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Nashville Rescue Mission Needs Donations of Bottled Water

Help Hydrate the Homeless

NASHVILLE, Tennessee—With some meteorologists predicting temperatures of over 90 degrees this weekend, Nashville’s homeless population is at great risk for dehydration and heat stroke. This type of extreme heat can be life threatening. On days like this Nashville Rescue Mission launches Hot Patrol.

“When the temperature is 92 degrees and above the Mission will send out our Hot Patrol van,” said Mike Tatar, lead case manager. “We patrol the streets of Nashville handing out cold bottles of water to the homeless, and encouraging them to come back to the Mission for shelter, refreshment, and spiritual guidance. We also make cold water available to our guests throughout the day to insure they stay hydrated.”

“We are serving over 800 people each and every day,” said Rev. Glenn Cranfield, president and CEO of Nashville Rescue Mission. “These are just the ones who come to the Mission seeking help. It doesn’t include those who choose to stay on the street. Even a small act of kindness—like handing a cold bottle of water to someone on the street—might be the very thing that convinces them to seek shelter and could potentially save their life.”

Water intake isn’t only essential on the hottest days of the year—people need fluids to survive day in and day out regardless of the weather. With hotter temperatures and increasing demand, the need for bottled water is enormous. Supplies are low and the need is great. Nashville Rescue Mission needs help from the Nashville community to build up its supply of bottled water in order to help those in need today, as well as those who will be in need throughout the summer.

“Every life matters, both inside and outside of our community, and you can help save those lives by donating water,” said Cranfield. “It’s not uncommon to hear of someone dying from heat exposure in Nashville. In the past, this might happen in a city like Phoenix or Albuquerque, but it’s also happening right here. It is an unfortunate reality of being homeless.”

The warmer temperatures bring along a whole set of survival concerns for the homeless: how to stay cool and hydrated in the heat. “When you have no place to go, walking around on a hot day like this is exhausting,” said Kevin, who’s been homeless for three years. “It’s a welcome relief to go the Mission where there is air conditioning and cold water. It is a life-saver.”

“Making water and a cool, refreshing place to rest available to someone who is homeless can sometimes spark enough of a connection to help get them off the streets,” said Cranfield. “You might give a homeless person a cold bottle of water and a clean pair of socks, and suddenly he decides he doesn’t want to be homeless anymore.”

The Mission’s Donation Center is located **616 7th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37203**. It’s open **Monday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Or if you prefer you can make an online donation at nashvillerescuemission.org.

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About Nashville Rescue Mission

Nashville Rescue Mission is a Christ-centered community dedicated to providing hope for today, hope for tomorrow, and hope for eternity to the hungry, homeless, and hurting. The Mission provides meals, safe shelter, and clothing to those in need, as well as support and long-term assistance for those struggling with homelessness, addictions, and other life debilitating problems. With a focus on two ministries—Guest Services Ministries and Recovery Ministries—the Mission operates almost entirely from donated foods, materials, and generous contributions from individuals, churches, and organizations. Established in 1954, Nashville Rescue Mission is a faith-focused, 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and does not accept any government funds. Visit nashvillerescuemission.org to learn more.