

THE Waysider

Be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only. (James 1:22)

From Low Barrier Shelter to Stability



Wayside Christian Mission’s Low Barrier Shelter is now in its second year of operation. In partnership with Metro Louisville’s Homeless Initiatives efforts, the shelter provides up to 100 beds each night for those who can’t get into any other shelter. Rita came to the Low Barrier Shelter after being evicted, as a result of sudden and unexpected unemployment. She joined our work therapy program, and was able to move up to our Women’s Emergency Shelter when a bed became available. Rita trained on our security team in the work therapy program. Eventually, she gained employment at McDonald’s. Now, with the

help of her case manager, she is looking for an apartment so she can return to the community, self-sufficient. Rita explained, **“Wayside was a place I used to drive by all the time. That’s why I came here. I’m glad they had a bed open for me.”** The Low Barrier Shelter, which we call Wayside’s Rescue Station, normally stays around 100% capacity, and is a stop gap measure so people don’t have to sleep on the streets. This shelter usually houses about 40% women, 30% men, and 30% families with children. Many who stay there are often able to transition into one of our main shelters and proceed on their journey.

“If one of your country men becomes poor and is unable to support himself among you, help him...”

Leviticus 25:35

YOU CAN HELP!

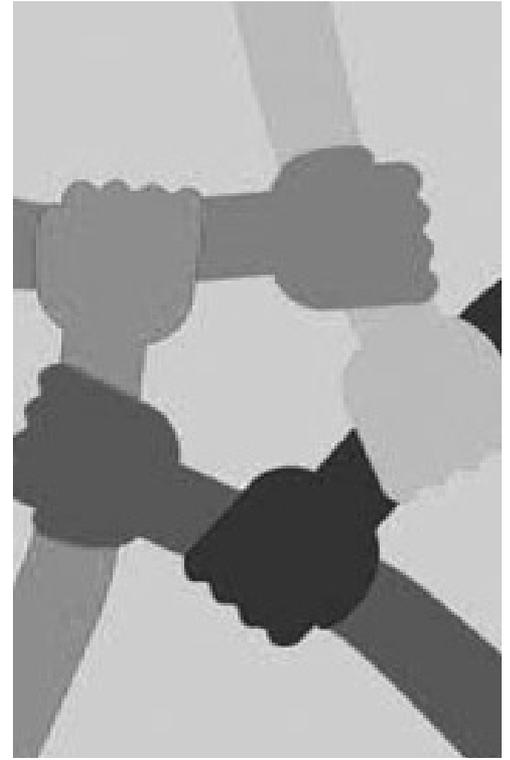
- ✓ Pray
- ✓ Volunteer
- ✓ Be Involved
- ✓ Give

Cash
 Used Autos
 In-Kind Gifts
 (food and supplies)
 Gifts of
 Appreciated
 Assets
 (stock, real estate, etc.)

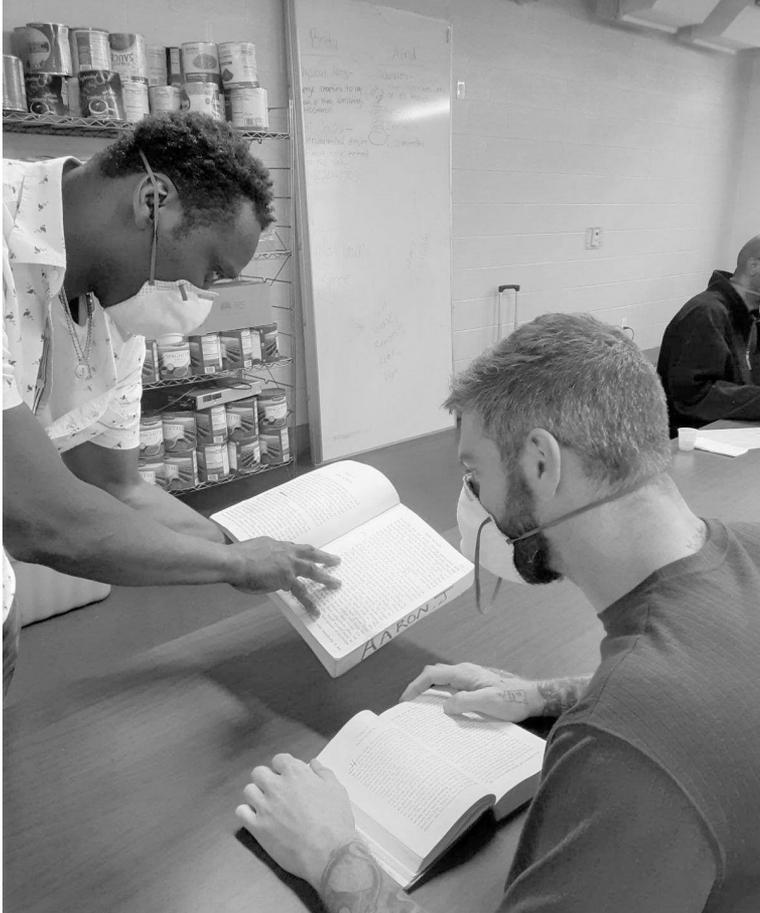
For further information call the Mission (502) 584-3711

Director's Corner: Peer Support Help

Operating a Mission is a labor intensive endeavor. Hundreds of people enter our doors each day, most all looking for answers to immediate problems, trying to survive or to move to a better level of living. Most come with emotional, physical and spiritual challenges, seeking direction...looking for hope. It takes well trained people to help and facilitate change. We do this with a well trained staff that includes peer support specialists. These are former clients who have moved up through our system and who have an interest or “calling” to work with people in need. **You might think of these folks as inner city missionaries**, carrying on the work of God with people that most of us try to gracefully avoid. It is definitely not an easy job: often thankless while emotionally and spiritually trying. I applaud the hard work of these dedicated folks who will become our future generation of helpers for the poor. I am happy to announce that recently six of our formerly homeless staff have completed peer support training. They are now better equipped to help others in need.



