



June 22, 2017

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OPERATION SUMMER CONTINUES

RAM's summer fundraising campaign is continuing. We are operating on a continually declining amount of money and each day brings us closer to having to make decisions about when to close and/ or cut services. Please donate now by mailing a check to **RAM, 824 Campbell Ave. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016**, dropping off a check at **RAM House** at the above location, going to our web site or our **Facebook** page to donate or donating on our **gofundme** page. We are in need of your continuing support in order to continue our work.

Eagle Scout Project Improves RAM House Outdoor Space

Aaron Hunt recently completed his **Eagle Scout** project at **RAM House**. Aaron repaired 2 picnic tables, stained all 4 tables and built 2 new benches to improve seating in the area. He also made a donation of canned food. **RAM** is grateful to Aaron for his work to improve the outdoor space for our guests.



Pack the Park with the Red Sox a Success

RAM earned \$2500 again this year through it's efforts with **Pack the Park** on June 23, thanks to a benefactor who bought 500 tickets for **RAM** to sell at \$5 each. Thank you to our volunteers, staff and board members who helped to sell the tickets and to the **Salem Red Sox** organization for allowing us to participate in their **Pack the Park** charity event once again.



Bob Lewis, of **Vinton McDonalds**, shakes hands with Salem pitcher after throwing out first ball at **RAM's Pack the Park** night.

RAM Receives Donations from BB&TStringfellow

BB&TStringfellow recently made a large and much appreciated donation to **RAM**. Through their generosity **RAM** received 4 new monitors and keyboards along with a paper shredder, phone and ink cartridges. We would like to thank **BB&TStringfellow** for their much needed donation as well as their support in volunteering with us. It is only with the support of businesses and organizations like them in our community that **RAM** exists.

Miss Roanoke Valley Holds Charity Event for RAM



Shelter Manager Linda Cannon receives a check from **Miss Roanoke Valley, Dominga Murray**.

Helping Hands, an organization directed by Dominga Murray, **Miss Roanoke Valley 2017**, sponsored a concert to benefit **RAM House** food supplies on April 30, 2017. Dominga's platform is **Hunger Has a Cure** and she has directed her efforts to attack the hunger epidemic in Virginia. As a result of her efforts, **RAM** received a \$200 check and a large collection of non-perishable food for the pantry. Our heartfelt thanks to Dominga for her efforts in fighting hunger in our community.

Thank you, Joyous Junque !

RAM House has been chosen as a recipient for a grant for \$1500.00 from **Resurrection Catholic's Joyous Junque Sale**. Each year **Resurrection Catholic** collects, sorts and stores donations of goods from people all over the area. These donations range from boats to toasters, and in early June, they have a huge yard sale that benefits 25 charities in the Smith Mountain Lake Area and surrounding counties. **RAM House** is most grateful to be among those receiving the grants. We sincerely appreciate the hard work they put in to help the community. (No Picture Available)

Volunteer Spotlight



Our **Volunteer Spotlight** for this quarter falls on Richard Kelley. Richard has been a volunteer at **RAM House** since 2006, when he and his wife, Joan, began attending **Summerdean Church of the Brethren**. Richard volunteers with **Summerdean** on the second Tuesday of each month, but he is better known to us as the baseball ticket seller extraordinaire. He is always ready to go when the **Red Sox** tickets for our **Pack the Park** night come out and has consistently sold the most tickets for the past several years. Richard is an excellent salesman and doesn't mind using the "hard" sell to get the job done! We would not be successful without him!

Before beginning his retirement and volunteer service, Richard was employed at **Norfolk Southern** for 43 years. He and his wife Joan have been married for 61 years and have 2 sons, 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Richard says that his volunteer service at **RAM** is important to him because he likes to see as many people as possible get at least one good meal each day, particularly children. When asked if he would recommend to others that they volunteer at **RAM**, he answered "definitely, by all means".

In his spare time, Richard likes to work in the yard tending his plants and flowers, volunteering at **Summerdean Church of the Brethren** and riding his bike through his neighborhood.

We are so happy and grateful that Richard is a member of the **RAM** family.

Volunteer Needs



Friday—July 21

RAM will be participating in *First Fridays on Franklin* this year as a part of our fundraising. Our first date is Friday, July 21. **RAM** is required to provide 10 volunteers from 4:30 to 9:30 to assist with admissions, ID checks, drink tickets and breaking down the site after the event. We currently have 3 volunteers, so 7 more are needed. Please contact Debbie at 540-345-8850 if you are able to help.



October 8, 2017

RAM will again be a recipient of local funds from the annual *Church World Service CROP Walk* in 2017, along with the **Roanoke Community Garden Organization**. *Rally Day*, the kickoff event for the walk, is August 27 and will be held here at **RAM**. We are looking for a few people to form a committee to help plan for *Rally Day* and a leader for that committee. If you are interested in helping to organize our participation on that day, please contact Debbie Denison at 540-345-8850.

RAM House Needs

Kitchen

Coffee and Creamer

Shelter

Industrial mop head

Lg. bottles hand sanitizer

Laundry Detergent

Deodorant

Razors

Thank You! It's Been Great!

As I prepare for my next great adventure, I want to stop a minute and say thank you to everyone here at **RAM**. It has been an astonishingly quick 5 years and 5 of the most meaningful years I have spent during my time working. There are far too many memories to catalog here, but I will carry them with me always.

To my volunteers I want to say thank you most of all. **RAM** truly could not exist without your selflessness and loyalty. I never realized there were so many good and giving people in the world, let alone in our community. Every day with you has been a joy and my interactions with you over the years have made me a better person. I will miss you but will keep you close in my heart and email or **Facebook!**

To the community, I would like to say thank you for your acceptance, even embrace of me as a new member of the non-profit world. You have been an immense help and support during my tenure here.

To my fellow staff members, much love. Thank you for putting up with me and helping find my keys or phone, whichever happened to be missing on that particular day. Thank you also for your help with fundraisers and staffing events. I have made lasting friendships which will endure and which I will cherish.

My very best wishes for all of you and for **RAM**. It has been an honor.

As Always, Martha

Roanoke Area Ministries

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Roanoke Area Ministries is an ecumenical organization that boldly serves as an advocate for the homeless and poverty-stricken through emergency financial aid, employment counseling and a hot, noon-time meal every day of the year. Our aim is to empower people to move from dependency to self-sufficiency and in doing so we gain a stronger, healthier community.

2016 Statistics

Shelter:

35,581 meals served
2,827 unduplicated guests

Volunteers:

Over 800 Volunteers gave
10,446 hours of service

Emergency Financial Aid:

4,512 Clients helped
2,687 children
\$204,852 in aid given

Employment:

96 clients helped in obtaining
a state ID

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Fridays on Franklin, July 21
- ◆ CROP Walk Rally Day, August 27



Newsletter Published by Roanoke
Area Ministries.

Content of all articles written by Volunteer
Coordinator Martha Snidow.