Dear friends of the Frederick Rescue Mission,

2016 was a year of things coming together. Many projects and hard work were brought to completion. In August, the Food Distribution Center opened. In late December, Faith House welcomed its first resident. Several years of planning, designing, and fundraising paid off not just for the Mission but also primarily for needy families and homeless women and children.

All this reminds me when our family got our dog Sunny. My daughter Elizabeth was so excited; she said, “I love it when we set a goal, and it actually happens!” For a significant amount of time, I would tell people about the shelter for homeless women and children or how the Mission was going to change lives by helping working people with their food needs. I love that it is actually happening.

The Mission is helping more people more effectively than ever before! This has been a team effort and the result of hard work. As you view the Mission’s Annual Report, please note the giving that makes the Frederick Rescue Mission work.

A very diverse group of people give of their time and finances to ensure that those in need are loved and helped. All the support for the Mission comes from generous individuals, businesses, churches, and private foundations. We never take any government money. The Mission is here because God and people want us to be.

While the Mission changed a lot in 2016, much still remains the same. The commitment to reach those who are broken by addiction, poverty, bad decisions, and homelessness is as strong as ever.

While being open and coordinating with those of different faiths or no faith, the Mission has Christ-centered convictions and a love for Christ that forms our core values and motivation.

If you want to make a difference beyond just supporting a cause or advocating for a certain issue, then the Frederick Rescue Mission would be honored to be a part of your plans for 2017. Please enjoy and see the defining moments at the Mission for 2016 and consider what you can do in 2017 to help us change lives and do things that are built to last.

I thank everyone for making 2016 a great year on West South Street and North Market Street in Frederick.
With three children and a husband that abandoned the family, Jess didn’t know where to turn until she came to Faith House.

“I was so exhausted trying to be five people at once,” said Jess. “When I got here I had all this baggage. The biggest part of what I got when I came here was peace - the love of God and peace. And absolutely no judgment. I felt like I was in the heart of God. He just plucked me out of my life and placed me in his heart and that is my explanation of this place - the heart of God. And everything else that came with it came like the doctor ordered.”

Laura, Faith House Case Manager, grew up around a ministry setting before she attended Nyack College to major in Psychology and Missiology and Regent University for a higher degree in Community Counseling. After traveling and earning her degrees, she firmly believed that ministry is what God has called her to.

“This is something I think God has wired me for,” said Laura. “My love is people and God. This is the perfect combination. I love the work and having the opportunity to be part of somebody’s journey to a changed life and a changed heart.”
TURNING POINT

In 2003, Carlton Hill had attempted recovery through several programs but his wife was tired of it and sent him divorce papers while at the Mission. He reached a turning point.

“It came to my mind, that for the first time in my life, I was alone,” said Carlton. “My defining moment was that when I learned that I was finally alone and I could not run back to my wife or have any other place to go. I turned to God and I said you’re all I have and I need you. My life has never been the same.”

After this moment, Carlton went on to graduate from the program, pursue a secondary education and earn a license in counseling. He continued his involvement with the Mission while counseling at FMH and Frederick County Health Department. Carlton recently accepted the position of the CLRP Director. For Carlton, this brought his story full circle.

Recent graduate Dwayne Booth first came to the Mission when one of his close friends overdosed. This experience awakened him to see how fragile life is and turn to God. As he spent time in the program Dwayne was able to pursue his relationship with God and a new career in cooking full time at Dutch’s Daughter.

“I’ve been given opportunities and it’s the first time in my life that I have actually had choices,” said Dwayne.
Along with new Mission projects, there were defining moments throughout the year with many of our guests. These moments look more like a homeless woman receiving a blazer for a job interview or a child learning how to cope with anger through the Summer Enrichment Program. These are the moments that define the Mission.

Prior to the grand opening of the FDC, the Mission served guests through the grocery aisle. Through the year of 2016, the Mission served an estimated value of 58,250 guests.

The Mission serves breakfast and lunch 365 days a year to anyone in need of a meal. In addition to receiving a meal, our guests interact with our volunteers and ministry team.

The Mission has an incredible team of volunteers dedicated to serving and helping those in need. These volunteers sacrifice their time and give their talents to serve.

Throughout the year, our guests have the opportunity to receive clothing through our clothing program. This provides clothing for a job interview or weather appropriate apparel.
OUTREACH PROGRAM

The outreach program offers many ways for the community and volunteers to get involved. Opportunities include a women’s Latino support group, ESL classes, Bible studies, Healing Rooms, Shears of Hope (a haircut program), showers, the Summer Enrichment Program and many outreach efforts.

Often times, volunteering leads to defining moments for our volunteers just as much as our guests. During the Summer Enrichment Program in 2016, one volunteer reflected on how it has impacted her life.

“Volunteering has given me a way to act upon what I read in Scripture and what I learn in church,” she said. “The Mission gave me an opportunity to show kindness, share the Gospel and help a community in a way that I had not previously. Most people donate to a crisis far away from their home, but volunteering at the Mission gives us an opportunity to help people in our own community.”
The Mission moved forward with construction for a new Food Distribution Center in June 2016. Opening to the community on August 24th, the center allows the Mission to serve the homeless and needy in a more effective way by providing more food and longer hours of operation.

The Mission is thankful for Dan Ryan Builders in addition to see the overpouring of support from local grocers stepping up to fill the new space in the FDC food. The impact on the community goes a long way. For one family struggling with medical issues, the FDC is critical to getting through this tough time. “When my dad had surgery a few months ago, he didn’t work for a few months so we came here and it really helped us out a lot, said Mara, FDC client.

Projects like the FDC require great thought and planning to be built to last. They also are what makes the Mission unique in Frederick and how it fills the needs of our guests.
Mike Gomes has been a familiar face at the Mission since he started coming to for breakfast and lunch ten years ago.

“I was homeless and I came here for breakfast and lunch,” said Mike. “I’m here not because of having to eat food now, but mainly because of the environment and the people. They are really great and have made an impression on me. They are for real. This is the place to be.”

The Rescued Treasures Clothing Program provides more for our clients than clothing. Sometimes it’s a prayer or a friendly conversation to brighten one’s day but like all programs at the Mission, we have been intentional in making as great of an impact in the individual lives of our guests. We are thankful that providing clothing for the homeless and needy can be an outlet for defining moments.