



# 2024

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty

#### a note from the executive director



Amy LaCount Executive Director

"Since 1939, The Christian Mission has been a beacon of hope for our community. With a holistic approach to addressing poverty, we provide wraparound programs that empower individuals and families to build a brighter, more stable future."

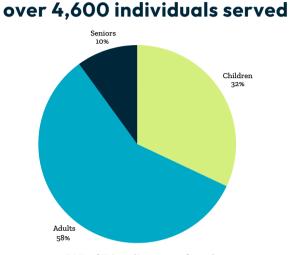
As our community's safety net, The Christian Mission provides food, clothing, and shelter assistance while also equipping individuals and families with the skills and education needed to break the cycle of poverty and achieve long-term self-sufficiency.

2024 was a year of growth and impact. We expanded our programming, strengthened our team, and deepened community connections through Poverty Simulations. Meanwhile, construction on our new facility is nearly complete as we prepare for an exciting move in 2025.

None of this would be possible without our dedicated Board of Directors, donors, staff, community partners, and over 700 volunteers, all working together to serve more than 4,600 individuals annually. Thank you for believing in The Christian Mission and sharing your time, talent, and treasure to bring hope to our community!



The Christian Mission exists to break the cycle of poverty by providing crisis assistance, case management, and educational programming.



54% of TCM clients are female 32% of TCM clients are children

### grant dollars at work

- Town of Mooresville provided rent and utility assistance for low-income Mooresville residents. <u>\$2,300</u> from Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation and <u>\$10,000</u> from Speedway Children's Charities helped address hunger in our community.
- Town of Mooresville ABC Board & Cecile G. Ebert Charitable Foundation provided substance use treatment scholarships, peer support, referrals, and community education.
- Davidson UMC gave <u>\$10,000</u>; Williamson's Chapel UMC gave <u>\$15,000</u>; and Iredell County Community Foundation gave <u>\$15,000</u> to provide crisis assistance.
- <u>\$25,000</u> from Dale Jr. Foundation; <u>\$10,000</u> from Hope at the Lake Foundation; and <u>\$10,000</u> from Energy United Foundation supported comprehensive services and programs.

#### tcmission.org

# carl's journey



Carl Robinson, Life Skills Program Participant

When Carl Robinson walked into the NCWorks Career Center in Mooresville, he was unsure of his next steps. After facing personal hardships, his confidence was shaken, even though he had valuable skills from his background in maintenance.

"I wanted to work again but didn't know how or where to start," Carl recalls.

Jens Schmidt, the NCWorks Career Center Leader, worked closely with Carl to create a resume and explore job opportunities in maintenance. Jens suggested Carl consider roles in senior living facilities or hotels, where his skills would be highly valued. Despite this guidance, Carl still needed a confidence boost.

That's when Carl joined the Life Skills Workshops offered by The Christian Mission. The program helped participants develop skills like resume writing, interviewing, and crafting elevator pitches. For Carl, creating an elevator pitch was transformative. "At first, it was tough, but once I thought about what I could bring to the table—my ability to fix things and work with people—it all came together. I finally felt confident."

By the program's end, Carl had secured an interview for a maintenance position at a local hotel. Using his newly developed elevator pitch during the interview, Carl confidently presented his skills and experience, which impressed the hiring team.

Carl landed the job and is now thriving in a stable role that allows him to use his talents. Reflecting on his journey, Carl says, "The {life skills} sessions gave me the confidence to believe in myself again. I'm doing something I enjoy, and it feels amazing to be back in the workforce."

Carl's story highlights the power of collaboration between community organizations to help individuals rebuild confidence, rediscover their value, and unlock new opportunities.

"The sessions gave me the confidence to believe in myself again. I'm doing something I enjoy, and it feels amazing to be back in the workforce."





Todd & Amy Caputo, serve as a dynamic team at TCM. Todd serves on our Board of Directors and both serve regularly as volunteers!

"Amy and I feel truly blessed to be part of The Christian Mission family. When we moved to Mooresville a few years ago, we prayed that the Lord would lead us to a place where we could serve and make a meaningful impact. He answered that prayer by bringing us to The Christian Mission.

From the moment we got involved, we've seen firsthand how this organization not only provides for those in need but also restores dignity, builds community, and reflects God's love in action. The heart of The Christian Mission is service, and we're honored to support their work in breaking the cycle of poverty." - Todd Caputo

"We encourage others to come alongside this mission —because when we give, serve, and love together, we truly make a difference."

