Success at The Mission Has Many Meanings
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The Mission meets people where they live, often at one of the lowest points in their lives.

We are here to inspire hope – and to provide opportunities to help someone find their way.

We are advocates for those in need, and agents of change in our community.

Along the way, we have learned that success at The Mission has many meanings.

Success can happen in many small ways —as well as some ways that are profound.

Success can happen after countless struggles, disappointments, and failed attempts. And, more often than not, we have found, success happens after a profound change occurs deep inside of someone – and someone else is there to help, at just the right moment.

Somehow, even in the darkest hours, success finds a way of shining through.

In this Annual Report, we will share with you a few of the recent, notable successes that have occurred at The Mission, including:

- Our new Outreach Program, with Certified Peer Recovery Specialists who travel early in the morning to places where people struggling with addiction are known to congregate—providing food, clothing, Narcan kits, and, in the past year, they have brought 50 individuals living on the streets to addiction treatment, gotten medical care for 24 individuals, and transported 21 homeless individuals to our shelter.

- Jessica, who slept on the street for a night before coming to The Shelter – because she did not want to admit to herself that she was homeless. A year later, she is now living in her own apartment, and working full-time at The Mission, taking care of laundry for those we serve.

- Don, who – after taking advantage of counseling, deep reflection, and two premier programs in our Behavioral Health Center – is now, as he said, “a new man,” reunited with his wife, a role model to his children, and developing his own business for which he received funding from an investor while he was at The Mission.

- Meanwhile, the need remains undeniable for the Food Pantry we opened two years ago – where over 5,000 individual family members have received nutritious food. As Arly, who coordinates our Food Pantry, shared, “We have so many regulars who depend upon us. And there is still a lot of new people coming.”

Those are just a few of the successes that stand out this year. 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.”

Your compassion and your generosity make all this possible.

Thank you for keeping those we serve in your hearts. And for letting us know that we are all in this together.
Reaching Out, Offering Hope And Help To People On The Streets

As the early morning sun tries to break through a thick layer of clouds, The Mission’s Peer Recovery Specialists Chalia Perry and Jose Caraballo step out of a van with the words Mission Outreach announced on the side. Along the railroad tracks near Perry Street, a lone figure steps out of the shadows, approaching them.

Chalia squints, then breaks into a huge smile and calls out Carol’s name. “There’s my girl.” Carol comes in for a hug.

Soon, Carol is sipping a warm cup of coffee, devouring a sandwich, and sharing, “I’ve been out here in the same outfit for three days. This new outfit you’ve given me will make me feel like a human again, because I feel nasty and dirty. And when I feel like that I don’t want to do nothing. It’s part of a depression I’m in. Because I started using again. And I was clean, and now I’m mad at myself.”

Carol then asked Chalia to accompany her when she goes for a surgery that has been scheduled.

Six days a week, driving to where people struggling with addiction are known to congregate, Chalia and Jose offer everyone they meet a cup of coffee, something to eat, a caring conversation—and, if the individual is ready, medication to help with recovery, access to healthcare, and shelter from their personal storms.

“Even if someone is not ready to receive help at that given moment, we’re still going to be there for them,” Jose said. Chalia added, “Especially with both of us being in recovery, we know what’s going on with them because we’ve been there. Our mission is to show people that somebody out here cares about what they’re going through.”

In the past year, The Mission’s Outreach initiative has provided coffee and food 4,342 times, 742 items of clothing, 580 Narcan kits, addiction treatment for 50 individuals, medical treatment for 24 individuals, and brought 21 homeless individuals to The Shelter.

We gratefully accept donations of gently used clothes—which will immediately help someone who knocks on our Shelter’s door—because they have nowhere else to turn.

Your donations also provide a very affordable way for our neighbors to find clothing of great value in our Thrift Store, which they could not find anywhere nearby.

And we make it convenient for you to donate clothing in our drop-off boxes located throughout our community.

Another way you can support those we serve is by hosting a clothing drive through your company, business, school, faith-based organization, or civic group.

For more information, call Andre at (609) 695-1436 ext. 115.

Hasly and her mom Angelica find a vast array of choices for school shopping in our Thrift Store.
Cleopatra Patterson came to her calling as a counselor in The Mission’s Behavioral Health Center through a circuitous route.

While going to college, she worked in the summers at Harrah’s in Atlantic City. “It was an exciting time,” she said. “Money was easy. It was all tips and smiles.” The times were fast, and she decided to become a blackjack dealer, rather than finish college.

Fast forward, and “drugs and alcohol had become part of my lifestyle, until it got out of hand.” Then a friend offered to take Cleopatra to an addiction treatment center. “I didn’t realize it, but that was my mom’s birthday.” She paused, then added, “My mom said it was the best birthday present ever.”

