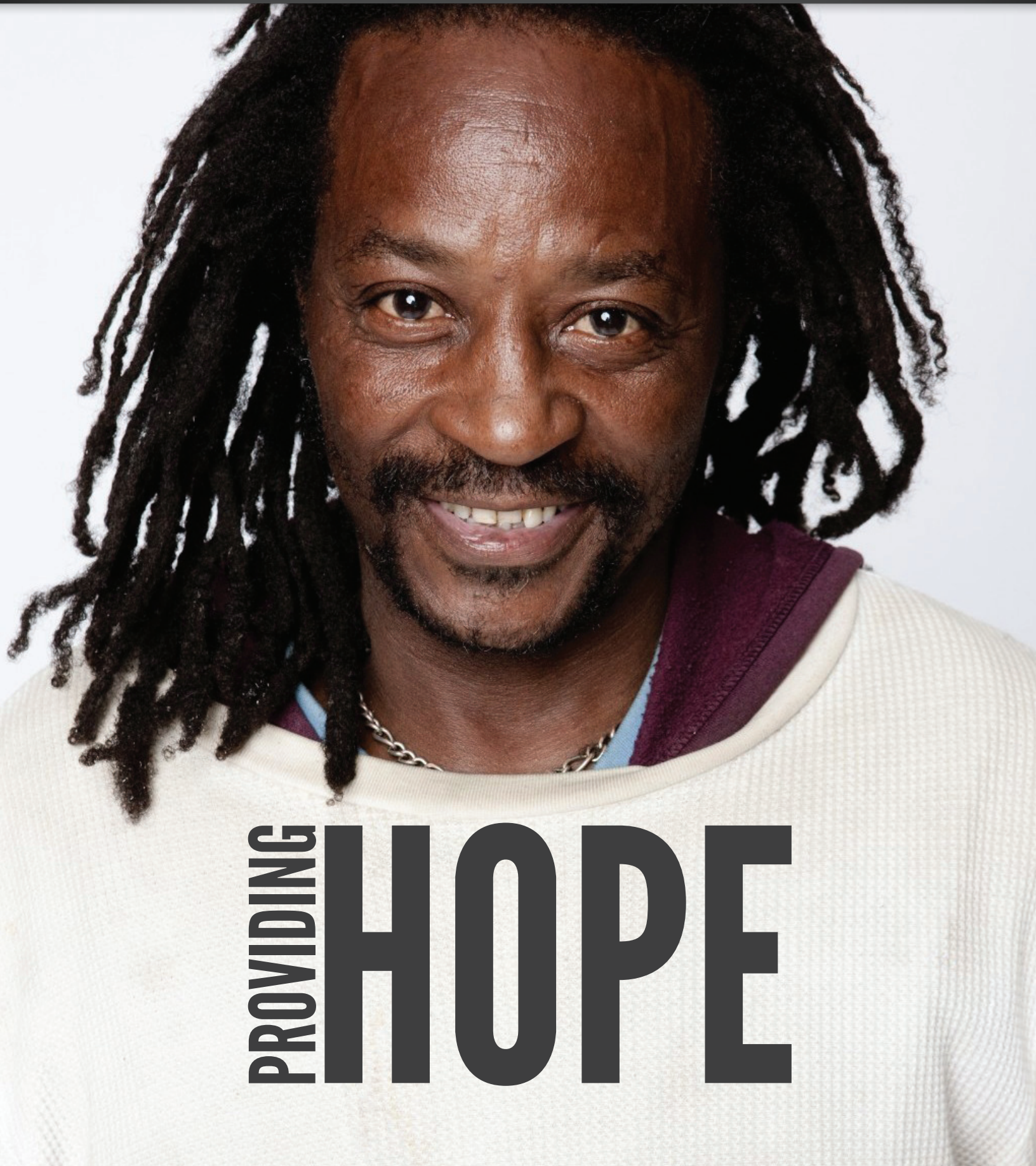




Heart *of the* Mission



**PROVIDING** **HOPE**





**Glenn Cranfield**  
President and CEO

“Oh, the joys of those who are kind to the poor!”

