MAY 2025

PERSPECTIVE

FROM THE FRONTLINES

CELEBRATING OUR 43RD YEAR OF RESTORING HOPE

CABARRUS COUNTY

HOMELESSNESS IS A FULL-TIME JOB!

ED HOSACK
CEO

Being literally homeless means a daily regimen to determine how you will eat, where you will sleep tonight, finagling access to facilities for basic hygiene - all while trying to be invisible to avoid disapproval. Simply put, "homeless" means nowhere to call home. Translated once more, "No place where you belong."

"Homeless" means trying to figure out where to park so that there is enough light to be safe, but not so much as to be forced to leave. It is a young girl trying to freshen her clothes and fix her hair for school in a gas station restroom. It is the teenager who interprets loss of hope as nothing left to lose. It is a mom with children, sleeping on couches and floors, hiding her plight for fear of her children being taken away. It is working against the elements to present yourself for a job interview. It is working part-time and paying cash for access to almost everything with what little they are able to earn.

Who are they?

Chronically homeless: those who have been homeless for at least one year or who have experienced homelessness four (4) or more times in the past three (3) years.* (*HUD definition) Often accompanied by alcohol and substance abuse, mental health issues and/or other disabilities. May have a history of justice involvement. Primarily males.

CCM CRISIS TO RESTORATION | COOPERATIVE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

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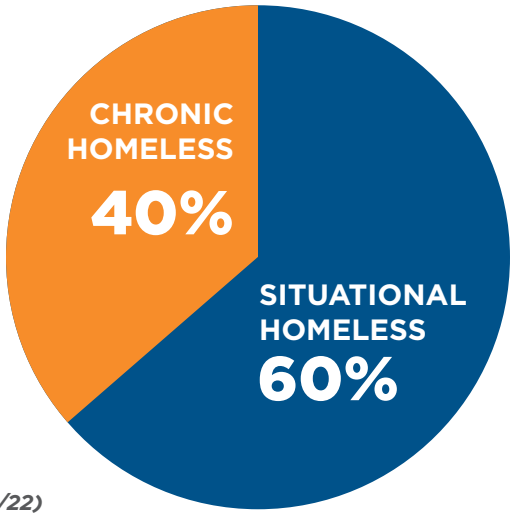
Situational homeless: caused by an unexpected crisis whether self-inflicted or out of their control. Typically short term at time of contact. Unaware of resources or how to navigate the "system". Vulnerable to become victims. Often hiding or disguising need for reasons of embarrassment or shame. More often females. A growing number with children.

Based upon experience, the homeless population is 40% Chronic & 60% Situational.

CHRONIC

C1- Persons with Mental Health conditions that require mental health and substance use Treatment and/or clinical care. (Enrollment)

C2- Persons involved in petty crime or public disturbance who require a level of supervision and/or restriction. (Enforcement)



SITUATIONAL

S1- Persons who lack resources, capability, or emotional resolve to overcome the financial-emotional barrier to achieve and maintain stable housing. (Engagement)

S2- Persons who need only a breakthrough in one or more areas and time to apply their resources to regain stability and carry out a plan for recovery. (Empowerment)

(The Unsheltered Impact Group Study, 9/22)

While our community response must be targeted for each population, we have to start somewhere. For more information on the causes and solutions watch for parts two through four of this series.

Part 1 of 4: What is Homelessness?
Part 2 of 4: What is "Housing Crisis"?
Part 3 of 4: How does it happen here?
Part 4 of 4: What can we do in our community?

2030 STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Cooperative Christian Ministry (CCM) is in year 5 of the ministry's 2025 New Horizon Strategic Plan. Tremendous progress and development has been made in addressing the need for transitional housing capacity, strengthening a network for access to resources, improving outcomes for children, providing resources for workplace readiness and empowering our senior adults to lead physically and emotionally healthy lives. Of the 72 defined strategies within the plan, CCM has completed more than 80% while making progress in over 90%. The stage has been set to continue this positive momentum into the next five years.

As we look ahead to 2030, it is essential to anticipate the services CCM will need to offer and the challenges the organization may face. Key areas of growth are likely to include expanded childcare, education, workforce development, mental health support, and economic stability programs. Areas to anticipate challenges could be financial sustainability, staffing, organizational growth, and maintaining strong client relationships.

Over the next eight months, CCM's board of directors, its leadership staff and a group of trusted and influential community members will ideate and develop goals, objectives, strategies and action steps that will align the ministry's focus and efforts for the next five years. This group not only brings industry expertise to the ideation table, but most importantly brings the trust and obedience of the Holy Spirit as well!

