

# FAIRBANKS RESCUE MISSION

*Making a Difference One Life at a Time*

SERVING GOD AND THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1974

MAY 2011



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## Giving Second Chances

Summer is traditionally a time of fewer donations here at the Rescue Mission. In order to keep our programs properly funded, the Fairbanks Rescue Mission has kicked off its *Giving Second Chances* campaign. Based on a cost of \$20 per person per day and an average of 35 people in our programs, our goal is to raise **\$84,000** (for 4 months) by September 1, 2011.

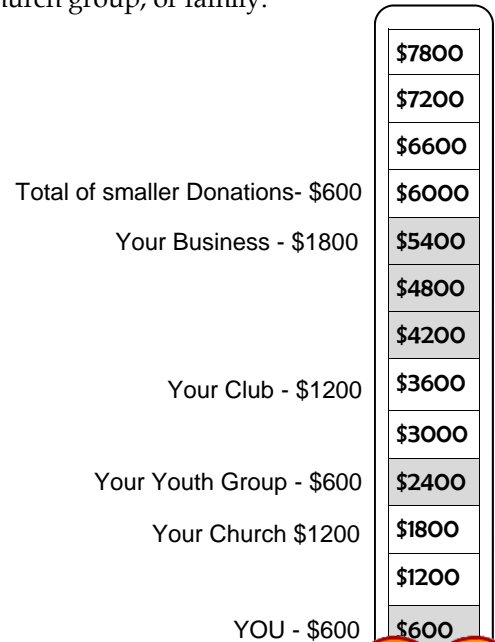
Although, historically, there are fewer people in our emergency shelters in the summers, our Veteran’s Program, Recovery Program, and Green Collar Job Program are still fully operating. These long-term programs assist in overcoming addictions, gaining work experience and skills, getting medical assistance, finding housing, and dealing with physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health.

This is your invitation and opportunity to make an enormous impact in the lives of individuals and our programs. Your partnership will help keep these programs sufficiently funded through the summer months. You can involve your communities by having a fundraiser with members of your office, club, church group, or family.

- \$600 for one month
- \$1200 for two months
- \$2400 for the entire summer

We will track the giving visually in our lobby, to show the amounts raised (in \$600 increments) and acknowledge the groups or individuals that contributed. We will also have acknowledgments in our newsletter, local media, social media, and our website. We want to show the impact an individual or group can make in the community.

There are numerous websites solely dedicated to new and exciting fundraising ideas and your contribution is only limited by your imagination. Contact Michelle at [michelle@fairbanksrescuemission.org](mailto:michelle@fairbanksrescuemission.org) or 452-5342 ext. 109 for more information.



# Because You Gave

## MARCH

### NUMBERS

6,414 MEALS

were served

3,431 BED NIGHTS

were provided

2,178 for MEN

989 for WOMEN

264 for CHILDREN

31 BIBLE STUDIES

were held

30 CHAPEL

SERVICES

were held

Thanks to our

VOLUNTEERS

for 178

volunteer hours!

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREETING



*"Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, 'Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well'—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?" ~ James 2:15*

This passage makes me laugh every time I read it. I ask myself, who would actually say or do this? The truth is - lots of us. The question is why? Why do we become uncomfortable when people share their problems with us? We give the appearance of listening, while all along the voices in our head are yelling, "ESCAPE, EVACUATE, BREAK-OUT!" We covertly contemplate our escape options while disguising our discomfort behind meaningless platitudes or casual words of encouragement about being patient. Saying things like "troubles don't last forever," "April showers bring May flowers," "it's darkest before the dawn" or "good things come to those who wait."

Clichés are of little value to someone who has been in the dark so long they've developed night vision or become water resistant to April showers.

It's tough knowing what to say or do when someone is going through difficulties. It's common to feel helpless, awkward, or unsure. You may be afraid of intruding, saying the wrong thing, or of making the person feel even worse. Maybe you feel there's little you can do to make things better. You may not be able to solve the problem, but you can offer much-needed comfort and support by letting the person know you are there and that you care. Care starts with listening and

transitions into helping them see the truth of the situation.

When someone comes to me with their troubles, I am honored that they feel comfortable enough with me to share their burden with me. They're giving me an opportunity to speak into their life. I never take this lightly, nor pretend that I'm some sort of counselor or adviser. I'm just someone that's concerned. I don't give them couch talk; I offer something that is more like a curbside conversation.

Knowing that I am a talker, I ask what they expect from me... mouth or ears. If they choose mouth, I warn them that I believe in telling the truth, giving them a chance to change their selection. I believe they came to me because they trust me. They know I would not hurt them with my words, but I prepare the truth to make it palatable. I seek to communicate the truth with love, encouragement, respect, compassion, and humor (when I can sneak it in).

The truth is a key that opens the door to deliverance. I believe the truth is freeing, but it is not just knowing the truth, it is knowing the truth and then applying it. So, "it's always darkest before the dawn" is true, but the real truth is "it's always darkest when you're in the dark." It's always darkest when the light isn't in your life and will stay dark until you do something about it. To make life less dark, you have to seek light. In other words, sitting around and waiting for the dawn may not be the right answer.

