



# Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope  
for the Homeless*

*APRIL 2018*

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## All The Means To Succeed

Every workday morning Norma diligently puts her two-year-old son Conner in a stroller at Samaritan Inn. Then she walks to day care and to class at the local beauty school. In the evening, she repeats the routine in reverse. It's the new disciplined schedule that she keeps as her plan out of being homeless and providing a stable home life for herself and Conner. They return here tired, hungry, and appreciative of the organization waiting for them. Norma said, "It's amazing here, the structure, bedtime, not having my phone at night, and no Facebook at night. There is a better sleep routine for going to school. We knew what was going to happen: chapel, bath, Conner in bed at 8pm every night."

Life has not always been so orderly for Norma. Chaos used to prevail in drug and alcohol addiction. She successfully completed an addiction recovery program, and has been clean and sober for three years. While still in her addiction, she had two other children older than Conner. For the well-being of those children, the Department of Human Services placed the older child in a foster care home, and the younger in custody of the father. Foster care is an overburdened system in which very difficult decisions have to be made regarding the health and safety of children. Her older son was adopted by his first foster parents after two years. Her younger son suffered abuse by his own father, resulting in an attachment disorder and bouncing around in seven different foster homes. He is now close to being adopted. Norma is now motivated and determined to be a good mom for Conner.

In her search for a suitable place to live, they stayed at the home of her brother and sister-in-law. Norma said, "They had their own family dynamics going on, and they did not have room for us. We were sleeping on the couch there." Her only other family is her mom, and that was not going to work either. She said that Conner thrives at Samaritan Inn and likes to come back here, calling it their big family and home. He even calls some of the women here "grandma."

An important part of the environment here is to understand what people need for fulfillment. That void that we feel cannot be satisfied by the vices of self-indulgence. We have an inborn need to put our attention on our Creator and Savior. Conner sits on his mother's lap during children's chapel and they sing Veggie Tale Songs along with the video. Norma said, "It was taking time with him to cuddle with him. It was a bonding time." And of adult chapel, "Just the energy in the room. It's hard to not be happy when there is worship going on." She added, "Before living here, I knew there was a God, but I never had a relationship with God. This place really helped me with that. I accepted Jesus at Samaritan Inn."

Norma and Conner have hope and a future. As soon as she graduates from school in March, she has a job lined up in a beauty salon. The now free child care becomes a \$150 per month co-pay. Their wait for subsidized housing will be up soon. And they will launch as a family with all the means to succeed.



***Norma & Conner  
have hope  
and a future.***

# Foster Care Affects Samaritan Inn

A crisis in the Foster Care system has greatly increased the number of mothers and children living at our Samaritan Inn. The demand for foster homes exceeds the supply of willing and qualified families available in Oregon. So many mothers chose drugs over custody of their children. Families that would have otherwise been separated are allowed to stay together only because of the accountability that our shelter provides. Some mothers are not permitted to live with their children unsupervised. Some are actually grounded to our property or given very limited permission to go to designated locations by the Department of Human Services. We have become an extension of a government program with no complaints on either side. Samaritan Inn and DHS are both grateful that we are now right across the street from each other. Its a convenient walk for clients and caseworkers. DHS has a goal of doing what is best for families. Our goal is to have an eternal effect on their lives, starting right now in this life.

***“Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the stranger or the poor.” Zechariah 7:10***

Most mothers here are without a husband and the children without a father to help raise them. They are strangers to us, and they are poor. Most are victims of domestic violence, often caused by addictions. But let not the children suffer from the mistakes of their parents. Children become parents and model the behavior they have been shown. The generational cycle of abuse has to stop. Mothers and children need to experience an environment of healthy living.

Recently, we had 19 mothers and 29 children in 17 family rooms, double rooming some. Our single women’s dormitory has nearly filled also. We are painfully close to being back to turning women and children away just two years after going from a 50 bed facility to one with 104 beds.

Samaritan Inn was added to the Roseburg Rescue Mission in 1985 for the occasional woman or mother and child needing emergency shelter. In the first few months of operation, there were one or two women per night. A year later, the average was five. Four years after opening, eight women and children found safe shelter each night. Today, women and children out number the men at the Mission, if the 40 rental rooms for men are not counted, and some nights even if they are counted. That growth is not because of an increase in the Douglas County census, nor from people moving here for our social services. It is because of a change in our society, lifestyles of how we treat ourselves and others. There is also a recent shortage of rental units in our community, causing women and children to stay at Samaritan Inn longer as they wait for housing.

***One of the keys for success is to focus.***

Our primary purpose is evangelism and emergency shelter. If we were to put our limited resources into some long term housing project, then could not meet the needs of the homeless, we would have failed. Housing construction is the work of government and private developers. We have to stay focused on meeting emergency shelter needs, even expanding them if needed.

*Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director*



## Rescue Roseburg

### SOUP RECIPE

For 18 Gallons

Will Feed 144 People

Serving Size 16 Ounces

Ingredients Needed:

Dry White Beans

Ham Shanks

Yellow Onions

Carrots, Celery

Diced Tomatoes

Canned Corn

Olive Oil, Salt, Pepper

Garlic, Thyme, Parsley

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