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## The Honor of Running a Food Pantry During a Pandemic

*By Lesley Franciscy*

I am proud of the things I have accomplished over the course of my career, but none have been as surprisingly rewarding as these past two months at North Raleigh Ministries.

**I have had the privilege of running a food pantry during a pandemic.** It has been a blessing to work beside our compassionate, insightful, and makeshift team. These include members of our Thrift Shoppe staff, courageous volunteers, and even some of my own family members.

This experience is not one that I sought, and yet I cannot imagine having spent this time doing anything else.



**Never have I thought of food as something that heals or as something that helps people who have so little feel so incredibly cared for.**

Because North Raleigh Ministries was able to remain open, we have had the opportunity to give food and hope to so many who need it so desperately.

To the woman who left an unsafe home and was living in her car – we were able to connect her with our Chaplain who helped her through her transition.

To the family who had never had to ask for help before and arrived embarrassed and unsure – we gave kindness, compassion and food that was "more plentiful and beautiful than they could have hoped for".

To every child waiting for groceries in their car with their parents – we were able to provide a nutritious snack they could eat on the way home.

And to all the mothers who visited our pantry Mother's Day week – we were able to give a beautiful, fresh bouquet of roses to let them know they are appreciated.

Yes, I want to get back to helping people achieve self-sufficiency, **but I will never again take for granted how meaningful meeting a basic human need, such as providing food can be, especially when it is done through God.**

Help us meet those basic human needs **today** at:

[www.northraleighministries.com/give](http://www.northraleighministries.com/give)

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## NRM Thrift Shoppes (that's right there's 2) Now Open!

*by Kara Gravinese*

When you shop at the NRM Thrift Shoppes you are shopping with purpose by helping neighbors in your community in financial crises.

So we are doubly excited to share that, after a two month closure of the NRM Thrift Shoppe at Harvest Plaza and a delayed grand opening of the Stony Brook location, our stores are open for business! Both locations are open Wednesday - Saturday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.



*Our new NRM Thrift Shoppe - Stony Brook location.*

Hear more from Andrew Spinney, one of our managers with our Stony Brook location:

“We are thrilled with our second location and that we can provide shopping for a bigger range of Wake County. It’s been a unique time to open a new store but we have acclimated well and have been vigilant in our cleaning habits, making it a safe, healthy environment for our very happy customers.”

We hope to see you on your next treasure hunt!

[Get Thrift Shoppe location info here.](#)

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## Miles for Missions - College Students Raising Awareness and Dollars

*By Brynn Moore, ECU student*



My name is Brynn Moore, I’m a rising sophomore at ECU and grew up at Trinity Baptist Church here in Raleigh. My three friends Katie Forrest-NCSU, Abbi Mays-APP, and Gabbie Wray- UNCA and I decided to do a fundraiser during quarantine.

We know that during these times, outreach and fellowship can be a bit more difficult. But we wanted to give people a chance to feel like they have made a difference around them.

So we created ‘Missions for Miles’. Our plan - to walk 15 miles to Downtown Raleigh and the 15 miles back home to the Neuse Dam. We asked for people to sponsor us at just 50 cents a mile for our 30 mile goal with the proceeds going to North Raleigh Ministries. We were overwhelmed by the love and support from our friends and

family, with donations averaging at about \$50 per person. We walked the full 30 miles on May, 19th in eleven hours. It was rainy and a little windy too, but we had the most enjoyable time being with each other and knowing so many people supported us.

In a week's time, we raised \$1,935 for NRM through GoFundMe. I know for the people who followed us on our journey via Facebook and Instagram seeing the final, most gratifying step, of this entire fundraiser will bring them so much joy!

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## NRM's "Why"

*by Kara Gravinese*

At North Raleigh Ministries, we believe **God desires for everyone to thrive**. Just six words. For those of us pouring our heart into the ministry, the statement means a lot.

From our beginning in 2004, NRM has been an extension of the church, and we've focused our efforts on providing benevolence assistance to community members in crisis.

In the past few years we've sought to care for client's in a way that is truly meaningful; and therefore, transformed our services and client experience to be just that - meaningful. After experiencing such significant transformation we recognized our foundational statements needed updating too.

We started with our belief statement, the foundation which captures our primary belief about why we do what we do at NRM. After much prayer, discussion and consideration our team landed with we believe "God desires for everyone to thrive".

This is based on our understanding of God's heart and love for humanity. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

This foundation of God's desire for humanity to have hope and a future, to prosper us and not to harm us sets the tone for everything we do at NRM. We see the evidence of this foundation in our Supportive Case Management - where clients work one-on-one with an experienced Case Manager to identify paths towards, and achieve, long-term stability.

We're continuing to seek God's guidance in how to best love and support our neighbors in crisis. And we look forward to sharing these experiences with you.

*Don't forget to connect with us on social media and our website:*



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