



Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope
for the Homeless*

49 *Years*
1964-2013

FEBRUARY 2013

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Developing Healthy Relationships

Insecurity and codependent relationships were the sphere of Paula's social life. Her relationship with her mother was stressed by the inconsistency of multiple stepfathers. She remembers separate family photos: the stepfather with his kids, and one with Paula and her mom. In addition, she had a polycystic medical condition that affected her insulin level and tendency for weight gain.

Marriage did not break the cycle; really, it confirmed codependency as a tolerated lifestyle. Unhealthy as it was, it seemed better than the alternative. She had a determination not to be a broken family, like she had with her mother, even as it meant other negative effects. Paula and her husband argued about money, disciplining their children, shared responsibilities.

Then it got worse. She had a weight loss surgery done that caused her to lose a considerable amount of weight within a few months. Paula said, "It changed my shoe size to everything about me. It was like I had a face-lift. I had my own mind now. He always wanted to know where I was going, what I was doing, and he accused me of things." He was jealous. The tension was too much. The family split. She actually slept in her car for a couple of months, while they co-parented in their house at separate times of the day. Then she surfed from one person's couch to another, eventually falling into the trap of despair and criminal misbehavior. She said, "I was stuffing feelings and pain – liked the food issue. It would make me feel good. I didn't care. I had nothing else to lose."

Paula's probation officer gave her a directive to go to the Mission's Samaritan Inn. Her PO called ahead, expecting her to arrive here or she would be sent back to jail. She said, "I went to Samaritan Inn scared, alone, shaking. I had no idea walking up thoughts stairs what was on the other side of that door. I had no family, no friends, no money, no car. How was I going to do all these things? But this place is amazing. In an hour, my tears subsided; I wasn't scared anymore. I knew it was going to be OK. I felt the presence of God. There was peace within and love in the home. I started praying here that God would make some changes in our lives. I didn't know how to fix it."

A lack of housing did not cause their homelessness, nor would housing solve their problem. Broken relationships with God and family as well as an identity issue were the problems. Our Kinsman Redeemer, the Founder and Author of relationships, is the answer. The Lord is our Rescuer. Housing does not rescue or heal broken relationships. Paula prayed with staff. She said, "I went to Bible studies and really got into the Word, building a personal relationship with the Lord. I saw Him work in my life and other peoples' lives. Encouragement was all around me. God restored the relationship with my mom and me. Then my husband and I would talk and pray together on the phone. There was spiritual growth, love and respect. We got back together again as a couple and a family." Paula now has a new identity and is living in renewed relationships with God, husband and children!



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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many ways to be "A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless".

Here are some of our current needs:

Samaritan Inn

Chapel Services

Bible Study

Men's Mission

Chapel Service

Thrift Store

GED Tutors

Apply on our website or in our office.

BASIC SERVICES

For men, women and children

Food: 3 meals every day

Clothing: Available to all

Recovery Program: 20

Transitional Housing: 36

Client Shelter: 120

Emergency Shelter: 24

Total Beds Available: 200

Dayrooms: Open all day
Laundry, showers, phone, etc.

Thrift Stores: Items vouchered to those in need, sold to others

Chapel: A part of our daily lives.



Ten More Beds Not Enough

Anticipating the need for more non-program men's beds this winter, we began to remodel an area to add ten beds. The existing beds had never been full before. But even before the work was completed, we filled, not only the existing beds, there were more than ten men sleeping on camp mattresses on the floor. To meet the still increasing need, this year we are planning to shift the uses of a couple buildings, remodeling yet again. In the meantime, we have emergency shelter capacity to sleep men on the floor of our chapel-dayroom.

It's the economy. Unemployment is high, many have run out of benefits. Oregon county budgets are being cut. Some neighboring counties are reducing their number of sheriff deputies, therefore inmates in jails, putting more people on the street. Many end up in missions. Nonprofit, Gospel Rescue Missions have become government required places to live. If a person sanctioned to be at the Mission as a part of parole or probation is not here, then he or she can be sent back to jail by a probation officer (like Paula in the front page story). We are not a part of the correctional system; we receive no government money. Neither are we a part of the mental health system, yet we receive patients that used to be in government facilities. They are being released or referred to missions as the only stable environment available to them. We are not complaining, indeed we are blessed, fortunate to share the Good News of salvation with so many that need the encouraging Word of hope in life today and forever.

Sure it's winter, the cold and busy time of the year. That has only exaggerated the current problem. Homeless come into the Mission from their summer camps. The freezing temperatures are hard on those that are sick and aged. They are vulnerable to the weather and even predators looking to take advantage of someone. People have value.

"Not one sparrow is forgotten before God. Do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows." Luke 12:6-7

Increased numbers of people at the Mission are not for a lack of assistance by our staff. We are diligently working with clients to meet their needs. Staff are counseling, setting goals and referring for other social services like medical, dental, psychological issues, medications, identification, social security, housing, foster care. We help fill out paperwork and take the most needy to their appointments. Clients on our New Life program are learning addiction recovery and life skills like writing resumes, interview training, job search methods, personal budgeting. People are getting jobs and moving out to independence. And always the Gospel is preached, telling of God's great love and value He has for us. We have been called to love the Lord and our neighbor, even those in the greatest need, indeed those that require a bit of risk to help. So we obey, follow, add more beds.

Lynn Antis, Executive Director



Items Needed:

Canned Goods

Spices - Pasta

Coffee

Oatmeal

Disposable Razors

Deodorants

Twin Sheets

Towels

Pillows

**Remember the
Roseburg Rescue
Mission in your
Estate Planning**