

MISSION NEWS

YOU CAN USE

Working Together
to Rebuild Lives

The Rescue Mission of Trenton is the agency in the City of Trenton that serves the truly needy men and women who have no place to turn for shelter, food, and clothing. The Mission offers a safe, clean, warm refuge for the homeless, the hungry, the transient, and the addicted. We provide services and counseling to encourage individuals to reach their greatest potential. The Rescue Mission creates an environment where one can live with dignity, build self-esteem, and experience love, responsibility, and hope.

Services include:

Vince's Place: Licensed by the State of New Jersey Department of Human Services as a Residential Addictions Treatment Facility. Provides long term, halfway house, and extended care level of service with a full range of addictions treatment and life skills treatment.

Outpatient Program: Licensed substance abuse treatment for men and women. Provides individual assessment, group counseling sessions, and addiction education.

Permanent Housing: The Mission operates two specialty supportive housing units – Robinson Place, a licensed Rooming and Boarding House, and Brimmer House, a free standing 2-unit house.

Weekend Soup Kitchen

Emergency clothing and furniture

Emergency Shelter: Shelter for single men and women. Licensed by the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

Transitional Housing

Work Readiness: Individuals are provided training in GED preparation, basic literacy, writing skills, job seeking skills, and computer and word processing skills.

Industrial Salvage: Donated materials are collected by route trucks and processed and sold through the Carroll Street Store and warehouse.

Rescue Mission of Trenton
98 Carroll St., P.O. Box 790
Trenton, NJ 08605-0790
Main 609-695-1436
FAX 609-695-5199
Toll Free: 800-528-8825
www.rescuemissionoftrenton.org

February 2013

Winter

The Mission Weathers Sandy & Counts Its Blessings

Around 9:30 PM on Monday, October 29th the Mission staff discovered the roof of the Cracker Factory warehouse building was gone as a result of Hurricane Sandy. As the opinion piece on Page 2 describes, over the next few days we learned a great deal about the importance of government, friendships, and the strength and resilience of our resident community.

Unfortunately, all too frequently it is through hardship that we see how truly blessed we are. The events of October 29th caused the Mission to reflect on how much we have to be thankful for, especially:

1. The incredible support and cooperation we received from government, our fellow nonprofits and the community-at-large during Hurricane Sandy
2. The limitless capacity of those who have so little economically to demonstrate the best of human nature. Despite the many hurdles they face, our clients exhibited an extraordinary level of cooperation and mutual aid during Sandy – as they do each day as they attempt to remake and reshape their fractured lives.
3. The countless e-mails and calls we received during Sandy and in the aftermath from folks seeking to help and for the many individuals who showed up with hats, gloves, and coats
4. The companies that employed 25 of our residents this past year
5. Hutchinson Industries, one of the Mission's strongest supporters, which over the years has afforded many residents the opportunity to work on-site and receive job training and secure funding towards reentry
6. The Perry Street Permanent Supportive Housing Project that is fast moving towards project completion. Sometime in the next year, fifteen individuals who were previously homeless will be moving into beautiful new studio apartments and receiving supportive housing services.

Hurricane Sandy reaffirmed that while facts and figures matter a great deal, our true successes are measured in dignity restored, in hope rekindled, and in broken lives healed. The events reinforced our appreciation for the community in which we reside and the dual values of respect and cooperation.

9th Annual Adam Shanks Mission Miniature Golf Tournament

Rescue Mission of Trenton

March 15, 2013

WORKING TOGETHER TO REBUILD LIVES

Event Sponsor \$500

Supporting Sponsor \$350

Foursome \$175

Individual Golfer \$50

To register or for more information contact Regan Mumolie
at (609) 695-1436 ext. 181 or reganm@rmtrenton.org

RESERVE YOUR
SPOT TODAY!



Rescue Mission of Trenton gives thanks for help through Hurricane Sandy

By Mary Gay Abbott-Young, CEO, Rescue Mission of Trenton

Before Hurricane Sandy's arrival a few weeks ago, the Rescue Mission of Trenton shored up our emergency plan, prepared food, purchased supplies, readied additional shelter space, adjusted our staff schedule and exchanged phone calls with Ruth Carter, the City of Trenton's health and human services director.

