

FAIRBANKS RESCUE MISSION

Making a Difference One Life at a Time

July 2009 / Serving God and the community since 1974

www.FairbanksRescueMission.org

Annual Cruise with a Cause

It's been a hectic, the-sun-never-goes-down summer and you're ready for a break. You want someone else to do the driving and the cooking and it would be nice to enjoy some of that Alaskan scenery your houseguests have been raving about. We have just the cure. On Friday, August 14, 2009 the Fairbanks Rescue Mission will hold its 4th Annual "Cruise with a Cause." The Riverboat Discovery will take care of the driving and the view as you travel down the Chena and Tanana Rivers. There will be good food, live music, and interesting shopping at our silent and outcry auctions.

This year we are raising money to support the operating cost of the FRM Recycling Center and our goal is \$40,000. "Cruise with a Cause" is a joint project of staff, board, clients, and community, as is Twin Bears Camp and the FRM Recycling Center. We've given an overview of the proposed FRM Recycling Center in these pages and want you to know our equipment is here! We're eager to be up and running as we will be able to provide job training for our residents, a much needed service to our community and the environment, and will eventually have an additional revenue source for the Mission.

The Fairbanks Rescue Mission is the only overnight men's and women's emergency shelter in Interior Alaska. In 2008 over 20,000 bed-nights and 51,000 meals were provided to the homeless of our community. We are proud of being able to meet

that need but don't want it to end there. Our goal is to help people help themselves and we are looking for partners to join us in providing not only shelter, but the ability to move out of the Mission into self provision.

Please consider joining us in this enjoyable and worthwhile evening. The Cruise will be from 7:00-9:00 PM with boarding at the Riverboat Discovery dock at 6:30 PM. Tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased from the Fairbanks Rescue

Mission (723 27th Ave), TDL Professional Staffing (1716 University Ave, Suite 101) or Credit Union 1 (909 First Ave). For more information about "Cruise with a Cause"

or "FRM Recycling" call Michelle at 452-5343 x109 or email michelle@fairbanksrescuemission.org.

Please consider donating art, sports, or outdoor items to the Cruise auction or cut flowers from your garden for the decoration bouquets.
Contact Michelle at 452-5343 x109.

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*Because
you gave:*

5,140 meals
were served

1,168 men,
253 women,
and

222 children
had a place to sleep

102 Bible studies
were held

36 chapel services
were held

AND

Thanks to our
volunteers
for **567**
volunteer hours!

“We make a living
by what we get,
but we make a life by
what we give.”

— *Winston Churchill*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREETING

from the desk of Rodney Gaskins



MANY PEOPLE HAVE ASKED ME whether giving money to the homeless sign flasher is helping or hurting. I am not the leading authority on homeless people nor do I play one on TV, but the founder of AA put it this way, “Hopeless desperation is the cornerstone of sobriety [change].”

What would, in many circumstances, be an act of kindness can become enabling, an act that protects people from having to deal with their issues, dysfunctions, or addictions. The difference between kindness and enabling

is what the outcome is for the person receiving. Oftentimes caring people have played a major role in helping the alcoholic or addict stay sick. Enabling, co-dependency and dysfunction go hand in hand with addiction.

Most of us have tried to walk the thin line of helping vs. enabling. When helping crosses the line into enabling, it becomes detrimental and is no longer “help.” The “enabler” becomes part of the problem, a piece of the dysfunctional puzzle. Enabling is not about helping the individual but is about the enabler fulfilling their own needs. We have heard many alcoholics and drug addicts say their loved ones almost “loved them to death.” Enabling takes on many forms, all of which allow the individual to avoid the consequences of their actions, thus letting them continue the inappropriate behavior. We must ask ourselves, “Am I helping them or making them dependent on me?” “Am I making excuses for their behavior?” “Is this something that allows me control or teaches them to rely on me?” “Am I helping them to overcome their problem or making it easier for them to remain the same?”

It is our desire to help rather than enable that is behind the Fairbanks Rescue Mission’s recent change to a case management approach to services. So, what does that mean? It means that each individual who spends more than 30 days at the Mission will be required to meet with a case manager. He or she will work with the case manager to establish a plan that moves them toward independence and self-sufficiency. This approach focuses on giving clients the tools and information available in our community. Alaska Housing, Job Center, and Public Assistance are a few of the required appointments. Residents are also presented with the opportunity to enter one of our long term programs. We are fully aware that not everyone will be a success story, but they will be one step closer. *[Continued next page]*

In Luke 15:11-32, Jesus tells the story of a man who has two sons. The younger son asks his father to give him his inheritance early. Once received, the son quickly sets off on a long journey to a distant land and begins to waste his fortune on wild living. When the money runs out, a severe famine hits the country and the son finds himself in dreadful circumstances. He takes a job feeding pigs. He is so destitute that he even longs to eat the food assigned to the pigs. The young man remembers his father and how well he treated even his servants. In humility, he recognizes his foolishness, decides to return to his father and ask for forgiveness and mercy. The father, who had been watching and waiting, receives his son back with open arms of compassion. He is overjoyed by the return of his lost son!

Just imagine if the Prodigal Son would have had an enabler in his life. He may have never come to his senses and gone home. So, it is up to us to make the hard but right decision to say “no” when a “yes” is enabling. It is up to us to be a part of the solution, not the problem.

—Rodney Gaskins

ROAD TO THE MISSION

MY NAME IS STEPHANIE and I am 30 years old. I arrived back in Fairbanks after living in the states and struggling with alcohol and drugs. I came to the Mission because I had nowhere else to go. All I had were my clothes and my spirit was down.



Stephanie and son, Mekhi

Here I have realized I am not alone and that I can get help. Being here has helped me with getting back on my feet and I haven't had to worry about clothes, food, toiletries, or a place to sleep. I am currently in the FAITH program and I am really enjoying knowing that the other programmers are trying to stay sober and clean and we all have one thing in common which is trying to build a stronger relationship with the Lord. I have been sober and clean for 3 months now. I thank God every morning for the warm, safe, clean place He has put me for now and for another awesome day of sobriety. *[Continued next page]*

OUR WISH LIST

Shelter Items Needed

Paper towels
Toilet paper
Boxes of vinyl gloves
Feminine hygiene pads
Journals
Toothbrushes
Razors

Office Items Needed

8-1/2 x 11 copy paper
Scotch tape
for dispensers
Staplers
Scissors

Kitchen Items Needed

Eggs
Cooking oil
Salad dressings
Coffee
Tea bags
Juice mix
Sugar
Chicken base
Spaghetti Sauce
Fresh potatoes
Lunch meat
Cheese
Pancake Mix & Syrup
Breakfast meats
Silverware,
forks & teaspoons

Staying at the Mission has changed me to be able to be around all kinds of people from different places. We help each other out and not just ourselves. My son is able to come and stay on the weekends with me and also enjoys the outings we have with the other programmers. Now he's always asking if he can come all the time. Most of all, I have my faith back and I know that everything is going to be all good. The staff here is awesome. They are very helpful and will be there for you and pray with you anytime you need.

This is my favorite scripture and I think of the mission a lot when I read it. This is the difference the Mission has truly made me feel.

I'm just as happy with little as with much, with much as with little. I've found the recipe for being happy whether full or hungry, hands full or hands empty. Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am. ~ Philippians 4:12-13

—Stephanie

COMING SOON - E-NEWSLETTER

A PAPERLESS VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER will soon be available — delivered right to your home or office computer, saving both money and resources! Sign up now at www.fairbanksrescuemission.org.

Visit our website for more information, including employment and volunteer opportunities.
www.FairbanksRescueMission.org

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