**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Miracle Hill CEO sits on a bench for 24 hours to prompt meaningful conversations about homelessness**

*This event seeks to shed light on the severity of the issues of homelessness and prompt possible solutions.*

**Greenville, SC. January 3, 2025-** Miracle Hill Ministries CEO, Ryan Duerk, will sit on a bench outside at the Greenville Rescue Mission for 24 consecutive hours, engaging in insightful conversations with community leaders, individuals who have experienced homelessness, local churches and non-profit leaders.

Duerk will sit on the bench from 3 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22nd, to 3 p.m. on Thursday, January 23rd. Community leaders will join him on the bench, sharing personal stories and contributing to a constructive dialogue addressing homelessness, and related issues in the Upstate.

"Conversations on a Bench" aims to increase awareness and encourage community involvement in vital issues like homelessness, addiction, and mental health. By hosting continuous, open dialogue among ministry leaders, city officials, and the broader community, this initiative creates a platform for education, empathy, and actionable solutions.

This event is part of a larger, nationwide movement with 17 other rescue missions, coast to coast, hosting this event simultaneously, aiming to foster impactful discussions about homelessness and its associated challenges.

A 24-hour live stream will be on Miracle Hill’s Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Miracle Hill is inviting media representatives to join the conversation by scheduling their time on the bench. Please, contact Yolanda Campusano-Pilarte for more details.

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**ABOUT MIRACLE HILL MINISTRIES**

Miracle Hill Ministries is the Upstate’s largest, most comprehensive provider of services to homeless children and adults. Serving the Upstate since 1937, Miracle Hill’s programs include rescue shelters for the homeless, residential addiction recovery, transitional housing, and foster care. Miracle Hill’s eight thrift stores provide employment opportunities for the community as well as former Miracle Hill guests. Miracle Hill has been awarded the Certificate of Excellence as a Certified Mission by City Gate Network, a distinction given to fewer than 30 missions nationwide. Additionally, Miracle Hill’s foster care program has been accredited by CARF International. For more information about Miracle Hill, please visit www.MiracleHill.org or call 864.268.4357. Find us on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram.