Roanoke Area Ministries

RAM HOUSE

Founded Locally to Serve Locally. Because you can’t wish poverty away.

February 2019

Exciting News Updates for 2019 to Improve Services

Roanoke Area Ministries began using the shared data tracking system the beginning of January, 2019. The system, know as Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), allows our community to better coordinate services amongst human service providers and enables improved targeting of outreach. RAM staff and other agencies caseworkers are now able to track the financial assistance clients receive throughout the community, increasing service coordination and reducing duplication of efforts. This information will be an asset to RAM’s Day Shelter, Emergency Financial Aid and Grant Writing Departments.

This service was offered to Roanoke Area Ministries through the Blue Ridge Continuum of Care. The Council of Community Services, in partnership with the City of Roanoke, the Roanoke Regional Task Force on Homelessness, and the homeless shelter and service providers, has developed the Blue Ridge Community Assistance Network (BR-CAN). This is more commonly referred to as the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The purpose is to better serve homeless individuals and families as well as to provide opportunities for the homeless service providers to coordinate services and share information that can help them help people and families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

Similarly, outreach workers through the City of Roanoke’s Homeless Assistance Team and the Salem VA Medical Center (and others) will now be better able to target outreach efforts to connect clients with housing and other resources as information on clients receiving RAM House Day Shelter services are now available to all partners participating in the HMIS. This increase in service coordination will lead to clients more efficiently being connected to essential services and, ultimately, being placed in permanent housing more quickly.

Our community will also be better able to measure other services clients receive through RAM, including meals and clothing. We will be better able to provide comprehensive service planning with clients to ensure all of our community’s resources are leveraged to elevate individuals and families out of homelessness and towards self-sufficiency. This is a significant expansion of our community’s data evaluation and service coordination efforts that has been a goal of our community since the HMIS’ original implementation in 2007.

RAM is excited to join and participate in this effort to serve others better. The RAM Staff and volunteers have been trained and supported in this process by Matt Crookshank, Director of Homeless Services and Ben Bristoll, Homeless Services Specialist.

Roanoke Area Ministries

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Roanoke Area Ministries offices

RAM HOUSE SHELTER
824 Campbell Ave
Roanoke, VA 24016

Shelter: 540.343.3753 (7 days a week)
Administrative Office: 540.345.8850
Volunteer Office: 540.345.9786
Emergency Financial Aid: 540.981.1732
RAM Kitchen: 540.777.4099

RAM is an equal opportunity employer
The students of Hollins University S.H.A.R.E (Students Helping Achieve Rewarding Experiences) Team hosted the 21st Olympiad Friday, October 26, 2018. Ten teams of students and professors joined in competitive yet fun games to raise funds for Roanoke Area Ministries—Hot Meal Program. The students raised $1,090. It was a Lizzy Dizzy Bat spinning, balloon sit and pop, team dance contest and more! A grand time was had by all! The students also collect food and cleaning supplies for RAM. We look forward to next year’s Olympiad. The Hollins University students volunteer at the RAM kitchen and dining room every month. These students are always willing to serve and volunteer their time for Roanoke Area Ministries. Advisory Jeri Suarez started with the first group of volunteers 26 years ago. We appreciate their time and dedication as these students learn about giving and serving in the our community.

Roanoke Area Ministries—RAM House—Holiday Wishes for Targeted Needs

During the holiday seasons—Nov—Dec. RAM has a wish list of operational needs for conducting services at RAM House. Grant and donations for operational needs are challenging to obtain. Therefore the annual Wish List is compiled to help fill the need for equipment for RAM.

This year 3 to 4 new or updated computers were/are needed to help with implementation of the HMIS data system! (article on page 1).

New tires were an important immediate need. And some wonderful connections were created by Nancy Strachan. Nancy saw the RAM wish list in The Roanoke Times. She read the need for new tires for our 1998 van. Nancy googled “Roanoke Tire shops” and read many rave reviews about Wayne’s Quality Tires on 2904 Williamson Rd in Roanoke. Nancy called Wayne Hawley—business owner—Wayne was familiar with RAM House—his family had donated eggs from his hens to RAM House. Wayne agreed to put on the tires. Nancy called Wayne back to ask how much she owed him and he said, “nothing, he has been blessed and the tires were something he could help RAM with. RAM thanks Nancy, Wayne and his team for the team work to help us have a safe van to pick up food.

We appreciate the coffee makers that were donated by Carol White. We serve a lot of coffee at RAM House.

Eugenie Moriconi & John Steinbrecher for food and new computer for our Emergency Financial Aid office. Donors that gave funds to help get some computers.

George & Karen Zubrod for funds to help with any other needed computer and equipment.

Brian and Joann Lindholm for upgrading and refurbishing some RAM computers and for donating a quality refurbished computer.

THANKS to all who supported the 2018 Roanoke Times Good Neighbor Fund. This fund is the major source of funding for our community Emergency Financial Aid support. In 2018 we helped 4,676 people help keep utilities on, rent paid, needed medication and accommodate other crisis needs.

