

2025



annual report

**Rockford Rescue Mission
715 West State St. Rockford, IL 61102**



Dear Friends,

I'm happy to share with you Rockford Rescue Mission's annual report for Fiscal Year 2025*, where you can see results from each of our key areas of ministry. Accountability and transparency are huge priorities for us. We never take for granted that almost all of the Mission's funding and volunteers come through individuals, churches, businesses and organizations within our community. To us, your confidence is an indication of God's favor on this work and, especially, for the people it impacts.

It's always worth mentioning that statistics, while important, never capture a ministry's full story. So many lives are being transformed here in so many ways, every single day and night. God is restoring people through our dedicated staff, our tireless volunteers and your financial support. Truly, none of this happens without each of those elements. Thank you.

Partners in Hope,

Sherry Pitney, CEO

*(Oct. 1, 2024 - Sept. 30, 2025)

Board of Directors 2025/2026

- Ann Dittmar | Chair
Retired: Attorney
- Warren Slabaugh | Vice Chair
President: Heartwood Creations
- Noel Sterett | Secretary
Senior Counsel: Alliance Defending Freedom
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- Tim Clauson
Retired: Kids Around the World
- Renade Cossey
Retired: Mission Program Director
- Robert Orr
Retired: CPA & Tax Consultant
- Char Remer
Retired: School Administrator
- Stanley Valiulis
President: Sub Source

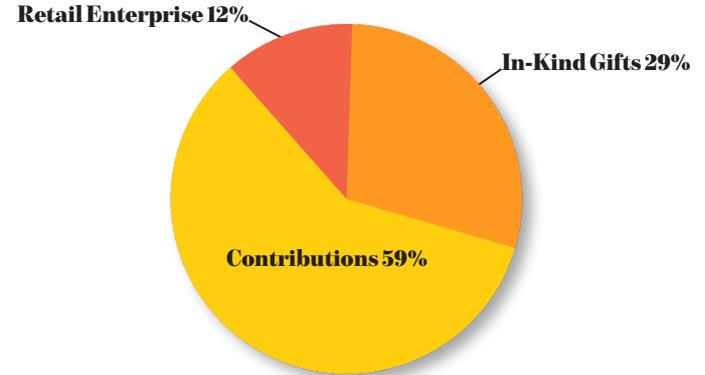
■ Served through 2025

■ New or continuing

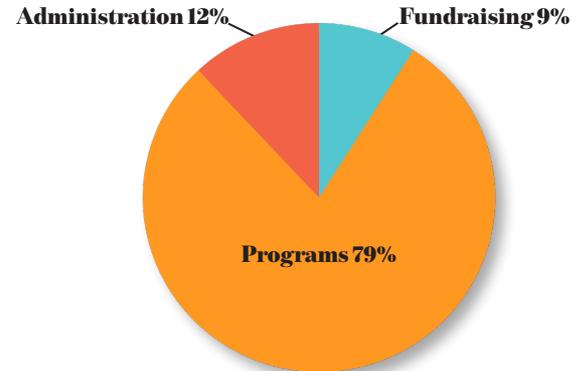
2025 Finances

The Mission's funding comes from individuals, churches, businesses and organizations through financial gifts, in-kind donations and volunteer services. We also receive occasional grants for specific projects. **79%** of our **\$9.08** million **2025** budget directly funded programs that help hurting people. Candid, a service that connects nonprofits and funders, awarded the Mission with its highest rating, Platinum, for transparency.

REVENUE: \$10.4 Million



EXPENSES: \$9.8 Million



An audited financial statement is available on request.



CRISIS

Our Crisis Centers served 479 men, and 693 women and children in FY 2025. We helped 339 of those guests secure stable housing!

"I'm thankful to Rockford Rescue Mission for being there for me, for never turning me away. For saying they forgive me. I hadn't heard those words in I can't tell you how long— 'I forgive you and I love you.'"

Ronald • Former Men's Crisis Center Guest

120,876 Meals Served

The Mission provides breakfast, lunch and dinner every single day. In FY2025 this totaled 120,876 meals, an average of 331 meals each day.



Shelter

We provided 54,006 nights of lodging, with an average of 148 men, women and children each night. And thanks to help from our community, our guests are getting better sleep. A grant of nearly \$10,000 from the Woodward Charitable Trust provided 64 new mattresses for our Women's and Children's Crisis Center. Then, Rockford's Meijer store donated \$2,500 to help purchase 200 new pillows from their store, for both our shelters. Additional community donations helped provide new sheets and pillowcases to round out this important upgrade.

54,006 Nights of Shelter



2025 AT THE MISSION

Men's Crisis Remodel



Thanks to a team of volunteers and Mission staff, and a generous grant from the NKC Family Foundation, our heavily used Men's Crisis Center Day Room underwent a welcoming facelift. The wall that separated two small day rooms has been removed to create one big, uncrowded space. Open ceilings and bright LED lights replaced the old drop ceiling and fluorescent lights. As some have said: It doesn't look like a bus station anymore.

