

PRESS RELEASE

## TRINITY RESCUE MISSION - Jacksonville, FL

Daniel Riddick

Director of Communications

904-537-5940

[driddick@tbc.org](mailto:driddick@tbc.org)

TrinityRescue.org

### JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA HOMELESS SHELTER ANNOUNCES ORGANIC FARMING PROGRAM TO FEED THE HUNGRY

*This innovative program is designed to supply homeless shelters and food agencies of NE Florida with organic produce and to serve as a model for other organizations around the country.*

**Jacksonville, FL:** The Trinity Rescue Mission of Jacksonville, FL is announcing a new organic farming program that will provide local, organic produce to the hungry of Northeast Florida. Trinity Rescue Mission is preparing 261,360 sq. ft. of land on its 56-acre "Freedom Rehabilitation Farm" south of Jacksonville, for large scale production of organic produce to promote good health in our most nutritionally deprived population.

Trinity Rescue Mission has embraced this new initiative to meet the needs of the hungry in Northeast Florida, and to further its mission of providing a *road to recovery* for as many men, women and children as possible. The organic farming program is already under way, and once the program is operating at full capacity, it will produce enough organic produce to supply Trinity's mission downtown, as well as many of the other homeless shelters and food service providers in Jacksonville at no cost to them. The organic program has been given a strong start by the donation of a \$100,000 grant from the Sontag Foundation, and the materials for the shade houses have been donated by Reynolds Park Aluminum.

Jim Kilpatrick, Executive Director of Trinity Rescue Mission: "After much prayer and the hard work of our staff, the opportunity to meet in a bigger way the needs of the hurting and hungry in Jacksonville will now be possible. Not only will this plan provide needed food supplies for our mission, but outside of our walls as well, as we work with other great organizations in our community."

**Media coverage is encouraged and all contacts should be made to Director of Communications, Daniel Riddick at 904-537-5940 or [driddick@tbc.org](mailto:driddick@tbc.org) .**

#### **The Plan**

Trinity Rescue Mission has been recognized as a certified member of the Organic Trade Association. Organic farming has already begun with the construction of a green house and an 8,000 sq. ft. organic shade house. 40 growing boxes are in place to receive the first crop of organic produce. As the organic farm expands to the complete 261,360 sq. ft., Trinity Rescue Mission will provide not only produce for its Men's Center and Women and Children's Center in downtown Jacksonville, but also will be able to supply the produce needs for many of Northeast Florida's area missions and food service providers at no cost to them.

#### **The Model**

Trinity Rescue Mission envisions for other organizations around the country to embrace this innovative food production and distribution method in a major metro market. By growing the produce locally, the accessibility to fresh produce, by those who need it and the organizations that distribute it, is tremendous. It also is providing valuable job skill training for those men who are in Trinity's Freedom Farm program. When they leave, not only will they have experienced personal renewal, but also will have had the opportunity to learn about the organic farming industry.

#### **The Support**

The Trinity Rescue Mission was graciously selected as the recipient of an \$100,000 grant from the Sontag Foundation, and materials were donated by Reynolds Park Aluminum specifically to initiate the organic farming plan. While these contributions are enabling Trinity to realize the organic farming vision, corporate and community support will be welcomed for the long-term viability of this program.

#### **Additional Facts**

In 2009:

Over 256,000 meals were served

Over 99,000 night of shelter were provided for men, women and children

175 men and women graduated from the lifeline program

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