



# Roseburg Rescue Mission

Men's Shelter • Samaritan Inn • Thrift Stores

*A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless*

**FEBRUARY 2021**

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## Generational Cycle

Traditional nuclear families, of parents and dependent children living in one household, are becoming less the norm. There is an increase in divorce, couples without marriage commitments, and mothers with children of more than one father without their personal or financial support. Addictions and school dropouts are problematic. There is a generational cycle developing, passing along one generation's problems to the next in compounded form. Champions are needed to step into the gap. Grandparents and great-grandparents have become a major source of sustaining their families. Understandably, they are not always up to the task. And the role of Gospel Rescue Missions is shifting from the single man to the family.



Maggie(20), Cody(2), and Dominic(7 months) are right in the middle of this social trend. They were all born into it. An abused child is raising abused children, not physical abuse, but abandonment and neglect. Maggie is on her own, a child of divorced parents, an unstable upbringing, and addiction issues.

### **Grandparents and great-grandparents have become a major source of sustaining their families.**

She said, "My grandparents have been like my parents pretty much. They are my emotional support. I feel like they are my only family. They are all I know." They are the great-grandparents of Maggie's children and help her with them. Indeed, Cody lives with them, and they have guardianship of him. Maggie is at Samaritan Inn with Dominic and has Cody for visits and overnights when she is not at work. There is a joint effort here, of Samaritan Inn along with the third and fourth

generations, to give children hope for a better life.

Faith and work ethic have been passed down to Maggie and are supported here. Her grandparents took her to church as she was growing up. Now in our children's chapel, there is a natural continuation of the foundation of faith she was raised with for her and her children. That older generation's work ethic has influenced her to get a job. She works full-time as a caregiver at an assisted living facility. And gratitude has not been lost. Child Protective Services referred her to Samaritan Inn. Maggie said, "It was good advice. I like it here. All the people are nice. It's a good support system." The generational cycle of homelessness ends here.

## Extended Family

Too often the "next of kin" question is left blank on our intake forms. There is no emergency contact information given, no one in the world our homeless person wants notified in case of serious illness, accident or death. Sometimes there literally is no one, or the individual is too embarrassed to admit their situation, or is estranged from family – whichever side has more blame. They are all alone, and we are the family extended beyond marriage and bloodlines.

What friend is there for an isolated, homeless person to call for comfort from the hospital, when a major surgery is approaching or her baby is about to be born? And where do they go when there is no where else to go upon discharge? One cannot recover from illness or have custody of her child on the street. Wheelchairs, walkers, canes, oxygen concentrators and bottles, and other medical equipment are common here. However, we are not a care facility, nor a hospice for end of life care. Death does happen here, in campsites, under bridges. A deceased, indigent person is transported by authorities to a licensed funeral home that is reimbursed for services by the Indigent Disposition Program of the State of Oregon.

### **No next of kin**

We are the kinfolk, friends, and a household to make the world a less lonely place. Here is community and companionship. We come alongside, encourage, share life. We are holiday dinners. We preach, counsel, do social work, explore possibilities, motivate, tell stories, laugh. There is hope for new life. Jesus said, "I was sick and you looked after Me" Mathew 25:36.





## Protective Equipment

Our men's Caseworker is seen here through the lexan window of a new shield. A six inch opening at the bottom has been designed into the protective measure for an exchange of paperwork. It allows for voice transmission, but reduced air flow to limit the spread of airborne viruses. The shield is six feet tall, from floor to top, so it is effective standing or sitting. It provides physical separation and helps to maintain social distancing. This is the location of the men's intake interview, an evaluation of his situation in life and development of a plan for his success. It is our information center and social service desk.

The photo on the right, shows an additional sneeze guard to the men's food service line. There was one over the hot food steamtable, the new one is over the cold service line. It provides separation, so food cannot be touched, possibly causing contamination and spread of viruses. Similar protective equipment has been added to Samaritan Inn's Dayroom and Dining Room facilities.

### Protecting staff and clients, therefore the community, is our goal.

We recently received a grant to purchase shields, sneeze guards, and other personal protective equipment. The federal CARES Act distributed funds through the City of Roseburg to nonprofit organizations directly affected by the COVID-19 virus. A few months earlier, another grant was awarded to us through the same program by Umpqua Health Alliance. That grant provided for remodeling two restrooms (including new windows for light and airflow), security measures, ultraviolet light in air ventilation ductwork, sanitation stations, kitchen equipment, as well as personal protective equipment. It is highly unusual for the Mission to receive government funding, but the pandemic knew no religious restrictions and in this case neither did the government. All funds received for equipment were directly applied to additional costs incurred by the virus.

As of this writing in late December, the two-week COVID-19 "Freeze" has become the "Extreme Risk" category for Douglas County. Volunteers are not able to do chapel messages, or any other activities, at our Men's Shelter or Samaritan Inn. Chapels continue to be done by staff and showing Christian videos. Non-residents receive three meals a day to go, while residents continue to eat in our dining rooms. Our thrift stores operate limited hours from 12 to 6pm, Monday through Saturday, and at 50% of customer capacity. Our Administration Office is closed to the public, and our receptionist works from home doing donation receipts and stuffing newsletters. Face masks are required for staff, program supervisors, food servers, and everyone in our stores. We continue with new screening, security, and sanitizing methods.

Protecting staff and clients, therefore the community, is our goal. We continue to operate with diligence and caution, as we meet the needs of our homeless neighbors. We have been blessed through this pandemic, and whatever the future brings, we are still blessed.

Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director



### items needed

Egg Noodles  
Tomato Sauce  
Diced Tomatoes  
Mushroom Soup  
Refried Beans  
Pinto & White Dry Beans  
Salt, Pepper, Mayo  
Canned Fruit & Veggies  
Pancake Syrup  
Taco Seasoning  
Baby Diapers & Wipes  
Warm Coats, Umbrellas  
Disinfectant Spray  
Disinfectant Wipes  
Bottles of Water

**used bikes & parts**  
are for sale in our  
Furniture Store.

### items accepted

At Our dock  
806 SE Pine St  
Mon to Sat 9am to 6pm  
Furniture  
Household Items  
Kitchen Wares  
Sporting Goods  
Electronics  
Clothing, Bicycles  
Walkers - Wheelchairs  
*Items need to be in good  
condition and working order.  
Mattresses not accepted.*