"You don't want to build a living room. You don't want them to give the impression that they're here to stay forever, because they're not. But we want it to be durable, clean, bright, modern and safe. We want to make it peaceful, restful, cool in the summer, warm in the winter. And a place for recovery."

- Pad O'Neil, Facilities Director

'The Way Home'

We launched a podcast in 2025! The Way Home, hosted by Nathan Haglund and Jim Killam, features a variety of guests connected in some way to Rockford Rescue Mission. Residents, alumni, staff, even leaders from other rescue missions around the country, all contribute to deep conversations about second chances, compassion, leadership, and the messy, beautiful work of loving people like Jesus did.



**Don - Podcast Guest
Episode 05**

Expanded Child Care



Guests at our Women's Crisis Center include an average of 20 to 25 children daily. Child care was always part of the plan for Pitney Place, which opened in 2016 and hosts both the Women's Crisis Center and the Women's Life Recovery Program. After several years of partnering with the YMCA for child care, the Mission hired its own staff again. This means our Child Care Center can be open more hours and serve more families, enabling moms to devote attention to rebuilding their lives.

A grant to the Mission from the Kjellstrom Family Foundation provided a long list of new items for the room— activities and fixtures specifically created for kids' educational, sensory, emotional and social development.

"A lot of our moms who come in want a job, but the child care cost alone is enough to make them feel a little bit hopeless. So, when they come in ... it gives them great peace of mind to know at least that part of it is taken care of, so they don't have to be so stressed out about it."

- Leona Tennin, Homeless Services Supervisor

Music Therapy Restart

One of our true distinctives as a rescue mission is our onsite Performing Arts Center. In 2025 we restarted our Music Therapy Program, offering worship and music lessons to our Life Recovery residents.

"Music is a gift from God to humanity, and it can bring healing to our soul with a positive message in a song. Participation in a group song is highly encouraged for them to experience the gift of music."

- Abner Arevalo, Performing Arts Center Coordinator



CONNECTION CENTER

In 2025, our Works! Center became the Connection Center, to better reflect the spectrum of services provided. For a person in our care, lasting change requires a solid foundation—education, work, housing and supportive relationships.

At the Connection Center, we help people rebuild those foundations. We walk alongside them to remove barriers, connect with resources and create a plan for long-term stability and hope.

We Provide:

- 1 Guidance, skills certification, employment opportunities and housing connections.
- 2 One-to-one help for people in navigating systems and overcoming obstacles.
- 3 Links to agencies, mentors and support networks.
- 4 Practical help in restoring critical documents like a state ID and birth certificate.

119

People secured employment through the Connection Center in FY 2025. 841 people participated. 678 tests were given.



THRIFT STORE

rockford rescue mission

\$1.24 million

FY2025 in Thrift Store revenue.

24,006

Donations from our community of clothing items, household goods and more. And that's just the number of dropoffs or pickups - the total number of items is far higher. These donations first meet the needs of our residents and guests, and then the rest are sold at Thrift Store, with revenue directly funding Rockford Rescue Mission programs.

Thrift Store was recognized in FY2025 with the Rockford Register Stars "What Rocks" award for one of the community's favorite thrift stores.



THANK YOU!

679 people volunteered in FY2025. They totaled 22,421 hours - an average of 33 hours per volunteer.

Pictured: Sandy McCammond, the Mission's Volunteer of the Year, who serves in our Thrift Store.



HOPE CLINIC

10,606

Number of medical, chiropractic and dental appointments served at Hope Clinic in FY2025. That's more than 200 a week!

We added dental X-ray services to Hope Clinic in 2025, allowing for onsite tooth extractions and restorations!



HOPE CLINIC

LIFE RECOVERY

Our 9-12 month residential program helps people face challenges like chemical dependency, chronic homelessness, domestic violence or destructive patterns. The program helps them address underlying issues and learn new, healthy ways of living.

47 Number of men and women served by our Life Recovery Programs in FY2025. And, our staff conducted 3,220 counseling and case-management sessions, helping people move toward personal and spiritual wholeness.

54 Spiritual responses through Chapel and faith guidance. The Mission's No. 1 priority is spiritual transformation through breaking destructive lifestyles and introducing people to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.



ERACA, HOPE CLINIC PATIENT AND LIFE RECOVERY GRADUATE

"I love Dr. Joiner and Nurse Jen. I'm overwhelmed with gratitude for all the beautiful people I've met here. Hope Clinic is amazing with how many ways they will care for you. It's been a huge blessing."



"Being able to watch my grandkids grow up motivates me to stay clean. I'm a changed person."

Andy, Life Recovery Graduate



WATCH OTHER STORIES OF RESTORATION ON OUR PODCAST