



# Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope  
for the Homeless*

*JUNE 2018*

752 SE Pine St • PO Box 1937 • Roseburg, OR 97470 • (541) 673-3004 • [www.roseburgrescuemission.org](http://www.roseburgrescuemission.org)



## “I Wanted A Life”

Sarah had more than her share of obstacles to overcome. She was born premature. She started life with significant hearing loss, blindness in one eye, a hole in her heart, and fluid in her lungs. When she was three-years-old, she was sent away to a foster home. Six years later, she returned home to her single mother. Sarah graduated from high school, but she had trouble finding employment because of her disabilities. Vocational Rehabilitation helped her get a job in a department store stocking clothing racks. Then Sarah got a job at the VA facility in White City. It was a part-time position in food service, open only to veterans or people with disabilities.

But, Sarah had other trouble in life with an abusive, drug addicted boyfriend, and his dealers wanted money from her. There was domestic violence and threats from others. She fled for her safety to Roseburg, as other victims flee from our community to remote locations.

Home became an old, leaky trailer in a mobile home park out of town. It was affordable, but cold and too far from job opportunities. In time, Sarah was employed in food service at the Roseburg VA. She had to be to work at 6am. Because of her physical disabilities, at first, it took two hours to ride her bicycle to work. She was a target of harassment

at her mobile home park. For her safety and convenience, she moved in with roommates in a house in Roseburg. She said the landlord caused a hostile environment, not letting her use a portable heater, refrigerator or internet, because the electric bill was too high. When her bicycle tires were slashed and her cat disappeared, it was time to move.

“I’m tired of people being held down. I want to be free,” Sarah grieved. “I feel like the shelter (Samaritan Inn) saved my life,” she told us, “I was so broken, I was at a point of

giving up on my life. I was tired of being so low, tired of living. I wanted a life. Its like a lifeboat. I see a really bright future. The fear has been taken away, there is peace.” She continued to say, “It gave me a second chance financially. I got tired of SSI, it was not enough to live on. I wanted to help vets, to be a role model, to show them they can do it. And my depression

was getting bad sitting around. I need people to talk to. I have to keep myself busy.” Now Sarah is surrounded by people. She has made friends here and encourages those with similar struggles. She added, “I like chapel; it gives me hope. I feel like God kept me alive. I have had so many close calls. I feel safe. I’m scared to be by myself. I want to be free.” Then Sara quoted, “If therefore the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed” John 8:36.

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to overcome.***

# Dining At The Mission

Carts and bicycles are temporarily parked outside the Mission's Dining Room downtown. Their owners are inside eating one of three meals served every day. Backpacks are left outside on the window sill or sidewalk for security reasons. Homeless people that are camping outdoors are welcome to eat here. Mealtimes are a point of contact and accountability. Campers can connect with our staff and program members. There is a lingering question in mind, "What do you really have to offer me?" Our answer is, "A caseworker that can help you through every step from here to success." That cannot be accomplished through handouts or momentary conversation. Diners cannot be under the influence of drugs or alcohol; they have to be responsible for their behavior, and mealtimes have to be safe for everyone.

## ***What do you really have to offer me?***

Homeless people on street corners do not hold signs that read, "Looking for a caseworker", because that is not what panhandlers want. Dining at the Mission is not panhandling; it is entering a hub of activity designed to produce independent living. No one ever works for or pays for meals here. Food is one of the most basic needs of life. It is provided on-site as a gateway of hope to all the social services available at the Mission and in the community.



Foreign missionaries often provide services like digging wells or medical care for the privilege of preaching the Gospel. As domestic missionaries, here at the Roseburg Rescue Mission, we provide services like meals, clothing, shelter and programs, so we can have the opportunity to share the Good News in chapel and Bible studies. Good works alone have no eternal effect.

***"Loose the chains of injustice...set the oppressed free... share your food with the hungry...provide the poor wanderer with shelter...clothe him." Isaiah 58:6-7***

Dining at the Mission is an invitation out of a defeating lifestyle to one of overcoming obstacles. Often, what keeps some people from attending church is the invitation, the ask. Word of mouth on the street is a powerful communication network. They know we are here, whether it is admitted or not. Hunger is a motivator. Handing out sandwiches and sleeping bags is an invitation to nowhere. Our community has a "somewhere", here at the Mission, for the hungry and homeless. Indeed, our dayrooms and dormitories are underutilized. Even our dining rooms seem at times to be enticements that are insufficient to draw in some homeless campers.

We offer hope and a future. A transition can be made from being a receiver to being a contributor. A healthy self-esteem can be developed. Joy can be obtained. And it can happen with a meal in the context of a complete offering of a new life.

*Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director*



# Rescue Roseburg

## ITEMS NEEDED:

Oatmeal  
Pancake Mix & Syrup  
Canned Vegetables  
Egg Noodles  
Tomato Sauce  
Salt & Pepper  
Cooking Oil  
Deodorant  
Disposable Razors  
Diapers & Baby Wipes

## ACCEPTED AT OUR DOCK

806 SE Pine St  
Mon to Sat 9am to 6pm

Furniture  
Household Items  
Kitchen Wares  
Sporting Goods  
Electronics  
Clothing  
Bicycles

*Items need to be in good condition and working order.*

*Mattresses not accepted.*

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