After getting clean and sober, Cleopatra said, “I realized that I needed to do something meaningful with my life.” Now, as a counselor, she shared, “For some reason, I was gifted to help those who are in the early stages of recovery. I’m very positive, encouraging, open and hopeful. I purposely create an atmosphere where someone who is vulnerable, and may be at the weakest point in their life, feels accepted for who they are – and safe. And, because of that, even if someone comes across as distant, resistant, even afraid – in a very short time, they open up, like a wound, and I start hearing the beginnings of everything, as if they’ve known me for years. I believe deep within everyone I meet, there is something in myself that I can relate with. I share freely with them about my addiction and recovery. I tell them that I believe in them – and that they have the power to change things. That’s why, I believe, my destiny is here.”

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My Destiny Is Here

I Could Not Admit To Myself That I Was Homeless

When her depression would take hold, Jessica Evans said, “It was like a ghost, hiding in the shadows.” Last year, after spending several days in the hospital, she didn’t have any place to go. “I had just enough money to get a bus that stopped near The Mission,” she said. “A dollar and sixty cents.”

When she got to The Shelter, though, Jessica said, “I could not admit to myself that I was homeless. So, I spent that first night sleeping on the street in back of The Mission,” she said. “A dollar and sixty cents.”

“When she got to The Shelter, though, Jessica said, ‘I could not admit to myself that I was homeless. So, I spent that first night sleeping on the street in back of The Mission.’”

Jessica had just enough money to get a bus that stopped near The Mission. A dollar and sixty cents.

“I could not admit to myself that I was homeless. So, I spent that first night sleeping on the street in back of The Mission.”

“Jessica, who recently moved from The Shelter into her own apartment, now has a full-time job.”

Jessica had just enough money to get a bus that stopped near The Mission. A dollar and sixty cents.

“When she got to The Shelter, though, Jessica said, ‘I could not admit to myself that I was homeless. So, I spent that first night sleeping on the street in back of The Mission.’”

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Your Recovery Can Start Here

When Stanley came to The Shelter, Alyese Patterson, a talented, dedicated and compassionate Case Manager, introduced him to the professional team at Iron Recovery & Wellness Center, where he was assessed and prescribed suboxone to reduce his dependence on opioids.

Stanley, who served in the military, had been sleeping in the passenger seat of a broken-down car before he knocked on The Shelter’s door.

He said, “Alyese was a godsend. She truly cared. And that floored me. She stayed with me the whole time. And assured me that everything would be fine. And it has been. Now, my desire to escape through drugs has gone away. I have a safe place to sleep, I get warm meals, and I have seen a doctor. She’s helped me apply for jobs, which I really want. And she is helping me get my State identification, so I can eventually get housing.” He paused, then added, “I finally like what I see in the mirror.”

Do You Need Me To Call An Ambulance?

Bonnie Muchna was at the tail end of a relationship, which, as she said, “was not working out,” and one cold night she had no recourse but to pack a few belongings and leave.

Homeless for the first time in her life, suffering from Multiple Sclerosis, she shared, “That night was brutal. I had no idea what I was going to do. Or where I was going to turn.” She was on Broad Street, walking aimlessly, obviously needing help, when a woman opened her door and invited her in, offering something to eat, then asking, “Do you need me to call an ambulance?” And Bonnie said, “Yes. Please.”

Taken to a nearby hospital, Bonnie said, “They kept me for a few days, making sure I was alright, then released me, and I came here to The Mission’s Shelter.”

In The Shelter, Bonnie met a Case Manager who helped her obtain her driver’s license, social security card, proof from the courthouse of her alimony, and open a bank account – all the requirements necessary to secure housing for a Seniors Program. Bonnie is now gratefully living in her own apartment.

With a voice that was quiet and reserved, Bonnie reflected, “It was a time of my life that I never expected, that I never saw coming. The support I received here, though, helped me get through it.”
An Unmistakable Message That It Is Time To Change

The truck I was driving flipped over and over. I knew those terrifying moments were going to change my life – one way or the other,” Don Glover shared.

On his way home from hearing that one of his best friends was murdered, Don was focused on revenge. Then he saw a police car’s flashing lights. Trying to flee the scene, he lost control, and the truck began flipping. “I don’t know how I walked away without a scratch,” he said. “For me, that was a sign from God. I needed to start a new life.”

Since coming to The Mission, Don was selected to participate in two premiere programs: The New Direction Program and the Penn Restorative Entrepreneurship Program.