And then the roof came off.

Around 9:30 p.m. the day of the storm, the Mission staff discovered that the roof of our warehouse building was missing. Over the next 96 hours, we learned a great deal about the importance of government, cooperation and the incredible strength and resilience of our community.

First lesson: Government matters. As one who has criticized government for its failure to understand and embrace the problems of those we serve, I say without reservation that, in this crisis, the response from all levels of government was unparalleled. They worked closely with the Mission to keep our emergency shelter open throughout the storm.

Our experience working with the city, county and state reinforced the theme of County Executive Brian Hughes' recently published op-ed, "The best time to prepare for a disaster is now" (Nov. 13): While central coordination is crucial, local neighborhood preparedness adds to a more effective and efficient response.

Second lesson: Friends, volunteers and staff matter. We remained open because of the cooperation of our nonprofit friends and the commitment of our residents. First thing the morning after the storm, Mission residents volunteered to clean up roof debris and transport food to the freezer at the Mercer Street Friends food bank. HomeFront provided shelter for our female emergency shelter clients, and various other nonprofits helped in myriad other ways.

I cannot begin to address the dedication of our staff and volunteers, who — despite the lack of electricity — continued working.

The aides in our emergency shelter walked to work for their midnight shift, and day staff went off-duty at noon so they could report back to work later that evening. Whenever we could not fill a need, there seemed to be a volunteer calling to locate supplies for us or to provide transportation for us.

Third lesson: Our clients show us the way. There seems to be a limitless capacity of those who have so little economically to demonstrate the best of human nature. Many of the individuals we serve have serious life issues: mental illness, substance abuse, criminal history, physical disabilities. Despite these hurdles, they showed an extraordinary level of cooperation and mutual aid. As the female shelter clients boarded the school bus and we joked about traveling to summer camp, the women implored me to look out for a regular client with serious mental illness who didn't make it on the bus, asking that I see to it that she would make it out to HomeFront later on. I am embarrassed by the many thank-you's and the clients who caught a private moment with me to say, "I know that, coming from me, it doesn't mean much, but you guys are doing a great job."

Fourth lesson: Our community is so generous. It is in large part because of the generosity of community members that the Mission's emergency shelter and services to the homeless population exist in Mercer County.

A crisis tests the fabric of the safety net, and while we would all prefer that the emergency shelter not be needed, we are especially thankful for its presence when extraordinary circumstances occur.

The broader community of Mercer County is extremely caring. We received countless e-mails and calls asking how folks could help. Before we knew it, individuals just started showing up with hats, gloves and coats to donate. Even our store customers pitched in by helping to wash, dry and fold some 200 sets of blankets/sheets each day for our emergency shelter.

The Rescue Mission of Trenton reaffirms our admiration for the community and for the values it exemplifies. With your support, we will endeavor to continue to assist the economically poor congruent with the values you displayed during the superstorm and throughout the year, with the knowledge that we will be a better community for that effort.

Turn to the Mission to Sell Your Unwanted Treasures on eBay



Since May of 2005, the Mission has been selling selected items donated to us on eBay, the world's online marketplace with more than 100 million registered users worldwide. Over the past seven years we have sold more than 3,000 items on eBay and have achieved the coveted eBay Top Rated Seller status, exemplifying the highest standard for extraordinary customer service.

The Mission currently derives about a quarter of its revenue from the salvage and resale of donated clothing, furniture, and household items. The bulk of these items are sold at below market prices in our retail store on Carroll Street. All profits generated from the store directly help to provide for our wide range of programs and services. Unfortunately, profits from store sales have been down significantly the past few years as a result of the loss of disposable earnings for our low-income customers, who are themselves struggling to make ends meet due to job losses and reductions in hours.

"We are very fortunate that eBay has provided us with the opportunity to sell online items which would not be in wide demand in our store," indicates Mary Gay Abbott-Young, the Mission's CEO.

John Reid is an alumnus of the Rescue Mission with a wide-ranging business background. For the past two years he has overseen Mission's eBay operation and helped to grow the program and train current residents on the ins and outs of online sales. According to Reid, "the vast majority of items that we sell on eBay are antiques and collectibles. Our biggest selling items are antique and modern furniture, decorative art, cut glass, lithographs, paintings, pottery, and older toys."