—Psalm 41:1 NLT

## For the Least of These

*Your gifts change lives today and for eternity*

In Matthew 25, Jesus said, “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

The Mission is usually not the first choice for the men and women who come seeking help. Most have had doors closed in their faces, they’ve exhausted all other options and have hit rock bottom. While that isn’t the best place to be, it is the perfect place for God to meet them at the Nashville Rescue Mission.

Your gifts allow the Mission to offer them food, clothing and shelter—things most of us take for granted. Yet for those who feel hopeless, they

are vital. It is through providing basic necessities that God shows up and gives the Mission the opportunity to share hope with someone who has lost all hope.

Sharing simple blessings like these may seem like a small thing— but in Jesus’ words, your gift to transform the lives of people suffering from homelessness is of great value. Your gift to provide food, clothing, shelter and essential care for people who cannot help themselves will impact eternity: “I tell you the truth,” Jesus told His followers, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

## LETTER TO THE MISSION...

I sent a donation, or should I say I am paying my "room" bill from 1973. I stayed about 2 or 3 weeks in the summer of 1973. Even though I didn't have a \$1.00 to my name, you didn't turn my friend or me away. At the time, I was 19 and traveling around the country when I ran out of gas in Nashville. I just wanted you to know the help you gave me has contributed to the man I am today. I have raised two children and both are college graduates. I own a small appliance business in New Jersey. I know my donation is not much, but I hope it will help a little. I may not have said it at age 19, but at age 54, I say thank you.

-Joseph

# AMY GRANT

“Learning more about the Mission made me want to support their efforts. It made me want to help.”

## Mission In My Words

If you are anything like me, you have a warm, safe place to call home, close friends and a family that loves you unconditionally. But, for one reason or another, not everyone is as fortunate as you and me.

For each of us, life's journey is filled with twists and turns. We have our fair share of mountaintop experiences, as well as painful seasons in the valley. Often, it is in the time we spend in the valley where God gains our attention the most. For some, their journey leads them to the doors of the Nashville Rescue Mission. It may be a path of poor choices, tragedy, living on the edge, overloaded obligations and responsibilities or a simple debilitating circumstance.

Still, I always wonder, how does someone end up in borrowed clothes, with no money and no home, with feelings of desperation, no hope and no way out? Who am I to pass judgment and view myself as being better or even different than that home-

less man or woman? What can I do to help? How can I show them how much they are loved by God? How much they mean to God? The answer to questions like these can be found inside the doors of the Nashville Rescue Mission.

I was both impressed and inspired by the people, the services and the programs provided to our community by the Mission. As long as I've called Nashville home, the Nashville Rescue Mission has quietly been serving the poor and hurting in our community, never looking for recognition, fame or even credit for the thousands of men and women who are given a fresh start and a new life in Christ. Learning more about the Mission and the services they provide made me want to support their efforts. It made me want to help.

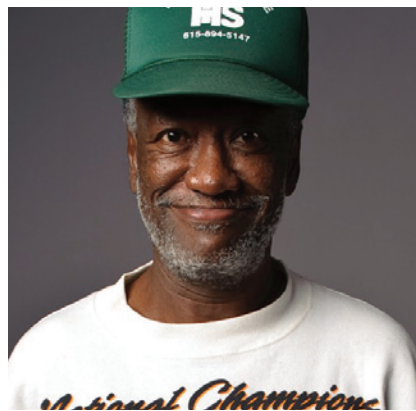
I recently had the opportunity to perform a concert for a few of the Mission's donors and volunteers. It was there I met a community of peo-

ple with huge hearts who were making a difference in the lives of people they didn't even know. I had one of those “WOW” moments. The people sitting before me were living examples of James 2:17, “In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” The Nashville Rescue Mission provides a means of putting your faith into action.

The Mission is a friend in our community providing the good news that can forever change eternity and certainly a pathway off the streets—God loves you.

