

FAIRBANKS RESCUE MISSION

Making a Difference One Life at a Time

Feb 2010 / Serving God and the community since 1974

www.FairbanksRescueMission.org

CELEBRATING 36 YEARS

THE FAIRBANKS RESCUE MISSION will be celebrating its 36th Anniversary this February. The original Mission opened its doors on February 14 (Valentine's Day), 1974. The first Chairman of the Board was James Barefoot and the Vice-Chairman was Ralph Pike who would become the Executive Director of the Rescue Mission.

In April of 2000, work was started on a new 41,000 square foot building at 723 27th Avenue. The Mission moved into the new building in January of 2001 and it was dedicated in May of 2001. This building was a gift from Dennis and Mary Wise, for those in need in the Fairbanks area.

PHOTO CAPTIONS - TOP: Back row, left to right: Red Langley, John Peters, Don May, John Bartlett, Solomon Elook, Glenn Hackney, John Haley, Larry Villers. Front row, left to right: Henry Hartley, Ben Gerdes, Ron Moeller, Jim Barefoot, George Ryan, Don Sauers. BOTTOM ROW - LEFT: Ralph and Patty Pike: Ralph was the Rescue Mission's first Executive Director. MIDDLE: Jim and Helen Barefoot: Jim was the Fairbanks Rescue Mission's first Chairman of the Board. RIGHT: Dennis Wise contributed and built the current Mission Building.



KEEP THEM IN PRAYER

A Special "Road to the Mission"



"ROAD TO THE MISSION" has been a feature of our newsletter for some time and we are proud of the people who allow us to share their stories. We feel, however, that we need to make a bit of a course correction. As people have shared their journeys, successes, and difficulties

with you we have been remiss in not emphasizing that most of these people are not at the end of a journey but very much in the middle of a journey.

While it is sweet to hear of successes, please be sure to pray for every person who shares their story. Our new title for this section of the newsletter is our reminder to you and to ourselves to be diligent in our prayers.

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BECAUSE YOU GAVE:

8,231 MEALS

were served

3,026 BED NIGHTS

were provided

2299 for MEN

876 for WOMEN

580 for CHILDREN

53 BIBLE STUDIES

were held

46 CHAPEL SERVICES

were held

AND

Thanks to our

VOLUNTEERS

for **647**

volunteer hours!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREETING

From the Desk of Rodney Gaskins



I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A HISTORY LOVER. As a child I would sit at the feet of the grown-ups in my family and listen as they shared our family history through the telling of stories. They told of the struggles, victories, difficulties, laughter, pain and suffering, and triumphs, but all were classified as the “the good old days.” It was important for them to teach us there are lessons to be learned and taught in every situation. The stories helped us to identify with and connect to our relatives and to realize they struggled so we wouldn’t have to. They wanted us to realize we were living out some of the things they had prayed for.

I started this New Year (2010) with some early office spring cleaning. I’ve been Director at the Mission for almost four years now and have come to the point where I feel comfortable enough to go through, clean up, and sort out old files. It’s taking me forever! I had files that dated back to the 1980’s and earlier. I’m a very sentimental, history sensitive individual (commonly known as a hoarder), with a vibrant imagination. In other words, the files didn’t decrease much and not much left my office.

I was so impressed by how meticulous and well documented the hand written files were. I read, or at least scanned, every single file I came across. It was fascinating for two reasons, first to see that through the years my predecessors faced the very same challenges we face now and second, because we are facing the very same challenges they faced then.

I had such a strong feeling of connection with the writers of those documents. While looking through the black and white photos, I wondered what had become of those people. Hairstyles and clothes have changed (at least for some) but I wondered about how the faces and the stories have changed. I closely examined the photos of children to see if I could identify any of them and I wondered if they are still homeless today. I wanted to know their stories and as I looked at the pictures, I picked out details that might clue me in to who they were and what their situation had been.

February 14th is the Rescue Mission’s 36th anniversary and it’s a time for us to celebrate our history. It is a time to commemorate the journey, to honor the pioneers, and to thank God for all that have labored in love over these many years in the service of the homeless and disadvantaged. I often try to imagine how many people that might be.

Like my family, the Mission has an extensive history of victories, defeats, and triumphs. This anniversary month, we are celebrating the "Good Old Days," while continually looking forward with great expectation. We want to thank all who've gone before us for making the path for us easier. We realize we are living out some of the things they prayed for.

As the Executive Director, I have the honor of telling the Rescue Mission's stories to the community through speaking engagements, tours, and the newsletters. I love telling about how God is continually adding to the stories of the Rescue Mission. I get excited while sharing the stories and testimonies of the Mission. All the staff teases me about how long my tours are compared to theirs.

Please set aside time in your schedule to come down to the Mission and take a tour and learn about the rich heritage and future you are a part of. Also, let me know if you would like a long tour (mine) or a more concise tour.

Thanks for being a part of making the Fairbanks Rescue Mission's history with us.

— Rodney Gaskins

FRM RECYCLING

Renew, Recycle & Reuse



IN DECEMBER, the FRM Recycling Center collected approximately 20,000 pounds of material from the general public. We averaged 5,000 pounds per Saturday! 425 resident vehicles donated \$819.00 to support FRM's Recycling Operations – *Thank You!*

Cardboard: 2,746 lbs

Newspaper: 9,037 lbs

Mixed Paper: 7,745 lbs

Aluminum: 302

TOTAL: 19,830

Sept 5, 2009 – Jan 15 (20 wks) Collections, Processing & Shipment:

Cardboard: 79,354 lbs

Newspaper: 190,996 lbs

Mixed Paper: 104,374 lbs

Aluminum: 2,146 lbs

TOTAL: 376,870 lbs / 188 tons

Shipments: 10

Please lend a helping hand on Saturdays anytime between 11 AM – 5 PM at the FRM Recycling Center. Call Randy at 452-5343 ext. 110 for details. Thanks Again!

SHELTER NEEDS

THIS MONTH:

KITCHEN NEEDS

Chicken Base

Beef Base

Eggs

Juice

Garlic

Taco Seasoning

Bay Leaves

Parsley

Vanilla Extract

Brown Sugar

Egg Noodles

Macaroni and Cheese

Forks and Teaspoons

Napkins

SHELTER NEEDS

Towels, used or new

Diapers, all but newborn

Baby Wipes

Pillows

Twin Mattresses

PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT:



Project Homeless Connect is a one day event scheduled for March 29th 2010 at

Pioneer Park Exhibition Hall from 10:00 AM -3:00 PM sponsored by Fairbanks Complete Count Committee in partnership with the Fairbanks Homeless Coalition and Unity Outreach, Inc. Project Homeless Connect (PHC) is designed to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of being homeless, connect with social services and material resources in a convenient one-stop model. This is our first year holding this event in Fairbanks and we can really use your support through donations or

volunteering your time the day of the event to make it a success.

Currently we are in need of:

Event Volunteers

Hygiene products (lip balms, toothpaste, lotions, etc)

Breakfast items (breads, pastries, coffee, etc)

Filing fees for state IDs

Door prizes- Movie passes, glow putt, etc

Pre-paid phone cards

Towels

We appreciate your support in making this a successful event with direct impact for folks experiencing homelessness. If you should have any questions contact Katie Robb at 459-7472 or via e-mail at vistaleader@co.fairbanks.ak.us.

Visit our website for more information, including employment and volunteer opportunities:

www.FairbanksRescueMission.org

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