Look into the eyes of someone who is struggling. See their pain. And also see their potential.
Look Into The Eyes Of Someone Who Is Struggling

Whenever someone knocks on our Shelter’s door seeking a safe haven or comes to our Behavioral Health Center requesting treatment, after welcoming them, finding out how they are doing, and preparing something for them to eat, we always ask: How can we help?

While every conversation is very personal and immediate, each of those individual answers also contribute to our evolving long-term solutions that help us to keep improving the ways we serve those who are struggling through their darkest hours.

Our guiding principle remains: “Look into the eyes of someone who is struggling. See their pain. And we ask that you also see their potential.”

So, in addition to offering warm meals and a safe place to sleep, each individual who knocks on our Shelter’s door can also receive a full range of services including healthcare, counseling, financial assistance – and help obtaining housing. Still, our essential workers know all too well that for someone experiencing homelessness, asking for help can be very painful. One young woman openly shared that because she did not want to admit to herself that she needed to come to our Shelter, she spent a raw, rainy night sleeping on the street in back of The Mission before knocking on our door the next morning.

Meanwhile, in our Behavioral Health Center, our licensed and credentialed counselors know that the challenges faced by those seeking recovery are daunting, and can only begin when someone commits to healing from deep seeded personal traumas. In addition to expert counseling, we provide a comprehensive vocational development program which enables individuals to pursue a career path that is fulfilling and will sustain them.

Most recently, we introduced The New Direction Program, a transformative course led by a talented faculty of experts, including individuals who are also in recovery and have gone on to succeed. Participants are inspired, as they learn what drives them; discover the focus, determination and motivation to create career goals for themselves; and connect with mentors who help them pursue opportunities. Upon graduating, Joe DeAngelo said, “I grew up in a loving, middle-class family, and I lost my way. I now have a clear plan to achieve my goals.” He is currently thriving in a position selling healthcare technology, while completing his MBA.

Another one of our most recent offerings came in response to an unmistakable need that rose from our community. After the onslaught of the pandemic, when we re-opened our Thrift Store, we saw many new people who needed clothes and also confided to us that they were struggling to put food on their tables. So we knew we had to do something. That something became our new Food Pantry, which, in one year, has provided nutritious meals to over 2,600 individual family members.

And, in partnership with Catholic Charities, Henry J. Austin Health Center and Iron Recovery & Wellness Center, we just launched our new Mobile Outreach Program, where Peer Recovery Specialists travel in an easily recognizable van to high-risk areas, offering hope and help to people who are living on the streets and struggling with addiction. Beverly Dash, who leads this new project, said, “I recognize part of myself in each person I meet. I let them know that I have a history too. I am no better than you. I am no worse than you. I am you. And I will go to the ends of the earth to help you, if that is what you want.” She added, “What draws me to this work is my personal experience. I’ve been there. And I am here to let someone who is struggling know that if recovery can happen to me, it can happen to you.” So far, an average of one person a week has asked to come to The Mission for food, clothing and shelter or to be taken to one of our partners to receive medication-assisted treatment and counseling.

Your compassion and your generosity make all of this possible.

Thank you for keeping those we serve in your hearts.

And for letting us know that we are all in this together.
When Tyrone Riley, Manager for The Mission's Shelter, was making his rounds, turning down the lights as everyone got ready for bed, he noticed that Michael Andujar, who had just come to The Shelter a little over a week before, was “sluggish and slumped over.”

Tyrone asked Michael, “Are you OK?”
Struggling to keep his eyes open, Michael replied, “Yeah.” He paused, then added, “Sure.”

Then Michael seemed to nod off. So, Tyrone asked, “Have you done anything?”
Michael quickly responded, “No.”

Then, Tyrone said, Michael went into “a deep nod.”
“[I] called out to him, and there was no response,” Tyrone said.

That was when Tyrone told Michael, “I’m going to hit you with some Narcan,” (a potentially lifesaving nasal spray medication that can revive someone who has overdosed on opioids).

After spraying Narcan in both nostrils, Tyrone rubbed his knuckles across Michael’s sternum.
But there was no response.

So, Tyrone administered Narcan again to Michael, who slowly started to come around. “That was when I knew he was safe,” Tyrone said.

“I don’t remember any of it,” Michael recalled, shaking his head. “I was out of it. In a dense fog.”

After being revived, Michael was taken to the hospital, where he was monitored until it was determined that he could safely return to The Shelter.

On his way back, Michael thought to himself, “I have a defibrillator. But that wasn’t going to save my life this time. It was Tyrone who saved me.”

The next day, Michael saw Tyrone. “But I couldn’t say anything to him. I couldn’t even look at him,” Michael said. “I was too embarrassed.”

