If adversity has a way of strengthening us, then Waterfront Rescue Mission should be invincible! For the second straight year, revenue was down and we were forced to follow through on some difficult decisions.

We closed Emerald Coast Rescue Mission in Fort Walton Beach and the Women’s Center in Pensacola. First, we placed all women in the program in a safe environment, and we moved all men from ECRM to the Pensacola campus. Safe provision for our clients was a top priority. Our Mobile, Alabama, Mission continues to help clients on the path to healing and self-sufficiency, as does our newly-consolidated Pensacola campus.

Moving the Career Development Program to Pensacola proved that being on a single campus has its benefits. Overnight guests learn from men who are well into the program, and Career Development Program clients are reminded of how far they have come in their recovery.

God directed every step of the difficult process. For example, we needed to serve 243 men when we consolidated to the Pensacola campus. Once we moved all the beds, we had exactly 243!

We thank God regularly for His provision as we expand our capacity. We also thank you for standing by Waterfront Rescue Mission throughout the past year and invite you to watch us grow in the years ahead.

Devin K. Simmons
President, Waterfront Rescue Mission
Nobody plans to become homeless. But when people become overwhelmed by addiction, mental illness, and financial problems, Waterfront Rescue Mission meets their unique physical, emotional, and spiritual needs and helps them to transform their lives from the inside out.

Compassionate care begins with emergency services of food and shelter, followed by recovery programs and assistance with education, job placement, and housing, with special respect for the veterans in our community.

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“Every meaningful relationship in my life has been restored.”
Waterfront Rescue Mission blessed David with “a hope and a joy I don’t remember since I was a kid.” David has to go way back for that; at nine he found his brother dead and “ran away from God. By the time I was 13, I didn’t want any rules.” David eventually ended up in prison.

Since Waterfront, David says, “Every meaningful relationship in my life has been restored,” including his relationship with God. He enrolled at Pensacola State College to become a personal trainer. “This is an awesome ministry,” he says. “I don’t think there’s a better program anywhere.”

Director Jody Shoop’s goal is “for men to leave here drastically different than when they arrived.” Michael, a former client, graduated, earned an Associate’s Degree, and today serves as a chaplain at Waterfront. “I gave my life to Christ,” he recalls. “From there, it was change after change.”

Last year alone, you helped Waterfront Rescue Mission:

- Graduate 137 clients from our Recovery and Career Development Programs (a 70% graduation rate)
- Provide 94,613 nights of shelter
- Serve 255,277 meals
- Offer 4,820 hours of individual Biblical counseling
“I wound up in the hospital with no place to go. I couldn’t have made it without the Mission.”
A bicycling accident cost Tony his leg, but it would have cost him much more if not for Waterfront’s Respite Care program. “I wound up in the hospital with no place to go and no job. One of the chaplains said I could come to the Mission until I got myself together.”

The Respite Care program offers sick and injured homeless men like Tony a safe place to heal and regain their strength. After a year and a half in the program, Tony moved into his own apartment—and he’s back on his bike! “I couldn’t have made it without the Mission,” Tony says. “They have been a blessing to me.”

The Day Resource Center at our Pensacola campus also offers a number of essential services to men and women in need. Stacy* and her husband showered, did laundry, and ate lunch at the Center while waiting for their housing to come through. “Waterfront Rescue Mission opened their arms to us,” Stacy says. “They rescued us!”

*Stacy’s name is changed for protection of privacy and she is not pictured.
A veteran of the Marine Corps Reserves, Brad* was also a self-described “semi-professional alcoholic.” After three DWI convictions, he eventually lost his job and his home. “I found Waterfront Rescue Mission a refuge and a place to regroup, catch my breath, and find resources for employment. I definitely found the fulfillment of a spiritual void that I harbored for many years,” Brad says.

Our Veteran’s Affairs Care Program connects homeless veterans with a representative from the local VA to secure benefits such as pension, housing, and medical assistance. While waiting for their benefits, veterans in the program can stay up to three months at Waterfront Rescue Mission.

Brad says, “Now I have a job, I’m saving for a car and housing, and I’m about ready to reenter society. Waterfront Rescue Mission helped me turn my life around.”

*Brad’s name is changed for protection of privacy.
Volunteer Jim Thorpe arrives at the Day Resource Center laden with boxes of Krispy Kremes... and the even sweeter gift of dignity. “I try and get to know as many of the guys as possible,” he says. “Mostly, I listen.”

For many years, Jim supported the Mission financially. “Now I’m at a point in my life where I’m incredibly blessed,” he says. “I need to be about my Father’s business and take care of His children, to show them God’s love and engage them in any way I can. I have a lot more joy supporting Waterfront in this capacity than I did formerly. You just feel God smile.”

“I’ve met some amazing people and it’s very humbling,” Jim tells us. “It’s only by the grace of God that I’m here as a volunteer and not as somebody that had some difficult circumstances and was homeless.

“When I pass out the donuts, I see the face of Jesus in every one of these guys. That person needs to be shown love and needs dignity.”

In 2016, volunteers provided 6,139 hours of service, generating $144,635 in value. For information on volunteer opportunities, visit waterfrontmission.org.
In 2016, Waterfront Rescue Mission gave away 5,820 articles of clothing.

Donate items to our Thrift Stores, which help support the work of the Mission. Learn more at waterfrontthrift.org.

At Waterfront’s seven Thrift Stores, thousands of fresh items are stocked every day to guarantee an unparalleled shopping experience filled with current looks, authentic vintage treasures, collectibles, furniture, and much more. Shoppers find quality, gently-used goods; exceptional values on new merchandise; and closeouts on great items not found at other thrift stores.

All locations are staffed by paid employees and volunteers, joined by residents in the Mission’s Recovery Program. Every purchase or donation directly benefits the Mission’s ministry to the Gulf Coast homeless, addicted, and poor.

In 2016, the Thrift Stores received Best of the Coast, Best of the Bay, and Finest on the Emerald Coast awards.
Our Annual Income 2016 • $10,615,378

Sources of Revenue

- Thrift stores and recycling centers $7,657,009 72%
- Cash contributions $2,123,251 20%
- Donated services and in-kind goods $568,463 6%
- Interest and investments $133,657 1%
- Other revenue $132,998 1%

Where Your Donations Go

- 13% Administrative
- 6% Fundraising
- 81% Program Services

Financial Information & Leadership

LEADERSHIP
Devin Simmons, President
Board of Directors
Ken Bell, Chair
Mark King, Vice Chair
Ed Grayson, Treasurer
Chris Kelly, Secretary
Tim Atkins
Andrew Martin
John Porter
Adam Principe
Wilson Robertson
Clay Romano
Dennis Tackett
Steve Shell, Member-at-Large

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.
Proverbs 3:9
Core Values

Waterfront Rescue Mission was founded in 1949 as a safe haven for fishermen. The purpose and services expanded over the years, with Waterfront now being a national and local leader in Rescue and Recovery services. In 1989, the Mobile Rescue Mission in Alabama became part of Waterfront.

Today the Mission continues its core purpose of serving the needs of the homeless and the addicted by providing Bible-based, life-changing services and programs.

Mission Statement

Waterfront Rescue Mission strives to serve the Lord through all of its services. The aim of Waterfront Rescue Mission is to Demonstrate God’s Goodness by Providing Rescue and Recovery Services in Jesus’ Name.