



Hi Fredericktowne Baptist Church,

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, so I want to share three short stories about amazing volunteers. Did you know that we coordinate about 1,000 volunteers each month? Their work is the equivalent of 17 full-time staff! But the Mission operates so beautifully not just because of the quantity of the volunteers, but their quality, as you'll see below.

Don't miss important information about our Annual Banquet at the bottom of this email!

Brian Bateman
Communications Manager

A Volunteer's Life-Changing Impact

Carolyn Lee was preparing to conclude her afternoon shift in the front office when a woman and her little girl came in for help. **Carolyn learned that she had just become homeless the night before; she was escaping an abusive relationship.** She had the means to rent an apartment but had been scammed out of a deposit and needed a few days to find a new home. When Carolyn and the other front office volunteer learned that the young mother and her toddler planned to sleep in a car that night, they flew into action. Together, they paid for a hotel until our community partners Beyond Shelter and St. Vincent De Paul could assist her. Carolyn kept in touch with the woman, and about a week later, the mom and her daughter moved safely into an apartment.

After Carolyn first learned about the Frederick Rescue Mission through her church, she felt called to serve. Inspired by the heartfelt volunteer orientation, she knew this was where

God wanted her to be. What began with volunteering at Rescued Treasures quickly expanded into helping in the kitchen and front office—doing whatever was needed to serve others with compassion.



Over the past year, Carolyn has become a vital part of the Mission's team, helping guests with ID cards and providing a welcoming presence.

She takes satisfaction in knowing the work isn't about her—it's about showing love to those in need.

The role has stretched her out of her comfort zone, helping her connect with people from all walks of life and deepening her trust that God is using her in powerful ways. Carolyn says "There's a lot of need in the community. You get people from all over. I see people that I wouldn't expect to be needing help. There are a lot of people in need right now in our community, such as elders and people struggling with mental illness."

Carolyn has witnessed the Mission's life-changing impact—from helping families find shelter to offering a kind word to those in crisis. She believes the Mission's most important work is bringing people to Christ, one act of love at a time. Your partnership with the Mission has provided a place for volunteers like Carolyn Lee to change lives now and for eternity.

GIVE

A Volunteer's Eyes Are Opened



“I didn’t realize how many homeless people are in Frederick—people living in tents in the woods.” When Doug Fisher started volunteering in Rescued Treasures, the impact of our community’s needs hit him hard.

Doug started volunteering at the Mission after he retired. Initially introduced to the Mission through his church’s involvement serving hot meals, he sought a deeper connection. While lunch preparation did not feel like the right fit, Rescued Treasures turned out to be exactly where he was meant to be.

During his time volunteering he has witnessed firsthand the profound needs of the community.

Doug says that it's eye-opening to see how many people rely on this place for help.

He sorts through clothing donations, inspecting items for quality, and organizing them for those in need.

Doug has seen how small acts of kindness can restore dignity and trust, especially for those facing mental health and addiction struggles.

Rescued Treasures Coordinator Brenda Bell gushes when she describes Doug's contributions. "He's a great volunteer! If people knock on the door after hours, he always assists them. He asks our guests great questions and helps them find exactly what they need. Everybody he helps is so appreciative! He always treats people with great kindness."

For Doug, the most memorable moments come from helping people donate the belongings of loved ones they have lost. "They don't want the clothes to be sold—they want them to make a difference." The greatest reward is seeing the transformation of the Changed Life Recovery Program residents who work in Rescued Treasures. Doug says, "When some of the men first come in, they are gruff. But after a while, they will come up to you and give you a hug. You can see the change in them."

Doug's journey is a testament to the power of following where you are called, finding purpose in service, and making a difference—one piece of clothing, one conversation, and one life at a time.

A Larger-Than-Life Heart

When a mother came to the Food Distribution Center with her children, she struggled to manage her shopping and her kids. Volunteer Beth Middleton decided to help keep her little ones entertained, freeing the grateful mother to focus on collecting the food she needed.

Assistant Food Distribution Director Valerie Moore describes Beth's service glowingly: "Beth sets a loving, comforting tone with everyone who comes in. Her wide-open smile is the outward symbol of her heart, which is larger than life!"



Beth just began volunteering last May; what began as a commitment to serve once a month quickly turned into a deeper involvement. She now serves three times a week, finding purpose in every moment she spends helping others. While Beth is relatively new at the Mission, she has been serving others for decades within her church and the wider community. Her love for meeting people, hearing their stories, and making meaningful connections inspired her to volunteer at the Mission.

Valerie describes Beth as a ray of sunshine. "Beth is always willing to share smiles, hugs, prayers, and God's Word." Beth's simple acts of kindness make a huge impact.

The most rewarding part of Beth's experience is encountering our guests—their smiles, gratitude, and sense of connection make her efforts worthwhile.

Through her time at the Mission, Beth has realized the community's immense need, from unemployment to health struggles. She's seen firsthand the challenges many face, which has only strengthened her commitment to showing up and making a difference. Volunteers like Beth embody God's love, and your support ensures our guests receive nourishing groceries.



Supernatural

54th Annual Fundraising Banquet

Save the Date

May 29, 2025

Tickets are available for our Annual Fundraising Banquet!

Join us for this unforgettable, elegant evening. Together, let's make a difference and create lasting impact!

Tickets and sponsorships are available:

Annual Fundraising Banquet

Presenting Sponsors



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Kathy & David Afzali

Truth Corner

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

1 PETER 4:10



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