



Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope
for the Homeless*

JULY 2018

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

3 Nights Under A Bridge Enough

After spending three nights under a bridge to get out of the rain, Gabriel had enough. It was bad enough that his job and girlfriend did not work out, now he was homeless. The first building block of an independent life to fall was his job. He worked at a local motel as a maintenance man and housekeeper. There were slow days when he would not be called into work that turned into not enough paid hours to live on. He quit to be freed up to look for a better job. In the meantime, trouble with his girlfriend got him kicked out of the house. Gabriel said, "At first, I was kind of scared. I had no place to go." But three cold, rainy nights under a Roseburg bridge was all the pity party he needed to investigate his options. Using his cell phone, he went to the phone book to look up shelters. He walked into the Mission men's dayroom cold, wet, and dirty. His first impression of the Mission was the same as how he felt about himself at the time. Gabriel said, "But, it started growing on me. I had a shower and used the restroom, warmed up, dried out. People started talking and laughing. People were having conversations. Hearing people being happy was encouraging, and I started feeling better about myself. I'm not a morning person, but everybody was up at 6am, so I thought I had better go look for work. Having a bed and things, we just take for granted."

A week after arriving at the Mission, Gabriel got a full-time, minimum wage job. He was walking down a sidewalk on his way to a different job interview at a store,



**A week after arriving
at the Mission,
Gabriel got a full-time,
minimum wage job.**

limitations, but can still work a physical job. Housing has been difficult to find because of his history. At the Mission, all those issues were overlooked and a new opportunity at life was provided.

When asked about our chapel services, he said, "At first, I thought, I probably need this. It was uplifting. I never thought about it. But when I was depressed, hearing the Lord's Word really helped. I know what Jesus did, and what He stood for, and what I try to follow. In chapel, they just said to pray, so I pray in my room." From sleeping under a bridge, to willfully praying to the Lord in a private, rented room is what the Mission is all about.

but never made it to the appointment. Along the way he met a landscaping crew at work and was hired to a position that he preferred. That was two years ago. He has been promoted and is now making \$14 per hour. After sleeping in our dormitory for a month, he began renting a private room here in our men's Transitional Housing Program. Its a program that includes weekly chapel and accountability rules including curfew, sobriety and no overnight guests.

Gabriel has lived with a physical disability most of his life. When he was just five-years-old, he had his right clavicle bone removed because of cancer. It is the front shoulder bone, and it was not replaced. There is some slouching on that side and protrusion of his shoulder blade, because it is not held in place by the missing bone. It has been an obstacle for him to overcome in relating with people and in employment. He has some

Rescue Roseburg

ITEMS NEEDED:

TOMATO SAUCE
ELBOW MACARONI
CANNED GOODS
COFFEE, MAYO
ROLLED OATS
PANCAKE MIX, SYRUP
COOKING OIL

SHOP OUR
THRIFT STORE &
FURNITURE STORE

GET GREAT DEALS
ALL THE TIME.

ACCEPTED AT
OUR DOCK
806 SE Pine St
Mon-Sat 9am to 6pm
FURNITURE
HOUSEHOLD, KITCHEN
SPORTING GOODS
ELECTRONICS, BICYCLES
CLOTHING



This Summer's Building Project

In our January newsletter, it was reported that bricks had become loose and started pulling away from the wood framed structure on the west side of the men's dormitory. We took counsel from engineers, general contractors, brick masons, and an architect. It was determined that all the bricks on the west side had to be removed. We submitted a proposal for repairs to the City of Roseburg Planning Department and the Historic Resource Review Commission. They approved. When this building was constructed in circa 1895, the mortar used between the bricks was a mixture of sand and lime, no cement. Many of the bricks were just picked off the west wall by hand. During this same period of closely observing the condition of the bricks, a bulge could be seen growing on the south wall. The south wall bricks also had to be removed quickly before the integrity of the wall failed. The above photo is of the west and south walls at the corner of SE Sheridan St and SE Lane Av. It was determined that the bricks on all four walls had to be removed. We decided to use a siding that puts a layer of insulation then plaster on the walls, because the old building needed a lightweight material. The City Planning Department approved it, because it upgraded the safety and appearance, as well as, blended with other buildings in the neighborhood. Improvements are also being made to increase the sheer strength of the walls. All of the windows are being replaced and some are being added where they were originally located. Wood doors are being replaced with metal ones for security.

The two-story building was originally called the Sheridan Street Market and Rooming House. The first known businesses occupying it were the Harness and Johnson Grocery Store on one side of the building and the Roseburg Meat Market on the other side. Upstairs, a single room

occupancy hotel was operated. With the train station (now a restaurant) across the street and the Lane Av bridge (now demolished) crossing the South Umpqua River, it was the center of Roseburg. This building was rented by Norman Williams, the Mission's founding director. Then he personally bought it in 1975, and sold it to the Mission in 1976. At first, all Mission services were provided in this one building. Today, the first floor is our men's dormitory, and the second floor is part of our Transitional Housing Program, renting rooms to men.

The single story building to the left in the photo was built sometime after the two-story building. It was purchased in 1977 and has served several different purposes. It is also getting a face-lift, only just on the street side to blend with the other building. Today, it has a men's dormitory and one of our New Life Program living areas.

Most of the bricks were recyclable and given to a local restaurant to be used as a walkway for them.

This was a totally unexpected project, not in our financial schedule of jobs to do. We still have two significant improvement requirements, with due dates, for our Conditional Use Permit on our dayroom and dining room expansions. By next year, we have to demolish our downtown dining room restrooms and rebuild with new, larger, ADA approved facilities. That project will affect part of the upstairs and everything on the ground floor including the grade, drainage and parking lot behind our dining room. To meet the deadline, we need to do the architectural and engineering drawings this year. As of this writing, we have only done the emergency brick removal on the dormitory building. Contractor bids have not been received yet. We do not know the cost of, nor of any grants that may be received, on the dormitory. Yet, another project looms ahead.

**“Bring the homeless poor into the house”
Isaiah 58:7**

My Summer gift for the homeless & men's dormitory.

Yes! I want to help homeless men, women and children in need and keep the only homeless men's shelter in Douglas County in good working condition.

I'd like to contribute: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please accept my donation by:

Check: PLEASE ENCLOSE

Credit Card: CIRCLE ONE



Card Number _____

Exp.: _____

Security Code: _____

Roseburg Rescue Mission

PO Box 1937 • Roseburg, OR 97470-0438

Thank You!

You will receive a receipt for your tax deductible gift. A return envelope is enclosed.