The New Direction Program is a transformative course to prepare formerly incarcerated individuals to see their real potential, and to create a plan for their future – with an emphasis on training, educational and career opportunities. The Penn Restorative Entrepreneurship Program is a joint venture between the University of Pennsylvania and The Mission in which previously incarcerated individuals work with professors, students and corporate executives to develop a business plan.

As a result of his participation in these programs, along with the counseling he’s received, and the deep reflection he has undergone, Don said, “Today, I stand strong as a new man. I am reunited with my beautiful wife and going to become a role model to my amazing children. And I am developing my new business, for which I received funding from an investor.”

The Need Remains Undeniable For Our Food Pantry

“While the children all make me smile, still, it is hard, knowing that the need for food is so strong. And it keeps growing,” said Arly Uz-Barragan, Coordinator of The Mission’s Food Pantry.

Robert, a grandfather who unexpectedly became the caregiver for his three grandchildren, said, “It is a struggle. I’m trying to guide them, and to keep them safe and healthy.” Then he quietly added, “This food means a lot.”

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 starting their day without breakfast – which, studies show, significantly impacts their focus and performance in school, as well as their chances of succeeding later in life.

In the past two years, over 5,000 individual family members have received nutritious food. “We have so many regulars who depend upon us. And there are still a lot of new people coming,” Arly added.
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Princeton Theological Seminary
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
The College of New Jersey
The Fatherhood Center
Trenton Advocate Service

BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS
Amazon
Bristol Myers Squibb
Burlington Coat Factory
CBIZ Borden Perlman
Church & Dwight Employee Giving Fund
Caliber Collision
Cisco
Commercial Cleaning
Frauscher Sensor Technology
Mauser Packaging Solutions
Panera Bread
Stress Factory
Sysco
Zydus Pharmaceuticals

GOVERNMENT
Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson
Office of The Governor
New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
State of New Jersey

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATES
Abiding Presence Lutheran Church
Acts of Grace Community Church
Addisville Reform Church
All Heart Academy
Blawenburg Reformed Church
Bread Ministry
Cavalry Gospel Crossfields
Catholic Charities Diocese of Trenton
Celestial Church of Christ Voice of Grace Parish
Central Jersey Sikh Association
Change Church
The Church of the Korean Martyrs
Church of Saint Ann
Clover Hill Reformed Church
Columbus Baptist Church
Crosswicks Friends Meeting House
Crosswicks United Methodist Church
East Brunswick Jewish Center
Fellowship Baptist Church,
Ramiah Ministries
First Pentecostal Prayer of Faith Church
First Presbyterian Church of Ewing
First Presbyterian Church of Levittown
First Presbyterian Church of Trenton
Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart
Hopewell Presbyterian Church
Jewish Center of Princeton
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
Morrisville Presbyterian Church
Pennington United Methodist Church
Princeton Baptist Church
Restoring Hearts Ministries
Saint Anthony’s Church of Hamilton
Saint George’s Church
Saint Ignatius Catholic School
Saint James Roman Catholic Church
Saint Matthew’s Episcopal Church
Saint Paul A.M.E. Zion Church
Shri Shirdi Sai Baba Temple
Stone Hill Church of Princeton
Street Church Ministries
Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
Trinity United Methodist Church
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton

In Kind Donors

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
Rescue Mission of Trenton
ways you can help

Benjamin is now, for the first time ever, living in his own apartment.

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 10 consecutive years.
In just the last year

4,636 individuals helped
3,293 assisted by food pantry
106 obtained housing
193,290 meals served

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

Income
- 70% Programs & Services
- 11% Individuals, Foundations & Corporate Giving
- 9% Covid Related
- 6% Investments & Special Events
- 3% Entrepreneurial
- 1% Other Revenue

Expenses
- 86% Programs & Services
- 9% Management & General
- 2% Entrepreneurial
- 3% Fundraising

Fiscal Year 2023 July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Board of Directors

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J.P. Morgan

Matthew J. Graglia, CPA
Treasurer

Karla Tillman Pollack, Secretary
Association Business Solutions

Directors
Andy Barker
Hutchinson Industries

Chris Borden
CBIZ Borden Perlman

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Daniel Afrifa
PwC

David DiStefano
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Emilio Cooper
Bethpage Federal Credit Union

Clayton Dixon
Alumnus, Rescue Mission of Trenton

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Psychiatrist

Robert Lewis, Ph.D.
Psychologist

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Hutchinson Industries (Retired)

Pete Taft
Taft Communications (Retired)
How can you help?

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You can make a real difference.

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Please send your donation today in the enclosed envelope.

Please donate now.

RescueMissionOfTrenton.org