Beginning in January 2006, the Mission

offered the community-at-large the opportunity to sell their unwanted items of value on eBay through e+Mission Auction. Since that time hundreds of individuals have utilized of this service. The **box to the right** lists a few examples of the items that John has sold for members of the community during the past year and the price that the item sold for.

Connie Workon, of Hamilton Square, who has sold various items on e+Mission Auction over the years, raved about working with John. "He is great, very meticulous and extremely willing to do anything he can do to be helpful," indicated Ms. Workon. He undertook research to appropriately describe items and helped to set minimum acceptable bids. Ms. Workon was extremely satisfied with the wonderful service she received. She concluded by indicating that she liked the fact that some of the funds generated "goes right back to the Mission for its programs."

Liz Hagen of Lawrenceville is another client who has sold multiple items on eBay through the Mission and has referred a friend to the service. The friend sold a player piano. Ms. Hagen knew about the e+Mission Auction for a number of years prior to trying it. She initially sold some Waterford glass and subsequently a sterling silver tea set. "My experience with John was wonderful. He is extremely friendly, very trustworthy and quite knowledgeable. I was very satisfied with the service he provided to me." Ms. Hagen relied on John's expertise



for help in pricing items and was pleased with the profit the items yielded. "I would much rather give the commission to the Rescue Mission than an auction house," Liz indicated.

E+Mission Auction makes selling on eBay very simple. We prep the item for sale, expertly describe item specifications, take a digital photo, and post the item on eBay. When sold, we pack and ship the item. Customers get a check in the mail within 14 days of the pickup of the item or, if the item is shipped, within 14 days of the customer receiving the item sold. Our fees structure is very simple and if there is no sale there is no fee. For further information on e+Mission Auction contact John at JohnR@rmtrenton.org or go to www.eplusmissionauktion.org.

Mid-Century Teak Dining Table with 3 Leafs

Item sold for: \$600
Total profit to the customer, less fees: \$421

Sterling Silver Tea Service (2 Tea Pots, cream & sugar)

Item sold for: \$1,500
Total profit to the customer, less fees: \$1,142

Ornate Gold Gilded Curio Cabinet

Item sold for: \$1,100
Total profit to the customer, less fees: \$795

Becker & Sons Apothecary Pharmacy Scale

Item sold for: \$225
Total profit to the customer, less fees: \$157

Stanton Arts Lithographs

Item sold for: \$132.50
Total profit to the customer, less fees: \$93

Pair of Mirrored Beveled Glass Floral Tiled Candle Wall Sconces

Item sold for: \$396.99
Total profit to the customer, less fees: \$277

Soligor FD MT 80-200mm F4.5 Lens for Canon Camera

Item sold for: \$35
Total profit to the customer, less fees: \$20

The Mission Forms First-Ever Senior Executive Council

The Rescue Mission of Trenton is the area's oldest nonprofit dedicated to serving the homeless, the hungry, the transient and the addicted. More than 25% of its funds come from the salvage and resale of household items, furniture and clothing and entrepreneurial activities and about 15% from individual, foundations, and corporate support. We could not carry out our mission if we did not have these funding sources.

As a result of the severe downturn in the economy combined with a variety of other factors, the income that the Mission has been able to generate from its industrial salvage operation has declined. This is one of the primary reasons we have assembled our Senior Executive Council (SEC).

"We see this entity – which is composed of some of the best and brightest minds in Mercer County – as a vehicle for providing outside input and new ideas to the Board of Directors as we determine the future direction of the Mission. We are extremely gratified that such an incredibly talented group of individuals have agreed to provide their years of wisdom to the Mission as it seeks to position itself to rebuild lives for years to come," indicated Delia Dandridge, the President of the Board of Directors of the Rescue Mission of Trenton.