NEW "RUN OF THE MILL" VIDEO: SEE THE PROGRAM OFFICE TRANSFORM

The transformation is underway — and we're excited to share it with you! We've just released Video #3 in our "Run of the Mill" series: the first of a special two-part look at the Program Office at The Rebuilders Campus.

Part 1 gives you a visual tour of the space itself — a powerful before-and-after glimpse at how a once-empty shell is being rebuilt into the heart of our mission. This is where lives will be changed, hope restored, and futures rebuilt.

Stay tuned for Part 2, coming soon, where we'll introduce you to the dedicated staff who are preparing to serve individuals and families with compassion, structure, and holistic support.

CLICK TO WATCH THE TRANSFORMATION

Be sure and follow The Rebuilders Campus Facebook and/or Instagram pages @RebuildersCampus.

CHA AT BROWN MILL

Last month, we shared exciting updates about Cabarrus Health Alliance (CHA) and their move to Brown Mill Commons, expected in early 2026. CHA has long partnered with Cooperative Christian Ministry (CCM) to serve Cabarrus County families, and their new space will make it even easier to reach residents where they are. In addition to their current locations in Kannapolis, Concord, and through their mobile unit, CHA's expanded presence at Brown Mill Commons will bring new job opportunities, vocational training, and support for local nonprofits. This month, we're highlighting Behavioral Health—a key area of CHA's work that helps strengthen our community's overall well-being.

CHA's Behavioral Health Division was formally established in 2021; however, CHA has been providing behavioral health services since 1992. The division is made up of services ranging from education and prevention to therapeutic treatment and intervention. CHA's outpatient LiVeWell Counseling was developed as a strategy to assure clinical counseling services available to all residents of Cabarrus County, particularly our most vulnerable populations. LiVeWell Counseling provides community based behavioral health services including outpatient psychotherapy, school-based therapy, mental wellness groups, support groups, and behavioral health consultation to community partners, serving over 400 individuals a year.

For more information about CHA, visit Cabarrus Health Alliance, NC.

YOUR WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

LEARN & GIVE

CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

April was National Volunteer Appreciation Month, and we continue to celebrate the incredible impact of our volunteers every day. Last year, **984 volunteers** gave nearly **34,000 hours of their time** and talents to serve our ministry. Their dedication is the heart of our mission, helping us grow and serve with love and purpose.

Many of our volunteers have been with us for 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, and even over 30 years—an incredible testament to their passion and commitment. We are profoundly grateful to walk alongside such caring individuals who embody kindness, compassion, and faith in action. At our Annual Volunteer Picnic on April 17, we proudly recognized those who have served for 10 to 30+ years:

A special thank you to our community sponsors—Troutman's Barbecue, Elevation Church, Christy's Nursery, and Cabarrus County Active Living and Parks—for helping make our picnic a meaningful celebration!

Volunteering 20–30+ Years

Clemi Hacker – 33 years
Sue Beaver – 30 years
Phyllis Miller – 30 years
Lisa Davis – 28 years
Bob Utsman – 21 years

Volunteering 10–20 Years

Loretta Robinson – 18 years
Donna Kenney – 17 years
Dorothy Davis – 16 years
Willa Blakeney – 16 years
Barbara Slough – 15 years
Paul Hayes – 15 years
Donald Kluttz – 14 years
Carolyn Potter – 12 years
Bill Morgan – 12 years
Dick Sandy – 12 years
Eugene Killen – 11 years
Mark Mullinax – 11 years
Elaine Porter – 11 years

FRANCES BLACK HOLLAND SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Each year, CCM awards the **Frances Black Holland Scholarship** to a graduating senior who shows outstanding character, leadership, and community impact. Named in honor of longtime educator Frances Black Holland, this scholarship celebrates students who inspire others and make a difference.