# your donations:

4,600

individuals & families served

individuals prevented from becoming homeless

810

# \$1.5M

of food distributed



"Being part of the Life Skills Program made me feel like I had a home"

In May 2022 Katie became a new client of TCM in need of utility assistance. As a single mother working from home, she was struggling financially and was isolated. The case manager referred Katie to the Life Skills Program because she believed Katie could benefit from learning budgeting skills, receiving mentoring, and making some new friends

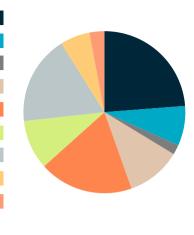
"Being part of the Life Skills Program made me feel like I had a home. Some of the best mentors I ever met were Craig, Victoria, and Rochelle. During the time I was in the program I was referred to NC Works and Ms. Barbara connected me to the Work Experience Program (WEX). It was through this program that I gained the confidence and the conflict management skills that I needed to work with the public." Katie now continues her passion for helping people by volunteering at the Resource Store at TCM.

Justin was a client of TCM and both he and his mom believed in "giving back" so they volunteered at TCM together. "I love to give back to the community. I remember what it was like to have nothing. I attended the Life Skills Program and learned a lot about communication skills and the exercises in the program gave me the confidence to communicate with people".

Justin enjoys volunteering in the warehouse and the pantry and always has a big smile and a kind word for all clients and staff.

#### revenue sources

Individual Donors (24%) Churches (8%) Civic (2%) Corporations (11%) Foundations (19%) Give Back Boutique (10%) Government (18%) Turkey Trot (5%) Other (3%)



### thank you donors!



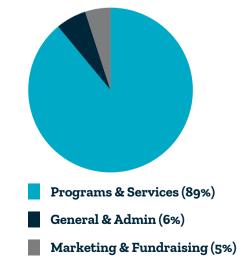
2024 included extensive renovations on a 27,000 SF building, set to open in 2025 as a hub for collaboration and community support. The Betty & Randy Marion Center will house essential services, including the Downtown Pantry, Resource Store, rent and utility assistance, life skills training, employment skills, and early childhood development. With two other incredible agencies under our roof, we will offer programming for individuals from birth to seniors. More than just a building, this center will bring the community together to tackle complex challenges and strengthen families. Thanks to the generosity of many, endless opportunities will emerge from this transformative initiative.



"God commands us to love one another and to help others with their burdens. We can think of no better way to follow His teaching by donating to The Christian Mission. The Christian Mission has been loving and helping people for over 80 years. We are blessed to be able to support them as they offer a hand up to individuals and families to help lift them out of the cycle of poverty".

- Frank and Gay Baldasare

### FY 2024 expenditures



# programs & services



The Christian Mission Exists to Break the Cycle of Poverty by Providing Crisis Assistance, Case Management, and Educational Programming.

# our programs

#### **CRISIS ASSISTANCE**

- rent & utility assistance
- food
- clothing & household items

#### **STABILIZATION**

- case management
- senior program

#### INDIVIDUAL BETTERMENT

- life skills
- workforce development
- substance use support

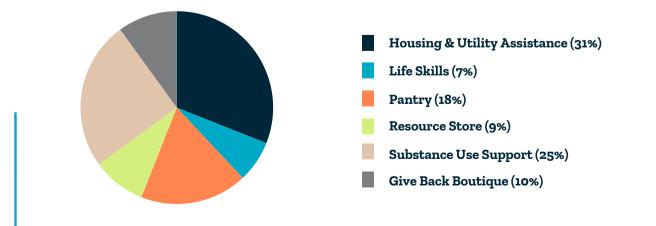
Crisis Assistance Ongoing Stabilization Individual Betterment



"The Christian Mission has been a life saver for myself and my children. There have been many of times where I didn't have enough to last us a week and contacted them. They helped with eagerness."

-TCM Client

### program dollars at work



# crisis assistance

### rent & utility assistance

To stabilize those in crisis, TCM offers crisis financial assistance for rent and utilities. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the chronically homeless cost taxpayers an average of \$35,000 - \$60,000 annually. TCM's rent assistance program helps those in crisis and benefits the community as a whole by keeping individuals off the streets and out of emergency rooms and prisons. In 2024, \$228,838 distributed in assistance <u>saved</u> <u>taxpayers an estimated \$28 million!</u>

\$228,838 provided in assistance
810 evictions prevented
820 utility shut-offs prevented



### downtown pantry



Located in the heart of downtown Mooresville, TCM's food pantry offers clients free access to healthy, fresh produce, bread, deli items, meats, and shelf-stable foods.

### Nearly 12,000 pantry visits & \$1,500,000 in food distributed

#### resource store

Supported by the generosity of our community, TCM offers a resource store that provides clients with free clothing, furniture, and household items.