Michael added, “I came to The Shelter right after my mother passed away. And I just wanted to escape my life. I didn’t want to feel the pain anymore. All I wanted was to stop feeling. I just wanted out. That’s not a reason. Or an excuse. It’s just where I was. So, I tried this stuff I got on the streets, and it had fentanyl in it. And if it wasn’t for Tyrone, I wouldn’t be here anymore.”
Since I was a teenager, depression has always been there,” Jessica Evans said. “It is like a ghost, hiding in the shadows. Then, from time to time, it takes hold of me.”

As she got older, her depression occurred more frequently. “It took a while for me to recognize what was going on – and to ask for help,” Jessica reflected.

“Now, when my depression starts to get worse, I can feel that I’m slipping.” That is when, she said, “I’ll put myself in a hospital, so I can get stabilized. Then I’ll go for outpatient treatment.”

In August of last year, the slipping started again. “So, I went to St. Francis Medical Center for a few days. They got me back on medication. But I didn’t have anywhere to go. My family is not able to help. So, at the hospital, they gave me the address of The Mission.”

Jessica added, “I had just enough money to get a bus that stopped near The Mission.” She paused, then said, “A dollar and sixty cents.”

But when she got to The Shelter, she didn’t want to knock on the door. “I could not admit to myself that I was homeless and needed to stay in The Shelter,” she explained. “So, I spent that first night sleeping on the street behind The Mission. And the people who regularly stay there made sure I was OK. They asked if I needed anything. They kept an eye on me. They made sure nobody was bothering me. Then it started raining. So I went under a bridge to get dry. It was raw. All I had was the clothes on my back. At 8:30 in the morning, I saw people lining up to come inside The Shelter. And I knew that was where I needed to go. I’ve been here since.”

“The Case Managers in The Shelter helped me get everything I needed – my birth certificate, State I.D., a social security card, and benefits – so I could submit for a housing voucher. They also provided counseling, and helped me to get healthcare at Henry J. Austin Health Center, and medication for my depression and anxiety at Catholic Charities.”

While she has “met several people at The Mission who care about me and who I care about,” her hope is to have her own apartment shortly, so she can start working.

In the meantime, Jessica volunteers by doing laundry – washing, then drying and folding sheets, pillowcase, towels and blankets for everyone who stays at The Shelter. “Giving back and being productive helps me feel grateful, part of something positive, and that I’m on the right track,” she said.
Why Trenton Needed A New Food Pantry

Every Monday morning, at nine o’clock, a line forms of parents and children waiting to fill their small shopping carts with nutritious, complimentary food at The Mission’s Food Pantry.

“Good morning,” the patrons called out to Arly Uz-Barragan, Coordinator of The Pantry, who warmly greets each of them, alternately in Spanish and English.

Arly reflected, “The children make me smile. I wish we had even more food to give out. The need is strong. And it keeps growing. We have so many regulars who depend upon us. And so many new people coming.”

She tells each family they can have one of each item in the Pantry.

Sighing, Arly added, “It is not unusual for someone, with downcast eyes, to softly ask, ‘Can I have just a little more?’”

What is Arly’s most fervent wish?

“I wish we had more of everything – more chicken, ground beef, canned goods, fresh fruit and vegetables.” She added, “I’m also getting a lot of requests for diapers.”

We opened our Food Pantry last September, which we never felt the need to do before.

Since the onslaught of the pandemic, however, that need rose unmistakably from our community. People coming to our Thrift Store for gently-used clothes confessed that they were also struggling to put food on their tables. The pandemic made it clear that our neighbors were experiencing new levels of turmoil.

The harsh reality is that nearly one out of every two children under the age of six in Trenton is living below the poverty line. That means that most of these children are not starting their day with breakfast – which, studies show, significantly impacts their focus and performance in school, as well as their chances of succeeding later in life.

So, in collaboration with the leadership teams at Mercer Street Friends Center, The Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, and several area restaurants, we opened our new Food Pantry last September.

Since then, more than 2,600 individual family members have received nutritious food. And that number continues to grow.

Right now, our Food Pantry is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm.

We don’t know if the growing number of patrons means that we will soon need to be open more hours. Or to expand our space.