*Amy Grant is a singer-songwriter, musician, author, media personality and actress, best known for her Christian music. She has won six Grammy Awards, 25 Gospel Music Association Dove Awards and had the first Christian album ever to go Platinum.*





# The Mission's Programs & Ministries

The Nashville Rescue Mission offers more than food, clothing and shelter. Find out how your partnering changes lives in many ways.

When a guest arrives at the Nashville Rescue Mission seeking help, they may be filled with shame and regret, but they are embraced with the compassion of Christ. Each person is treated with dignity and respect. With God's grace they receive hope and healing. Through various programs and services, the Mission seeks to serve the whole person—in mind, body and spirit.

## Life Recovery for Men and Women

The Nashville Rescue Mission's life-recovery program uses a Christ-centered approach to helping men and women, ages 18 and over resolve personal problems and chemical addictions. While in the program, a client will receive Christian counseling, participate in work therapy, learn how to heal from past wounds and develop new and healthy ways of coping. He or she will also get the chance to study the Bible and participate in the education program to improve his or her academic and employment

skills or obtain a GED. Mothers are also taught good parenting techniques. After graduating, clients can move into the Mission's transitional housing until they are able to get back on their feet and find permanent housing.

## Shelter for Men, Women and Children

The Nashville Rescue Mission provides the basic necessities of life to every man, woman and child who ventures through the doors. Whether a person eats a single meal, stays a single night, enjoys the Mission's hospitality for months or, being moved by God's grace, decides to enter the life-recovery program, counselors, chaplains and volunteers will be there to serve his or her needs. Specifically, the Mission provides these vulnerable guests with food, shelter, clothing, hot showers, personal hygiene items, access to a day room (as weather demands), counseling and spiritual encouragement.

## Education

Many of the men and women who come to the Nashville Rescue Mission and enter the life-recovery program may have problems in reading and comprehension, memory retention, basic writing, math and life skills for the workplace. Chemical addictions, abuse, dropping out of school early and mental illness are just a few reasons so many of these men and women struggle with advancing themselves professionally.

Through the Mission's education program, those struggling are taught basic arithmetic and literacy, while others are prepared for taking the GED exam. All are given an

opportunity to pursue academic and professional skills for the workplace, including job-readiness instruction, resume writing and job interviewing skills. In addition, classes in life skills, work orientation, computer training, vocational training, financial guidance, budgeting, cooking, food handling and commercial driving are offered.

The support received from volunteers, donors, grants and other resources in the education program is invaluable. Through the advancement of new skills, these men and women will come to see they can achieve greater personal wholeness and freedom through increased education.

## Volunteering

Lifting a hurting person out of homelessness takes teamwork—many people working together to meet both physical and relational needs over the long haul. At the Nashville Rescue Mission, thousands of people volunteer each year to touch lives for today and for eternity. Help bring hope to destitute men, women and children of Nashville's homeless community. For information on volunteering call (615) 312-1544 or visit [nashvillerescuemission.org](http://nashvillerescuemission.org) to complete an online application.





# EDUCATION *Breaks the Cycle of* HOMELESSNESS

*Your support unlocks the doors of opportunity*

When you think of the Nashville Rescue Mission, what's the first thing that comes to mind? Feeding the hungry? Sheltering the homeless?

While most people know the Mission serves meals and provides beds to the homeless, and more are becoming aware of the life-recovery programs—not everyone knows about the educational opportunities that are also available through the Mission.

Education is a powerful key in breaking the cycle of homelessness. Education raises self-esteem, gives hope for the future and also contributes to one's ability to find employment and succeed in life. This is why the Mission is committed to helping

these men and women obtain the skills necessary to become gainfully employed and become contributing members of the community.

As each person enters a life-recovery program, they are tested and evaluated to determine their educational needs. "We try to address each person based on their current skill level," says Dr. Jay Juday, Director of Education. "Most have had doors closed because they lacked a high school diploma," explains Dr. Juday. "If they don't have one, our goal is to help him or her work toward obtaining their GED. If they already have a diploma or GED, then we try to build upon that with additional skills."

