



# Roseburg Rescue Mission

Men's Shelter • Samaritan Inn • Thrift Stores

*A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless*

*JUNE 2021*

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## Finding Home

Homelife for Rose had always included her mother, during her first 31 years of life. That was the case except for a brief couple of months she lived with a boyfriend. It was a bad experience of abuse, that sent her back to the security of her mother, not to try that again. Rose and her mom shared rent on a house, depending on each other financially and emotionally. Rose has a learning disability, her mom had liver cancer. Her mom passed away in July, 2019. Two weeks later, Rose broke an ankle. She developed an overeating compulsion dealing with the grief. There were compatibility issues with members of her family. Then she found a temporary home with true friends. It worked well for several months during her grieving and physical recovery, until her friend's snowbird parents (that own the home), returned for the winter. Her friend helped her sign up for HUD Section 8 housing for low-income and disabled people.

Samaritan Inn has been Rose's waiting place, indeed one of personal growth and transition to living on her own. Her friend accompanied her here. Rose remembered, "My mind was like, its all brand new, crazy. I didn't know what to do. I was scared becoming homeless, being around a lot of people and strangers. I don't drive, never have." Dawn was on duty at the desk that afternoon. Rose said, "She is a really nice lady. She talked to me about what's going on, not scary. It relieved me of any fear I had. They helped me get into the routine. Its a really nice place that women can go to get the help that they need."

## personal growth and transition to living on her own

Rose said, "Chapels were awesome. Randy and Susy were the first (volunteers) I met and they were really awesome, caring about us and teaching us about what Jesus could do for us, heal and restore relationships. Now my relationship with my family is a lot better. We text." Rose is a member of a local church. She attends and volunteers at Celebrate Recovery, a Christian organization that helps people with "hurts, habits, or hangups."

A caseworker at Samaritan Inn met with her to develop a plan and budget. Finally in March of this year, Rose was informed by a Public Housing Agency that she was at the top of the waiting list. After receiving a housing voucher (with a limit on rent and utilities), she went online to find a property management company with HUD approved housing. She found an apartment in Roseburg on a bus route. Rose lived at Samaritan Inn 17 months finding home. She was now ready for her own place.

## Building Relationships

Early Sunday morning Pete would lay claim to a very profitable panhandling corner. It was easy money and would keep him drunk for days. One cold, winter morning on my way to church, I waved to him, acknowledging his presence and behavior. He was flying a sign that read, "Homeless, Please Help If You Can. God Bless You." It invoked a desire in people to help him, and he knew it. But that was the last time I would see him. That night in camp, he became severely ill from alcohol poisoning, a condition of too much alcohol in the blood, that causes parts of the brain to shut down and affects the nervous system to slow breathing, lowers heart rate and body temperature. He was transported to the hospital, then discharged to a medical rehabilitation center, and later passed away. Pete died of toxic charity.

## Toxic Charity

A few years ago, a person with decades of experience in urban ministry wrote a book titled "Toxic Charity." It coined the phrase "toxic charity" now used among nonprofit organizations that provide services to people in need. The author essentially stated that "good intentions" can translate into ineffective care or even harm, outcomes need to be examined, and that we evaluate our charity by the rewards we receive, rather than benefits to those served. Too often, we respond in crisis mode, without long term concern for fostering dependency. And we need to develop relationships.

Roseburg Rescue Mission understands that transformation comes with building long term relationships of trust, not just handouts.



# New Dining Room Restrooms

Last year's major construction project was postponed due to the uncertainty over the financial effects of the coronavirus. Resources were redirected to protective equipment and security measures. Now, we are back on track to complete a requirement of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) on our men's shelter campus. A few years ago, we changed the use of a thrift store into our new Dayroom-Chapel, and the use of the old Dayroom-Chapel into an extension of our Dining Room. That permit process reviewed code requirements for paved parking spaces and handicap accessibility. One of those requirements is to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for restrooms at our Dining Room. That is this year's project.

Our Kitchen-Dining Room was built in 1903, apparently without electricity or running water. Restrooms were outhouses. Sometime after original construction, restrooms were attached to the building, obviously not using today's building code standards. Opening up walls and ceilings provide a new look at unexpected remodel costs. So this project is being done on a time and material basis by a trusted contractor. As the work progressed, it became obvious that complete demolition was required on the restroom and adjacent structures.

## complete demotion was required on the restroom and adjacent structures

By necessity, the remodeling portion extends to the adjoining hallway, pantry, dishwashing room, and coverings over the walk-in freezer and cooler. There will be new siding and roofing. Windows will be added for light and airflow, as well as new, more secure entry doors.

When we first considered this project, the plan included more extensive work to build a larger addition. We wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to expand our services. However in considering the age and depreciated value of the building, we concluded that good stewardship was to limit the scope and cost of the project to that which is necessary to meet codes and keep the facility in good repair. As it is, the cost will undoubtedly approach \$100,000. Just this year, we paid off the construction loan on our men's dormitory remodel that was done in 2018 and 2019.

## We remain the only shelter in Douglas County to serve three meals every day of the year.

If we do not meet ADA standards for the restrooms, we cannot continue our food service operation. As it is, we remain the only shelter in Douglas County to serve three meals every day of the year. Providing these meals is one of the most basic human service needs that we meet for the hungry and homeless of our community.

One last requirement remains to be done on the CUP. It is to redesign the paved parking spaces in front of our offices and Thrift Store, so that drivers will not be able to back vehicles onto Pine St. Parking will be parallel to the buildings with a separate driveway running along side the spaces. Having a single exit will improve safety for entering traffic. Our plan is to complete that paving project next year.

Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director



## items needed

Quilts 60" X 90"  
Egg Noodles  
Tomato Sauce  
Diced Tomatoes  
Mushroom Soup  
Refried Beans  
Gravy Mix  
Spices, Salt, Mayo  
Canned Fruit & Veggies  
Pancake Syrup  
Diapers & Wipes  
Disinfectant Spray  
Disinfectant Wipes  
Bottles of Water  
Women's Deodorant  
Twin Sheet Sets

## used bikes & parts

are for sale in our Furniture Store.

## thrift stores

shop our stores to help homeless men, women and children.

## estate planning

leave a legacy of hope at Roseburg Rescue Mission.

## 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.*