All we know is, with your help, we will be here.
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Jenny Grimm
Keith Hamilton
Linda Hobson
Neil Dorans & Hae-Jin Kim
Thank You For Helping Candle
Emilia Stepek
Kathy Sy
Those Who Are Trying To Get Their Lives Back On Track

In Memoriam
Mike Alberts
Kenneth R Beckett
William M. Barber, Jr., My Husband
Robbie Brewer
Cezelia Briel
David Brimmer
David Scott Caparbi
Patricia Carroll
Shirley Colabella
Ethan Cullen
Richard Warren Davis
Robert “Woody” Davis
Robert Desandre
Shehzaad Ahmad Dr
Sgt. Hilton Driver
Karen Dwyer
Raymond Charles Emerson
Leonard & Anne Farber
For Those That Have Died Due to the Opioid Crisis
Harlan Bruce Joseph
Richard G Kandrac
William Keudally
Courtney Leopold
Arnold Loomis
Margaret & Joseph Malczan
Steven Michael Miller
David Oiler
Joan O’Rahilly
James O’Shea
Robert Peter
Dolores Rosko
Laurie Sebastian
Joy Shilliam
Ryan Baccher, My Son Sophia
Frederick W. Mraz, Sr.
Kevin Cook, Sr.
Dennis Sullivan
Frank Tager
Kenneth Voropay
David & Michael Walsh
Thomas Weeks

Human Services
City of Trenton, Department of Housing & Economic Development
City of Trenton, Mercer Continuum of Care
County of Mercer, Department of Human Services, Office on Addiction Services
County of Mercer, Department of Human Services, Office of Homeless Services
Federal Emergency Management
Association
Mercer County Board of Social Services
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program
New Jersey Housing & Mortgage Finance Agency
New Jersey Innovation Institute, NJIT Corporation
New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs
State of New Jersey, Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services
State of New Jersey, Economic Development Authority
State of New Jersey, Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATES
Abiding Presence Lutheran Church
Addisville Reformed Church
All Saints’ Church
Allentown Presbyterian Church
Celestial Church of Christ Voice of Grace Parish
Church of Saint Gregory the Great
Crosswicks United Methodist Church
The Diocese of New Jersey
First Presbyterian Church of Dutch Neck
First Presbyterian Church of Ewing
First Presbyterian Church of Hamilton Square
First Presbyterian Church of Hightstown
First Presbyterian Church of Trenton
Greater Faith Tabernacle, United Holiness Church
Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart
Hopewell Presbyterian Church
Ivyland Presbyterian Church
Lutheran Church of God’s Love
Montgomery United Methodist Church
Notre Dame High School
Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville
Princeton United Methodist Church
The Saint Anna Mary’s Ladies Philoptochos Society
Saint David the King Roman Catholic Church
Saint George’s Church Social Concerns Committee
Saint James Church
Saint Luke’s Episcopal Church
Saint Mark United Methodist Church
Saint Matthews Episcopal Church
Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church
Sisters of the Order of Saint Dominic
The Diocese of New Jersey
Trenton Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Trinity Church
Turning Point United Methodist Church
United Methodist Women
Unitarian Universalist Church of Washington Crossing
United Presbyterian Church
Wetherpoon Street Presbyterian Church

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
IN MEMORIAM
Mike Alberts
Kenneth R Beckett
William M. Barber, Jr., My Husband
Robbie Brewer
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Josselyn and Junior are extremely grateful for The Mission’s New Food Pantry.

Your donation can make a difference!

If you are in a position to help, your donation will immediately provide food, housing, and opportunities for those in need during these unprecedented times.

Please donate now.

RescueMissionOfTrenton.org
Rescue Mission of Trenton
ways you can help

1. Make a financial contribution
   Mail your check in the enclosed envelope. Or donate online at: RescueMissionOfTrenton.org

2. Double your donation
   See if your company has a Matching Gift Program.

3. Make a memorial gift
   You can honor a loved one’s memory.

4. Leave a legacy
   Show your enduring support by including a gift to The Mission in your estate planning.

5. Donate gently used clothing
   See the interactive map on our website to find clothing donation boxes.

6. Donate your time
   See on our website ways you can volunteer virtually or in person.

RescueMissionOfTrenton.org

The Rescue Mission of Trenton has received Charity Navigator’s highest rating for 9 consecutive years.
In just the last year

3,316 | 162,259 | 233
individuals helped | meals served | obtained housing

Behind each of these numbers is a personal story – of hope, potential and opportunity.

Income
- 76% Programs & Services
- 16% Individuals, Foundations & Corporate Giving
- 5% Thrift Store
- 1% Other Revenue

Expenses
- 83% Programs & Services
- 9% Management & General
- 5% Thrift Store
- 3% Fundraising

Fiscal Year 2022 July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

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J.P. Morgan
Matthew J. Graglia, CPA, Treasurer
Karla Tillman Pollack, Secretary
Association Business Solutions

Directors
Andy Barker
Hutchinson Industries
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Emilio Cooper
Bethpage Federal Credit Union
Clayton Dixon
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Hutchinson Industries (Retired)
Pete Taft
Taft Communications (Retired)
How can you help?

Please donate now.

You can make a real difference.

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Please send your donation today in the enclosed envelope.
Or donate on our website:

RescueMissionOfTrenton.org

Thank you!