlighting three individuals who have gone above and beyond in their service to the community. We are deeply grateful for the time and effort that Mark, Stewart, and Debbie have added to their volunteer time to support our food pantry, and we are honored to have them as part of our volunteer family.

Mark Brittain has been volunteering in our food pantry since November 2022. Mark's hard work and enthusiasm have been invaluable in supporting our pantry operations.

Stewart Ash has been a volunteer with us since June 2021, logging many hours in our pantry. He has also served as a Food for Thought Drive. Stewart's consistent dedication and willingness to take on any task have been instrumental in keeping our operations running smoothly.

Debbie Kessler also joined our volunteer team in July 2021 and has contributed nearly 75 hours of service as of this month. Debbie's attention to detail and her ability to work efficiently have made her an indispensable member of our volunteer program.

We are deeply grateful for the time and effort that Mark, Stewart, and Debbie have invested in supporting our food pantry and other programs, and we are honored to have them as part of our volunteer family.



Mark Brittain, Stewart Ash, and Debbie Kessler

Jeannie's Kitchen Volunteers Needed!



Open Breakfast Shifts (5:15-7:15 a.m.)

Sun. 5/12, Thurs. 5/16, Thurs. 5/23, Fri. 5/24, Sat. 5/25, Sun. 5/26, Mon. 5/27

Open Lunch Shifts (9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.)

Thurs. 5/16, Mon. 5/20, Tues. 5/21, Weds. 5/22, Sat. 5/25, Weds. 5/29, Thurs. 5/30

Open Dinner Shifts (5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.)

Sun. 5/12, Weds. 5/22, Thurs. 5/23, Sat. 5/25, Weds. 5/29

Donation Highlights



The Catawba College School of Education Department donated 681 pounds of canned food to our Food Pantry this month. Two students, who are members of SNCAE (Student North Carolina Association of Educators) graciously delivered the food to our campus. Our pantries' food is in high demand now, and we appreciate this group for providing community members in need with food. We thank Catawba College School of Education Department for their generosity!



The Alpha Xi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. from Livingstone College visited our campus and donated a collection of gently used clothing to our Clothing Center. The donated clothes will be distributed to individuals and families in need through Rowan Helping Ministries' Clothing Center. We appreciate their efforts and commend these young leaders for their dedication to making a positive impact in the community.

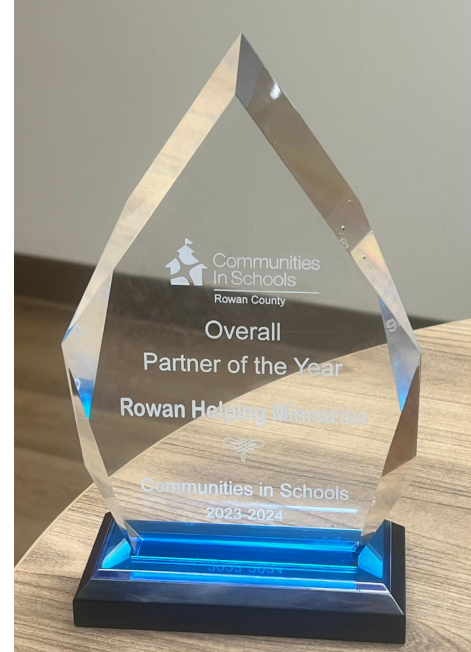
Community Partners

Communities in Schools



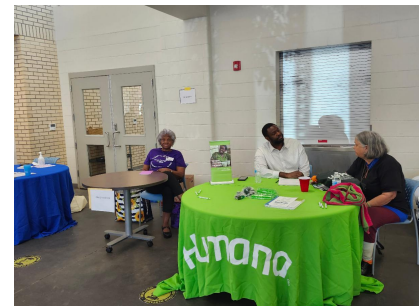
We are thrilled to announce that Rowan Helping Ministries has been honored with the 2023-2024 "Overall Partner of the Year Award" from Communities in Schools of Rowan County. Executive Director James Davis presented the award at their "All in for Kids" awards ceremony in recognition of our partnership through the Food for Thought program.

Food For Thought provides weekend food bags to students in 28 schools across the Rowan-Salisbury School System. The program ensures that food-insecure students have access to nourishing meals when school is not in session. We extend our sincere thanks to Communities in Schools for their collaboration and for honoring us with the Partner of the Year award. You can learn more about the valuable work that Communities in Schools does on their website: <https://www.cisrowan.org/about-cis-rowan>.



[Click here to learn more about Communities in Schools.](#)

Community Connections Resource Fair



On April 25th, the Homeless Task Force of Rowan County hosted a Community Connections Resource Fair. Held in Jeannie's Kitchen dining room, the fair provided a one-stop shop for supportive services, including mental health resources, job opportunities, linkages to substance abuse treatment and medical care, and housing assistance. Attendees could gather information, make connections, and take strides toward improving their current circumstances. Over 70 attendees explored a wealth of resources from 23 community partners.

