Report on Restarting the Clean Streets Program

Prepared for Knox Presbyterian Church

Royal City Mission

August 2025

Introduction

Royal City Mission sincerely thanks Knox Presbyterian Church for funding the restart of our Clean Streets program. Clean Streets is a low-barrier work readiness initiative that combines micro-cleaning in the downtown core with opportunities to build life skills, develop employment readiness, and foster self-reliance. At the same time, it helps create healthier, more vibrant public spaces by reducing trash and debris in our community.

The program had been dormant for over a year due to lack of funding. With Knox's seed funding it is now active again and already making a visible impact in our community.

Program Overview

How Clean Streets Works

Royal City Mission identifies & connects people to our Outreach & Clean Streets programs.

Starting off small, each person is coached on how to complete a Clean Streets shift - with the goal to eventually become part of the Clean Streets' regular rotation schedule. In addition, participants are assisted in obtaining proper ID and ensuring that they have a bank account.

When on the schedule, Clean Street participants are in contact with an RCM outreach worker who builds into each persons' sense of worth, how to meet expectations, & fulfill their responsibilities.

With each shift the Clean Street participants receive a living wage, Clean Streets participants also experience the value of work and the dignity of a job well done.

While walking their route, program participants sweep, pick up litter and trash, dispose of needles responsibly, and help make downtown a better and safer place for all.

Restart Details

Royal City Mission's first step in relaunching the program was hiring an Inreach and Outreach Manager to oversee operations. Once in place, restarting Clean Streets became their top priority. The program was relaunched in less than a month and was fully running by the end of June 2025.

The restart also provided an opportunity to strengthen the program. In the past, participants received an honorarium. Under the new model, participants are placed on payroll, which helps prepare them for long-term employment. Staff support participants in gathering the necessary documentation and, when needed, assist them in opening bank accounts.

In addition, participants develop a range of practical skills, including:

- Interview preparation
- Consistently showing up for scheduled shifts
- Completing pre- and post-shift checklists
- Safely disposing of waste
- Taking pride in maintaining clean carts

These changes ensure participants leave the program better equipped for employment and with stronger habits for success.

Early Outcomes & Community Impact

The restart has generated strong interest, including a three page waitlist to get into the program. Clean Streets currently runs with 10 participants per cohort, each lasting twelve weeks. This structure helps participants build consistent work habits and life skills through regular shift schedules.

Even in its early stages, the program is showing results. One participant has already secured employment as a direct outcome of their involvement, demonstrating the program's potential to open doors for others. The program is also strengthening community connections in the downtown core. Many residents and business owners have expressed gratitude to participants for making the area cleaner, and participants themselves have noticed a visible improvement in the cleanliness of downtown.

Quotes from Participants

"People on the street are thanking me! They see a noticeable difference in cleanliness downtown."

- Program participant

"People really appreciate downtown being maintained week to week."

- Carolyn, Program Participant

Community Clean Up Statistics

10	73	53	55	52
Participants currently in the program	Shifts successfully completed	People waitlisted	Full garbage bags collected	Needles safely picked up and disposed of properly

Funding Outlook & Future Funding

Total Funds Granted:[1] $48,855
Total Funds Spent:[2] $5,177

Estimated remaining cost to complete Cohort 1 (Nov. 2025)):	$ 19,145
Estimated[3] 2026 cost per cohort:	$ 25,295
Estimated 2027 cost per cohort:	$ 26,306

With the current funding, Royal City Mission is able to run two full cohorts: the remainder of Cohort 1 in 2025 and Cohort 2 planned for Spring 2026.

To support the launch of a third cohort in Summer 2026, RCM is actively seeking additional funders. One strategy is to highlight Clean Streets as a funding priority during the Rotary Club's 2025 event, Brunch at the Arboretum. Additional funding will enable the program to continue developing participants' skills while keeping downtown spaces cleaner and safer.

Thank You

Thank you, Knox Presbyterian Church, for recognizing this need, helping to fill the gap, and relaunching a program. Your support is truly making a difference in our community.

[1] Dec 2024 - $43,725
Apr 2025 - $3,450
May 2025 - $1,680
[2] As of July 31, 2025
[3] 4% increase per year