140,000+ clothing, furniture, and household items provided

# ongoing stabilization

#### case management





TCM's dedicated case managers build meaningful relationships with clients, guiding them on their path to stability. They work one-on-one to set achievable goals, provide essential resources, and connect individuals and families with vital community organizations. Through personalized support and strategic partnerships, our case managers empower clients to overcome challenges and build a brighter future.

### **CLINT'S STORY**

Over 8 years ago, Clint's wife left him and their four sons, leaving him to navigate the challenges of becoming a single parent. During that difficult time, he turned to The Christian Mission for help with food for his growing teenagers and school backpacks. They adjusted to their new normal, and he proudly reported that all graduated high school and are now independent young men.

A few months ago, Clint again needed The Christian Mission's support as his health declined and his work became more challenging.

"In addition to food assistance, I received vital support and encouragement from TCM's case worker, who helped me through some tough times, advocated for me with social services, and pushed me to apply for new employment. I'm excited to share that I started a full-time job on December 2!" "I am extremely grateful for all the help and support I received from The Christian Mission, and I truly hope that one day I can pay it forward. Their assistance made a huge difference in my life, and I want to give back to others in a similar way when I am able." - Clint



# ongoing stabilization

### senior companions



"I love The Christian Mission. They have helped me and my family so much over the years"

## **200 SENIORS SERVED**

Love & Care

Companionship

600 Food Boxes

200+ Christmas Baskets

TCM's Senior Companion Program pairs volunteers with senior citizens and the homebound in our community. Volunteers get to know their grocery and household needs, shop for seniors in TCM's Client Choice Food Pantry, deliver food, and provide companionship.

### transportation assistance

Reliable transportation is essential for maintaining employment, accessing medical care, and utilizing other social services.

TCM partners with Christian Brothers Automotive and Treadz to offer reduced cost vehicle repairs and maintenance. Additionally, TCM provides transportation vouchers to clients without a vehicle.

# \$23,102 in transportation assistance20 repairs made

245 transportation vouchers



# individual betterment

### life skills



### **53** PARTICIPANTS

"Thank you for your unwavering dedication to serving others and sharing Christ's love in tangible ways. It [Life Skills workshop] has left a lasting impact on me and my wife." - Kwesi and Esperanza (Life Skills Participants) TCM's Life Skills workshops equip clients with essential skills in financial education, job preparation, mental health, conflict resolution, and accessing community resources. We collaborate with local partners such as NC Works, Community Foundations, Be Well Iredell, and others to provide valuable training and support.

Through mentoring and hands-on experience, we help clients develop marketable skills that enhance their employability while also providing the knowledge and guidance needed for long-term success.





"There are no amount of words that could describe our appreciation of The Christian Mission's Substance Use Support Program. We had made countless calls to facility after facility and this was the FIRST one where we were able to get real answers and real help." - Program Participant's Family

### substance use support

Led by a certified Peer Support Specialist, TCM's Substance Use Support Program provides hope and practical solutions for individuals and families affected by substance use. We offer personalized guidance, access to vital resources, treatment scholarships, and trusted referrals. Additionally, we provide mental health scholarships specifically for those whose challenges are linked to substance use, ensuring they receive the comprehensive support needed for recovery and long-term stability.

39 RECEIVED PEER SUPPORT \$82,359 IN TREATMENT SCHOLARSHIPS 375 TREATMENT SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN 654 TOTAL SERVICES PROVIDED

# get involved

### thank you volunteers!



#### volunteer opportunities:

PANTRY/WAREHOUSE RESOURCE STORE GROCERY PICKUPS SENIOR COMPANIONS GIVE BACK BOUTIQUE DONATION DRIVES LIFE SKILLS MEALS & MENTORS TURKEY TROT 5K & MORE!



Volunteers are the heart of The Christian Mission, making a real difference in the lives of individuals and families in the Mooresville area. We are incredibly grateful for those who give their time, talents, and resources to help break the cycle of poverty. Whether you're serving in the pantry, mentoring a client, or supporting an event, your impact is invaluable. There's always a place for you here—join us and be part of something life-changing!



### **11,034 VOLUNTEER HOURS**



"I love to give back to the community" - Justin, Warehouse Volunteer



VOLUNTEER



NEWSLETTER

### Thank you for breaking the cycle of poverty!

Checks payable to:

#### The Christian Mission PO Box 62 Mooresville, NC 28115

To donate by credit or debit card, please scan the QR code below or go to www.thechristianmission.org and click the orange donation button.

Become a monthly donor and provide stable revenue for our comprehensive programs!

