

1 Introduced by Council Members Johnson, Pittman, Miller, Gaffney, Jr.,  
2 Howland, Peluso and Boylan and Co-Sponsored by Council Member Arias:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2026-233**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE CITY RESCUE MISSION ON  
7 THE OCCASION OF ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE  
8 TO THE PEOPLE OF JACKSONVILLE; PROVIDING AN  
9 EFFECTIVE DATE.

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, in 1946, three faithful Jacksonville businessmen began  
12 carrying thermoses of soup through the streets of downtown  
13 Jacksonville to serve men experiencing hunger and homelessness,  
14 planting the seed of compassion that would grow into one of our  
15 community's most enduring institutions of hope, the City Rescue  
16 Mission; and

17 **WHEREAS**, from those humble acts of service, the City Rescue  
18 Mission was formally incorporated in 1953 as an interdenominational  
19 Christian, religious and charitable non-profit organization dedicated  
20 to ministering to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of  
21 individuals facing hardship, embodying the belief that every person  
22 deserves dignity, opportunity, and the chance to begin again; and

23 **WHEREAS**, throughout eight decades of faithful service, the City  
24 Rescue Mission has demonstrated remarkable perseverance, overcoming  
25 adversity including fire, financial hardship, and the ever-changing  
26 challenges associated with poverty and homelessness, while  
27 continually expanding its programs to meet the needs of a growing and  
28 evolving Jacksonville community; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the City Rescue Mission has been guided by visionary  
30 leadership across generations including George Sage, Don Moody,  
31 Reverend Kaleel Ellison, Reverend Billy Fox, Thurman Chambers, Henry

1 Freeman, Patrick Hayle, David Bugher, Penny Kievet, and current  
2 Executive Director Paul Stasi, whose collective stewardship has  
3 strengthened the City Rescue Mission's ability to transform lives  
4 while nurturing a spirit of compassion within our city; and

5 **WHEREAS**, what began as a small ministry has grown into a  
6 comprehensive network of life changing services including emergency  
7 shelter, addiction recovery, workforce development and job training,  
8 medical and dental care for underserved populations, programs for  
9 women and children, and innovative social enterprises such as Charis  
10 Chocolates, Charis Café, and the CRM Thrift Store, which empower  
11 individuals with skills, employment, and renewed confidence; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the City Rescue Mission's transformative initiatives  
13 including the Lifebuilders Crossroads Residential Treatment, Homes  
14 of Hope, and the Overcomers program have provided thousands of  
15 individuals with the tools necessary to rebuild their lives, regain  
16 stability, and return to society as productive and thriving citizens;  
17 and

18 **WHEREAS**, through seasons of economic uncertainty, natural  
19 disaster, and the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic,  
20 the City Rescue Mission has remained steadfast in its commitment to  
21 ensuring that those most vulnerable among us are met not with judgment  
22 or neglect, but with compassion, care, and the unwavering promise of  
23 hope; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the story of the City Rescue Mission reminds us that  
25 the strength of a city is measured not solely by the height of its  
26 skyline or the speed of its growth, but by the depth of its compassion  
27 and its willingness to lift those in need onto the pathway of  
28 possibility; and

29 **WHEREAS**, as the City Rescue Mission celebrates 80 years of  
30 service, its legacy stands as a powerful testament to the belief that  
31 when faith meets action, when service meets sacrifice, and when

1 community meets compassion, lives are transformed and cities become  
2 stronger; now therefore

3 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

4 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby recognizes and honors  
5 the City Rescue Mission for 80 years of extraordinary service to the  
6 Jacksonville community and commends the organization for its  
7 unwavering commitment to restoring hope, rebuilding lives, and  
8 strengthening the human fabric of our city. The City Council  
9 expresses its deepest appreciation to the leadership, staff,  
10 volunteers, donors, and community partners whose dedication has  
11 allowed the City Rescue Mission to remain a beacon of hope for those  
12 in need, and encourages all residents of Jacksonville to join in  
13 celebrating this remarkable milestone and to continue supporting the  
14 City Rescue Mission's work so that its legacy of compassion,  
15 restoration, and service will endure for generations yet to come.

16 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become  
17 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
18 without the Mayor's signature.

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20 Form Approved:

21  
22 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

23 Office of General Counsel

24 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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