Christmas Eve Gifts are an annual tradition at RAM House—thanks to Ann Berry in memory of her mother, a long time RAM volunteer.

Thanks to all our other donors who shared food, goodie bags, clothing or treasure as well as volunteer time.

RAM still has a need for: Sleeping mats, funds for a replacement drum on a commercial laser printer ($225). Commercial grade picnic tables, Bike Locks for guests to keep. A 60 cup coffee maker to make hot chocolate and oatmeal.
A young girl had a vision to help.

A special young lady decided that her goal would be to help the people who are homeless with boots. She then decided to contact a place where people who are homeless go for shelter, food and where the need is great. Along with the support of her mother, this young lady called RAM House. Through several conversations by phone, the day finally came when RAM staff would meet the young lady with the kind heart.

On February 7th, we had the pleasure of meeting the young lady named Petra Dodge. Petra came to RAM House accompanied by her mother and her brother with a donation of boots, and in each box was a pair of socks and a card. In addition to the boots, Petra, her mother and brother donated clothes. Petra’s mother talked with us and said that this was something that Petra, wanted to continue to do and hopefully get others involved in as well. As we talked it was decided that this first donation from Petra would be for our homeless veterans.

Petra as we thank our veterans for their service, we salute you for your kind and generous donation.

Thank you so very much

The Staff and Veterans of Roanoke Area Ministries,

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**2018 RAM Statistics:**

- **Volunteers:** 1,140 persons
  - **Volunteer Hours:** 12,360
  - **Value of time:** $305,168.40
- **Emergency Financial Aid**
  - 4,667 clients served
  - 1,887 children
  - $206,989 crisis funds provided
- **RAM House Day Shelter:** 33,724 meals—2,642 unduplicated guests

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**Event to support RAM House...**

Join Our Lady of Nazareth Catholic Church and Logos Theatricus Productions, Inc. to witness Luke’s gospel stories retold in song by American liturgical composers Marty Haugen and Gary Daigle in...

**“The Feast of Life, Stories from the Gospel of Luke”**

Performances will be held at Our Lady of Nazareth Church, 2505 Electric Road (419) in Roanoke, VA.

Please invite your friends to this fantastic event!

**Showtime’s are as follows:**

- **Friday, March 1st** at 7:30 pm
- **Saturday, March 2nd** - matinee at 2:00 pm and again at 7:30 pm
- **Sunday, March 3rd** at 3:00 pm

For more information, please call (540) 774-0066

**Admission is Free!**

A special offering will be collected to support the Presbyterian Community Center and RAM House.

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https://www.facebook.com/R.A.M.Shelter/

Please Like us on Facebook!
Greetings RAM Volunteers & Supporters.

Please help us reach our GOAL with on-line donations.

**Roanoke Valley Gives will take place on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 from 12:00 a.m. until 11:59 p.m.**

It is a day of community giving! One of the primary goals is to empower those who love the community to easily support their favorite causes or charitable organizations.

Foundation for Roanoke Valley has teamed up with Click & Pledge for this annual event to allow you to give directly to participating nonprofit organizations that positively impact our community every day.

So, mark your calendars and "give where you live"!

[https://rvgives.givebig.org/c/rvgives/a/raminc/donate/](https://rvgives.givebig.org/c/rvgives/a/raminc/donate/) - Please share this information on your Facebook Page and email your friends and associates to help us raise $5,000 this year for RAM operational services.

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**DONATIONS NEEDS**

- Thermal underwear for men & women
- Cold medicine (non-alcoholic) - NO PSEUDAPHED
- Anti-biotic creams or ointments
- Disposable Razors
- Lip Balm
- Boxes of tissues & individual packs
- Individual Oatmeal packages (single serve)
- Lysol Disinfectant Spray
- Laundry Detergent
- Dishwashing liquid
- 10 or 12 oz. Styrofoam cups
- Men’s Belts
- 33-35 gallon trash bags
- Aluminum Foil industrial size from Sam’s 18” x 500’ heavy duty.

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**VOLUNTEERS = Roanoke Area Ministries**

What is RAM House with out volunteers? CLOSED!
The 1,140 + Volunteers that donated over 12,360 hours this in 2018. They are the heartbeat of Roanoke Area Ministries.

We have a few volunteer positions available now:

- **Front Desk Volunteers Needed:**
  Every Thursday 8AM to 12:00PM—choose one Thursday a month or more

- **NEW - Food Pick up volunteers:** For BJ Wholesale club (once a week) Contact Geralynn for more information.

- **ON Call list:** Share your interest with us to be added to our E-mail list for last minute volunteer emergency needs.

Mission: Roanoke Area Ministries (RAM) is grassroots, interdenominational, community supported organization that boldly serves as an advocate for persons who are poverty stricken and homeless. We work to serve people in need through a variety of programs, including emergency financial assistance, hot noontime meal at the day shelter for people who are need and or homeless and job services. Our mission and community purpose is to empower people to move from dependency to self-sufficiency; in doing so we build a stronger, healthier community.