The following are the specific responsibilities that the SEC, which will met twice a year, has been asked to perform on behalf of the Rescue Mission of Trenton:

1. Provide the Mission with input, insight, advice and counsel regarding future programs and strategic initiatives
2. Help the Mission identify and attract individuals, corporations, groups/

organizations and foundations that might be willing to provide assistance through philanthropic, professional, in-kind, or other means of direct support

3. Enhance the image of the Rescue Mission by encouraging others to take an interest in our mission

At least two members of the Mission's Board of Directors will attend each meeting of the SEC to ensure that the important input and ideas expressed by the SEC are conveyed rapidly and directly to the Mission's Board.

"The Mission is truly honored that such a diverse group of highly-respected leaders have agreed to serve on our first-ever SEC. They are an extremely talented group drawn from education, government, foundations, the nonprofit sector, and private industry. We are very proud that these exemplary citizens have agreed to lend their talents to the Mission," indicated Mary Gay Abbott-Young, the Mission's CEO.

The following individuals will be serving as the founding members of the Mission's SEC:

- **Dr. Sumeera Baig**, *Private Practice Physician*
- **Anthony Destribats, Esq.**, *Destribats, Campbell, Magee, Staub & Burns*
- **Linda Doherty**, *President, New Jersey Food Council*
- **Peg Forrestal**, *Director of Contributions and Community Affairs, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*
- **Albin Garcia**, *Principal, Garcia Realty*
- **Leslee Geltzer**, *Principal, Geltzer Family Foundation*
- **Randy Hanks**, *CEO, First Choice Bank*
- **Katherine Hatton, Esq.**, *General Counsel and Secretary, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*

- **Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh**, *West Windsor Township*
- **James Hyman, CEO**, *Hopewell Valley Bank*
- **Chip Jerry, Esq.**, *Jerry & Jerry LLP*
- **Lois Jessen**, *Director, Promotion Compliance, Bristol-Myers Squibb*
- **Anne LeBate**, *Principal, Segal LaBate Commercial Real Estate*
- **Phyllis Marchand**, *Former Mayor, Princeton Township*
- **James McManimon**, *Business Administrator, Ewing Township*
- **Diana McNeil**, *Regional Client Account Manager, Education Testing Service*
- **Dvorit Samid**, *VP Medical Affairs, Synta Pharmaceutical*
- **David Shanks, CEO**, *Penguin Books*
- **Patrick Sweeney**, *President, Caliper Corporation*
- **Dan Sweetser, Esq.**, *Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein & Blader, P.C.*
- **Simin H. Syed, Esq.**, *Simin H. Syed, PC*
- **Melanie Willoughby**, *Senior Vice President, New Jersey Business & Industry Association*
- **Karen Woodbridge**, *Director of Community Relations, Office of Community & Regional Affairs, Princeton University*

The first meeting of the SEC was held at the Mission on Wednesday, September 19th. The highlight of the meeting was a brief presentation by Mission client Elias who entered through the Emergency Shelter and was currently participating in the Mission's residential substance abuse treatment program. Elias shared his struggles with the group and imparted to them how important the existence of the Mission was for him and how grateful he was for the support of the Mission, the SEC, and all our contributors who provide our residents with the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

THE MISSION CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE YOUR SUPPORT

We need your support to continue to serve the needy in our community.

\$35 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 other \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Please send check and coupon to: **Rescue Mission of Trenton**, P.O. Box 790, Trenton, NJ 08605-0790

Ground-breaking Mission

By the Times of Trenton Editorial Board

This morning, the Rescue Mission of Trenton will realize a plan a decade in the making by breaking ground on a 15-unit housing complex at the corner of Perry and Carroll streets.

The \$3.5 million in funding required to demolish a vacant building and replace it with a three-story permanent housing facility represents a patchwork of grants and donors, who continue to invest wisely in the Rescue Mission's efforts.

While the Rescue Mission can house more than 200 people in its emergency shelter, CEO Mary Gay Abbott-Young has pushed for more permanent solutions for those in need of housing. The Rescue Mission already has five permanent housing units on nearby Carroll Street that opened several years ago, and the 15 new studio apartments seek to expand on that success.

Tenants of the new Perry Street Supportive Permanent Housing Project will have access to case management services on site to help guide the residents to self-sufficiency as they seek employment and regain their lives. Combining housing with social services reflects

the forward thinking of the Rescue Mission, which was founded in 1915.

The residents are expected to contribute 30 percent of their income toward rent, giving them an investment in the program's continued success.