"We've had several of our GED graduates from past years go on to earn Associate and Bachelor degrees," says Dr. Juday.

While GED training is the main focus of the Mission's educational efforts, it doesn't stop there. The Mission also works with students in improving their math and literacy skills, creating a budget, balancing a checkbook, computer training and other skills that will help them develop what it takes to face life's challenges.

Ultimately, the lessons taught in the classroom are designed to change their lives once they leave. A GED coupled with the knowledge of who a man or woman is in Christ becomes the catalyst that moves this person forward and gives them the opportunity to discover the life God had planned for them.

Thanks to your generosity and the faithful efforts of volunteers, these men and women are able to reenter society as contributing members and have hope for a brighter future. Thank you for continuing to support these programs that are changing lives.

# Serving from the HEART

*kids making a difference*

Whether it's raising money for the homeless, organizing coat drives or collecting bottled water, these boys and girls are showing it's not your size or age that matters, it's your heart that truly counts.

## Gracie Bryan's Warm Heart

Six-year-old Gracie donated money from her piggy bank to feed 15 meals to Nashville's homeless. The next year, Gracie took things a step further and organized a coat drive.

"It was Gracie's idea," says mom Amy. "After donating her own money last year, she wanted to do more. Gracie made flyers that said 'Warm Somebody With Your Heart' and posted them at church." All of Gracie's hard work resulted in 85 coats for Nashville's homeless.

"It makes me sad to see someone without a coat," said Gracie. "I hope these coats will keep them warm."

## Jacob, Samuel & Nathaniel's Quest to Help the Homeless

Jacob was shocked when he saw a homeless man asking for money. He begged his mom to help, but she explained he might spend it on the "wrong things" and suggested they find a way to help more than just this one man.

Since then, Jacob and his twin brothers Samuel and Nathaniel have donated over 100 blankets and 140 sets of hats, gloves and scarves to Nashville's homeless. The following summer, they returned with over 2,000 bottles of water. And during the Thanksgiving holiday, they brought three milk jugs filled with money they had collected from their friends and family in Westmoreland.

"I'm on a mission to help as many homeless men, women and children as I can," said Jacob. "They are in need, and I want to help."

## Dillan's Bracelet Business

"Two years ago, at the Christmas parade, Dillan saw a homeless man asleep on the ground and wondered why he was there," says mom Shawna. "Seeing a man with no home made an impact on her."

"After the flood in May, Dillan became burdened for the homeless," says Shawna. "She decided to make bracelets, sell them and then donate the money to help the homeless. She even saved money from birthdays, Christmas and the Tooth Fairy."

*"These kids are truly making a difference in the lives of Nashville's homeless and ultimately in our community. Their selfless acts of kindness are genuinely inspiring."*

—Glenn Cranfield, *President and CEO*

"She went throughout our entire neighborhood selling bracelets," shares Shawna. "Her initial goal was to raise \$100, but soon upped it to \$250. Once she reached that goal, we took a trip to the Mission so she could see the people her money was going to help. I'm very proud of her."



Gracie



Jacob



Samuel & Nathaniel



Dillan



# MISSION NEWS

# BY GIVING YOU CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW LIFE AND SERVING YOU HELP PROVIDE OTHERS WITH HOPE

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

## LIVES YOU HAVE **TOUCHED**

662,532  
Meals Served

268,928  
Nights of Lodging

197,260  
Chapel Attendance

64,879  
Education Hours

59,193  
Bible Class Attendance

21,754  
Decisions and Prayers

69,074  
Volunteer Hours

653  
Travel Assistance

166  
Program Graduates

# \$2.26

You've heard us say it only costs \$2.26 to provide a meal. But did you know that meal has the **power to change a life?**



**Give HOPE.** Individual volunteers or groups—all are welcome. Visit the Mission's volunteer page online to sign up today.



**CONNECT.** Check out the latest Mission news through Facebook, Twitter and YouTube