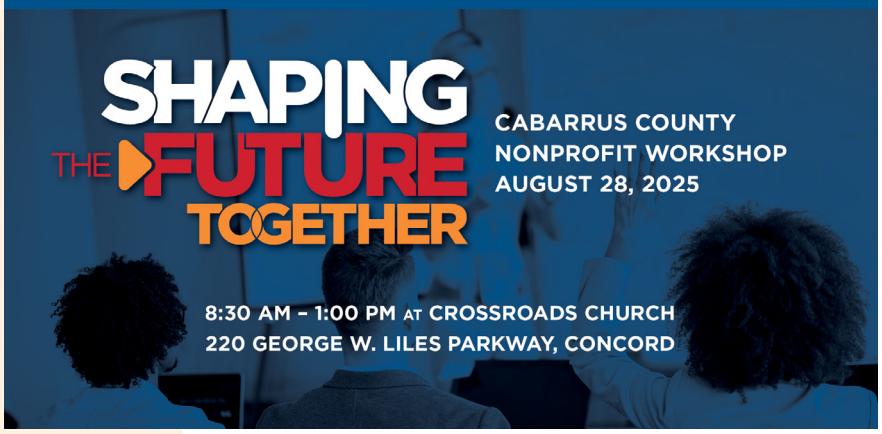
We are excited to announce the 2025 recipient: **Maria Rodamontes Anorve** from Concord High School! Maria has been awarded a $2,000 scholarship to support her studies in Nursing at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Congratulations, Maria!

Dr. Adam Auerbach, Principal , Maria, Jeremy Burleson, Chief Relationship Officer at CCM

SAVE THE DATE

Attention all Nonprofit Leaders, Staff, and Volunteers!
JOIN US!



THANK YOU

Big thanks to the **JROTC Students and staff from Northwest Cabarrus High School**!

On March 26th, they transformed the outside of the Crisis Center for the upcoming spring season, volunteering their time and hard work - pulling weeds, saplings, washing vans, and clearing debris in the parking lot. We are so grateful to have such young and eager volunteers!

APRIL FOOD DRIVES

- **New Hope Lutheran Church** – 230 lbs.
- **Society of St. Andrews** – 1600 lbs.

Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry donated 2700 lbs of venison

WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR TCAM'S SUPPORT!

What a blessing! **Presbytery of Charlotte's Ten Cents-a-Meal program** has committed $9,000 to CCM's Food Program in 2025. Their partnership is helping us meet growing community needs, so we can continue ensuring Cabarrus County families always have access to healthy food. Thank you, Presbytery of Charlotte!

Second Harvest Food Bank provided an opportunity for 5 area non-profit food programs to send 4 representatives to attend the Men's ACC Basketball Tournament at Spectrum Center in Charlotte back in early March. Chief Relationship Officer Jeremy Burleson, along with ministry volunteers Gwen Howard, Mark Verburg and Carson Verburg represented CCM. The five teams participated in a Simon Sez game at halftime of the Clemson vs. SMU game. CCM representatives brought home a 3rd place finish in the game and received a $500 Food Lion gift card to go towards food purchases for the CCM pantry. Watch the video here...

WATCH NOW

CCM's Housing Program would like to extend our sincere gratitude to **Janasha King and Jay Butler, practicum students at Concord Counseling Associates & Natalie Atwell's Consulting**, for graciously hosting group counseling sessions with our students. Both the students and their parents deeply appreciate the opportunity, which allowed the students to develop valuable coping skills in emotional regulation and rational thinking. We are truly thankful for this meaningful partnership and look forward to continued collaboration in the future.

The Financial Assistance Team was blessed by a visit from the **team at Connect Church** in March. The team of pastoral staff, admin staff, and elders met with our team to learn about our financial assistance program and then to pray over our team and our ministry. We feel truly blessed to have so much support from our church partners!

CCM 2025 NEW HORIZON STRATEGIC PLAN

CLICK TO VIEW
the full Strategic Plan

LEARN MORE

COMMUNITY PRAYER REQUESTS

Join with us in supporting our community through prayer. Watch as God works around us through our faithful prayers.

PRAY WITH US

FOOD RESOURCES

The 'Cabarrus County Food Resource Map', which was created by the Hunger Task Force, is available on our website. Please share this valuable resource with the community.

VIEW MAP

SENIOR RESOURCE GUIDE

We provide resources for housing, health, transportation, and more. Click the button to see all the resources we provide.

LEARN MORE

HELP with HOUSING

Our housing programs provide the opportunity for families with children, senior adults, and other adult individuals to stop the cycle of loss, establish sustainability, and achieve housing stability.

LEARN MORE

CONCORD NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR

Sign up to round up your monthly City of Concord Utility bill to the nearest dollar and help keep the air, heat, and lights on for hundreds of families in need.

Visit: https://concordnc.gov/Departments/Customer-Care/Neighbor-Helping-Neighbor

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APPLY **NEW! CCM Career Opportunities**

246 Country Club Drive NE, PO Box 1717
Concord, NC 28026 **TEL: 704-786-4709**

GIVE ONLINE: www.CooperativeMinistry.com or **TEXT:** ccmhelps to 44321