The Mission utilizes peer support specialists in several different programs.



Recovery Classes Continue

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the men's and women's recovery classes at Wayside Christian Mission continue. In a time when we are **facing new challenges, a constant has been the need to help those suffering addictions to learn how to live a better life.** Aaron Jones, Assistant Manager for our Men's Sober Living Program, has remained steady and undaunted, focused on helping addicts recover. With people being discouraged from attending 12-step meetings, Aaron continues to extend a helping hand within the men's community, encouraging them to stay focused on their sobriety and to maintain their relationship with God. At left, Aaron helps one man studying.

Family Shelter Works to Stabilize and Improve Lives

Six months ago Nita and her son (pictured at right) came to the Mission totally devastated. Through a car accident, she had lost her husband and ultimately, had no where to go. She reports, **“I was scared when I got here... it took two hours to get me to stop crying. I was exhausted and terrified.”** Wayside Christian Mission welcomed her freely, but Nita’s situation was far from easy. Her son is developmentally disabled with a rare neurological disorder. For this reason, it was difficult to find an appropriate child care for him. Through case management services provided by the Mission and working closeley with our community partners, Nita was able to get her son the resources he needed to thrive. Nita has secured child care services, and has a promising job interview next week. Her goal is to start work as soon as possible, and then transition to her own apartment. Please pray for this little family!

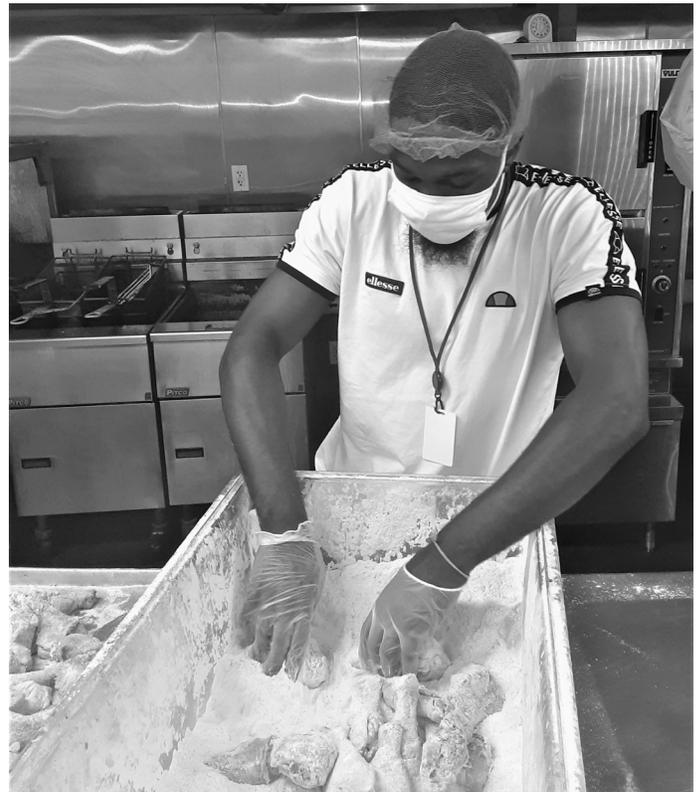


How is Spike Doing?

Folks often ask how Spike is doing these days. Spike, an African Tortoise, has been the Mission’s mascot for 17 years. Originally the CEO’s son’s pet, Spike (pictured at left), has grown into the mascot’s position, charming the children in the shelter and calming the adults. After a long recovery period following a tragic car accident four years ago, Spike is nearly normal today, taking his daily walk and eating great. He has a life expectancy of 150 years, so at 17, he is in his adolescence. Spike would love to mate. If you know of an available female version, please text 502-345-1300.

Recovery is a Healing Process

Wayside Christian Mission has provided formal substance abuse programs since 1992. Nationwide, at least 30% of the homeless population are homeless due to substance abuse issues. Our Sober Living Program is a 12-step, abstinence-based, residential program. Art recalls, **“I remember coming through the doors and all I wanted to do was stop getting high.** It is truly a blessing that you can come in here and find out about not only your problem, but a solution, and that’s through working the twelve steps. **I’m so grateful for what God’s doing in my life.”** Men and women in our recovery programs attend educational classes each morning, study and do homework, participate in the work therapy program, and attend 12-step meetings. During this time of COVID, we have been participating with Zoom 12-step meetings. Art exclaims, **“Thank God I have removed myself from the problem of addiction.”**



Art prepares our famous fried chicken!

Calling All Volunteers!

We have greatly missed our volunteers during this pandemic. Currently we are not holding our weekly orientations. However, if you would like to explore current volunteer options or make plans, please call Marilyn, our Volunteer Coordinator, at 502.345.9030.

BECOME A LIFESAVER IN 2020

The Lifesavers Club makes supporting Wayside Christian Mission easy by providing a monthly reminder of the pledge size which fits your budget. To join simply complete the form below and mail in the enclosed envelope.

Yes, I would like to give monthly \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Did I send that
check to the Mission
this month?



Member
Citygate
Network

Urgent Needs

Meat & Vegetables
Razors & Shaving Cream
Washers & Dryers
Underwear & Socks
Cars & Trucks
Toilet Paper
Large-sized Clothing
Cleaning Supplies
Furniture
and of course
Volunteers