The next time you encounter someone in crisis don't turn and go in the other direction, pretend to talk on your phone, or pull the fire alarm. Instead, show them love, respect, and compassion by listening (even if it feels awkward) and shining the torch of "Truth" into their life.

## "FISHIN' FOR THE MISSION"

Ryan Talvi had an idea. The idea was an answer to a question I know many of you have wondered about. *How can I help the homeless people I see on the street?*

Ryan came to his answer in stages. He knows the compassion he feels for the homeless on our streets is a God-given gift. He wanted to help and so at first he gave money, but he was afraid the money would go to liquor or drugs. Then he began to give a bucket of chicken. That felt better, but Ryan is not a man who thinks small. He heard Rodney Gaskins (another man who doesn't think small) on the radio talking about how at the Mission we don't want to just give people a hand out, we want to give them a hand up. That got Ryan to thinking about the "give a man a fish" story, natural enough for a commercial fisherman, and he realized he might have the ability to provide many meals for the homeless.



ALAN BARTELLI AND RYAN TALVI WITH KINGS

Ryan is the owner and captain of the F/V Troika and fishes in Bristol Bay with a loose association of three to four other boats who cooperate within a small group. Before he left for the fishing season in 2009 he stopped by the Mission, knowing that we are a Christ-based organization, and asked if we would be interested in receiving some frozen salmon and if we had the capability to store it? With an excited "yes" and "yes" from our cook and director, Ryan was off.

At the end of the 2009 season Ryan was exhausted; his crew was exhausted. In spite of their fatigue they decided to go out one last time and whatever fish they got would go to the Mission, his crew also donating their percentage of the catch. Leading by example his

boat went out alone but he hoped that his fishing group would join him. When he radioed back that he wasn't finding fish, one of the captains, Brian Cheledinas, suggested that they collaborate and said they could call it "Fishin' for the Mission". That seemed to capture the imagination of the members of his fishing group and the *Cheryl Lynn*, *Iron Maiden*, and *Endurance* joined the *Troika* in catching a total of 1000 pounds of fish. One of the young men who participated in "Fishin' for the Mission" was Ben Symmes. A generous man, he was lost at sea on July 31, 2009, and the captains and crews dedicated this inaugural season to him.

Of course, catching the fish was just the first part of



getting them to the FRM freezers. The inability of Ryan's old truck to get up the hill, the prayers of a local pastor and the

miraculous appearance of a truck and help in the middle of lunch is part of the journey. Logistical help to get the fish to Anchorage and then to Fairbanks; provision of offloading, freezing and packaging by Trident Seafoods; the prayers of Fairbanks prayer warriors; and the generosity of many, including Alaska Airlines, brought the fish to our doorstep.

Ryan started with a need and out of that grew an idea. He didn't have all the steps in place before he took step one. With a truckload of frozen salmon he hit a wall he couldn't go over or around, leaving him utterly dependent on God. He waited on God, and God provided.

Ryan is a brilliant example of accomplishment, of trusting God, of having the courage to take action without being able to see the end. He doesn't want any fame or acclaim, but he does want to get more fish to more people. He is hoping for 3000 pounds this summer and maybe even more Missions in other cities in future summers.



COOKS ALLEN LAMPREY AND MANUELA HARDIN REJOICE AS THE FISH GOES INTO OUR FREEZERS

## 14 TONS - OF SUCCESS

WE DID IT! FRM's Recycle-Ganza event generated 27,738 pounds of cardboard, newspaper, mixed paper, aluminum and plastic! This is almost three times our previous largest Saturday collection and well over our stated goal of 25,000 pounds.

Many came out in support of the Recycle-Ganza event to drop off their recyclables and enjoy a hotdog, great conversation and heartfelt tours of the Mission. FRM greatly appreciates and thanks Mary Fischer from ALPAR, Mary Walker of Alaska Interfaith Power and Light, Randy Virgin from Smurfit-Stone, Gina Luckey of Conoco-Philips, Shea Vines from MAC Credit Union, the Borealis Kiwanis, and Fairbanks Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (FAYEA) for their time and commitment towards making this event not only possible, but a grand success.

Beginning with the Recycle-Ganza, FRM's Recycling Center has a 24-hour drop off and is now accepting #1 and #2 plastics. (Beverage, food, and soap bottles—rinsed out, please. No bags. No bottle tops.) Stop by today to pick up a recycling and sorting guide! Remember, by bringing your recyclables to FRM you are helping provide job training for individuals participating in the Green Collar Jobs Program as well as helping to support the Mission. For more information e-mail [recycle@fairbanksrescuemission.org](mailto:recycle@fairbanksrescuemission.org).



COLIN KNUE OF FRM RECYCLING AND MARY WALKER OF ALASKA INTERFAITH POWER & LIGHT

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

[WWW.FAIRBANKSRESCUEMISSION.ORG](http://WWW.FAIRBANKSRESCUEMISSION.ORG)

REQUESTED

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