The efforts of the Rescue Mission to provide a safe haven for the homeless while addressing the underlying issues of substance abuse and mental illness have drawn statewide attention. Twice in the past year, Gov. Chris Christie has chosen the Rescue Mission as his venue to introduce and then sign a \$2.5 million pilot program to require drug treatment for low-level offenders who would otherwise serve time in prison.

"Miracles happen here," Christie said, while touting the residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment during one of his visits to the Rescue Mission.

With today's ground-breaking, the Rescue Mission is laying a firm foundation for future miracles.

Perry Street Permanent Supportive Housing Ground Breaking Ceremony

On September 28th the Rescue Mission hosted the official Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Perry Street Permanent Housing Complex. The Mission welcomed representatives from our Development Team and our Funders including New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Hutchinson Industries and Hopewell Valley Community Bank.



From Left to Right: Pascal Seradarian, Board Member; Olivier Marsaly, Hutchinson Industries; Debbie Osgood, Hopewell Valley Community Bank; Anthony Marchetta, New Jersey Housing Mortgage Finance Agency



Hard at work constructing the Rescue Mission's new 15 unit permanent supportive housing complex

From Left to Right: Robert Kahan, Tara Developers; Debbie Osgood, HVCB; Anthony Marchesa, NJHMFA; Pascal Seradarian, Board Member; Delia Bass-Dandridge, Board President; Senator Shirley K. Turner; Mary Gay Abbott-Young, CEO; Olivier Marsaly, Hutchinson Industries; Annemarie Uebbing, HUD; Colleen Velez, Corporation for Supportive Housing; Vernett Sherill, City of Trenton



RESCUE MISSION OF TRENTON

98 CARROLL STREET, P.O. BOX 790
TRENTON NJ 08605-0790
WWW.RESCUEMISSIONOFTRENTON.ORG



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1409
TRENTON, NJ

The Rescue Mission of Trenton is not affiliated with any other organization in the U.S. listed as Rescue Mission. It is a private non-profit organization.

Did You Know... *Did You Know ...*

- ✓ **Thrift Project at TCNJ** In October 2012 a group Bonner Scholars at The College of New Jersey hosted their first ever “Thrifty Tuesday” Pop-Up Thrift Shop. The sale was a tremendous success, raising over \$500 for the Mission in less than an hour and a half. As the group explains, “The thrift project grew out of a lofty goal – to reduce clothing waste while creating a market for thrift items on campus. The TCNJ Thrift Project sells items from the Rescue Mission’s Store to a niche market – the campus community – and donates the money back to the Rescue Mission.” The Mission salutes these budding entrepreneurs and looks forward to the next “Thrifty Tuesday” sale!
- ✓ **Mission and HomeFront Join Forces** HomeFront has long been a community partner of the Rescue Mission, as both agencies work hard to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness and service more than 30,000 individuals in our community. This fall the two agencies announced a new collaborative project as we joined together to host a joint collection event along with Robbinsville Township. With the cooperation of the Township, the event was a great success and the residents of Robbinsville were generous in their donations, especially in terms of volume.
- ✓ **A Special Holiday Season at the Mission** Realizing that the vast majority of our clients are away from their family at the holidays, we work hard to make the holidays as special as possible for each of them. Thanks to a generous donation of wellness kits from Bloomberg L.P., our residents and shelter clients all received reusable hygiene gift bags. Once again, the Princeton Garden Statesmen kicked off the holiday season with their performance of holiday songs.
- ✓ **Mission is a Charity of Choice at McCarter Theatre** The Rescue Mission was especially thankful this year to be named one of McCarter Theatre’s Charities of Choice for the 2012 Holiday Season. Through an outpouring of support from the patrons of McCarter Theatre in Princeton the Mission received over \$18,000 towards our Emergency Shelter hunger-relief effort. Thank you to all who contributed.
- ✓ **Our Condolences** The Rescue Mission of Trenton sends our condolences to the family of Riley Regan, the Founding Director of the New Jersey Division of Alcoholism. Mr. Regan was a true advocate for those struggling to rebuild their lives and a pioneer in our field. His impact was great and the Rescue Mission honors his legacy.