Community organizations represented included Rowan Helping Ministries, Cabarrus Rowan Community Health Centers, Carolina Senior Care, Carolinas CARE Partnership, Family Crisis Council, Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency,

NCWorks, Novant Health, Rowan-Salisbury Schools Communities in Schools, Helping Hands Solutions, Humana, C. A. DuPree Paralegal Services, Job Corps Center, Rowan County Public Health HOPE Team, Capstone Recovery, Salisbury VA Medical Center, Community Care Clinic of Rowan County, Strategic Interventions ACTT, Thomas Street Church of Christ, Vaya Health, and S & H Youth and Adult Services.

Through community collaborations like this resource fair, the Task Force continues to uplift and support those facing homelessness in our community. The caring connections made will undoubtedly have a lasting positive impact.



Event Recap!

Pass The Plate



Rowan Helping Ministries' largest annual fundraising event, Pass the Plate, was a tremendous success this year! Held on Saturday, April 6th at the F&M Trolley Barn, the year's event raised over \$130,000 - funds that will go a long way towards supporting our programs and services. With 220 guests in attendance, including Rowan Helping Ministries' staff, board members, volunteers, and donors, the fun-filled evening featured live music by the Legacy Motown Revue, casino games, and a silent auction with items donated by local businesses.

Guests also had the chance to win several raffle items donated by local businesses. We are so grateful for the generous donors, volunteers, and guests who made this year's event such a success!

[Read about Pass the Plate in the Salisbury Post here.](#)



Southern Power Golf Tournament April 23, 2024,

Mooreville Golf Club

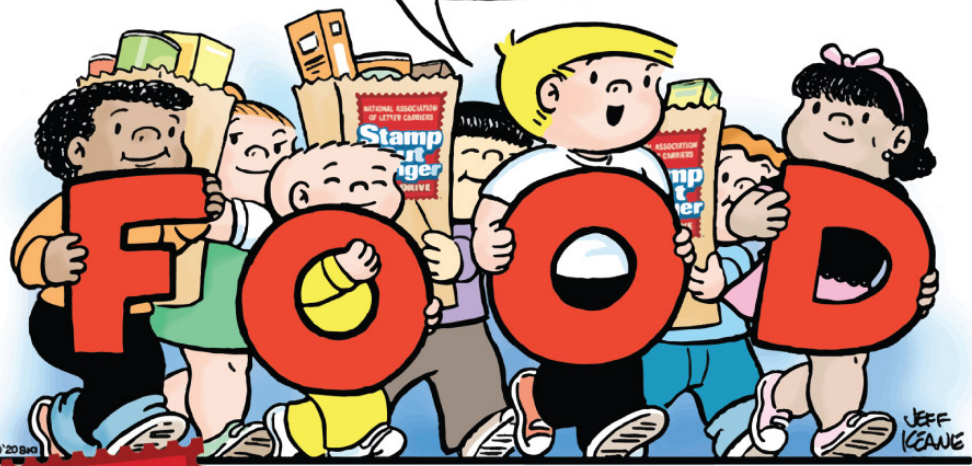


On April 23, 2024, golfers and supporters gathered at the Mooreville Golf Club for a day of friendly competition and giving back hosted by Southern Power Plants – Cleveland and Rowan. Rowan Helping Ministries has been honored to be one of their chosen benefiting organizations since the inaugural tournament in 2017. We are deeply grateful to be Southern Power's partner for this fun-filled event, and we thank them for their longstanding partnership and for making a lasting difference in so many lives. We look forward to many more years of uplifting our community together!

Mark Your Calendars !

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

NASCAR Giveathon



We have joined the NASCAR Foundation for the NASCAR Day Giveathon! Starting May 14 at 8:00 a.m. EST, you can help Rowan Helping Ministries by donating to us, or sharing our fundraiser during the 37-hour period.

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*



Make Mother's Day extra special by sponsoring a meal through our HOPE calendar campaign! Your gesture can honor a wonderful mother in your life, mark a specific occasion, or simply show you care.

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**

Come join our growing team! We have various job opportunities for those who are passionate, driven, and enthusiastic about making a difference in the community. If this sounds like you, we invite you to apply through our website. Don't hesitate to spread the word within your network—we value your assistance in finding ideal candidates for our expanding team!

[View Job Opportunities Here](#)

May Wish List



MAY WISH LIST

FOOD PANTRY

Cereal, grits, Oatmeal	Tomato products
Protein & Granola Bars	Soup
Pancake Mix	Pasta & Pasta Sauce
Dried Beans	Macaroni & Cheese
Canned Meat (esp. chicken & tuna)	Saltine Crackers
Canned fruit & Vegetables	Stuffing Mix
Peanut Butter	Dried Fruit
Jelly	Syrup
	Rice

SHELTER SERVICES

Gallon Ziploc Bags
Travel size Shampoo, Bar Soap, Deodorant, & Lotion
Size M and L Scrubs (for pajamas)
Washcloths & Towels
New Bed Pillows

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

JEANNIE'S KITCHEN

Sugar	Salad Greens
Eggs	Fresh Fruit
Milk	Instant Potatoes
Breakfast Meats	Salad Dressing
Syrup	Salt & Pepper
Snacks for bag lunches	Mayonnaise
Butter	Jelly
Pasta	Grits

CLOTHING CENTER

All men's clothing items	New undergarments
	Feminine hygiene products

CRISIS ASSISTANCE

Travel size Deodorant
Washcloths & Towels
Quart size Ziploc bags

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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