



Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope
for the Homeless*

JANUARY 2019

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Mission Launching Pad

Our country is experiencing a syndrome of adults not leaving their parents' homes in the customary time frame, and continuing to return home again. Its called "failure to launch," inspiring a popular movie by the same name, because it struck such a cord with so many. An unusual number of adults not launching today have college degrees and some have succeeded as athletes. Its more psychology than ability; yet, there is a shortage of affordable housing. Still, doting parents can handicap a child, especially if he has some special need already. They may not be firm enough with expectations, yet afraid of their child not being ready or able to be independent.

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Parents can be overprotective, considering it love. A child can have a low level of motivation, low self-esteem, a disability. Disappointments can result in having lower expectations. While some appear to not have their careers or social life significantly affected, others struggle with depression and addiction. Any combination of issues with family members can affect a person, even transferring them between parent and child. Still, some families consider it a blessing to be together longer. Voluntarily or forcibly a person can leave home at any age, some becoming homeless.

Whatever Josh's life experience had been, for we have no input from his

Cold Camping

Given the choice between sleeping in a nice, warm bed in a safe place or spending the night in a sleeping bag on the ground outdoors, some purposefully choose cold camping. Addictions are that powerful; they defy even the basic instinct of survival. Some cannot imagine others making such a freewill decision, so they blame a lack of employment and housing. This is the time of year that separates die-hard from fair-weather campers. If the cold and rain will not drive them into the Mission's empty beds, some housing program will not do it either. The problem lies deeper.

dignity, not toxic charity

Winter camping can cause hypothermia, frostbite, pneumonia, influenza. There is no accountability for addictions nor support for mental illness. There are dangers of being beaten up, raped, robbed. Some die. Its lonely, depressing, aimless. As a society, we collectively say that we want to end homelessness, yet so many continue to support the very practice. Providing camping equipment and supplies does not end homelessness, it promotes that behavior. Handouts end up as litter. Individuals need dignity, not toxic charity. Helping others has to be done with the bigger picture of ultimate outcome.

For many years, the Mission has had a cold weather policy that waves most of the barriers for entry due to past bad behavior. We strive for the balance between accountability and compassion.

parents, at 40-years-old he ventured out on his own with no means of support. He said, his parents left it up to him. It was time; he knew it; he did it. In a desperate attempt to find his own way in life, he hit the streets, camped out a few nights, hitchhiked to the Mission. His action was a combination of floundering in life and the bravery to take a risk. He has achieved a GED. He has never married, has no children, and has no plans for either. Josh's situation is not a generational cycle from his parent's behavior. Addictions are not an issue in their family. His father works in manufacturing and his mother in retail. No matter the reason, home was not going to be his launching pad to an independent life. Josh was in good company, the Mission is a temporary home to many that did not launch from their own homes. We are their new launching pad, starting point, motivation, incentive, force against resistance. We impose requirements on every person using Mission facilities. We launch people; we do not enable nor coddle them.

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Josh went through every phase of all our programs. For a few months he slept in our dormitory and did some day labor in the community, hoping a permanent job would develop. Then he joined our New Life Program, looking for a better opportunity. He started in our Pipeline, a phase before classes begin, to orient him to a different living area and work assignment. Then he went through phases one through three, taking classes in Bible study and recovery (which includes destructive behaviors like codependency, isolation, and any negative action or emotion used to cope). He also had life skill classes, counseling, and goal setting. Josh said, "I had never used a computer. Now I am able to use the computer at the Employment Office." In our program, he typed his own resume. His work assignment was in our Thrift Store, developing job skills and learning to work with other people. He liked pricing clothing in that position. After about one year, he graduated from the classes into phase four, the job search stage. He continued to work in our store. Filling out applications and doing interviews was a struggle with no results. Even with our men's manager helping to complete applications and setting up interviews, success seemed out of reach. Sometimes, it is who you know. Another Mission resident, who had been through our program and is renting a room here now, is a local restaurant manager. He placed Josh into a dishwashing job. For the first time in too long, Josh has a job and is doing well at it. Employment graduated him out of our program. After a few weeks, he had the money saved to rent a room in our Transitional Housing Program.

At the Mission, we have a bigger worldview than just attaining physical self-sufficiency.

Without faith in the Lord, life is just motion. Chapel is a part of Mission life, whether in the dormitory, program, or renting a room. Josh has been to many such services here. He chose to participate in group Bible studies in our program, asking and answering questions. His understanding, faith and hope have grown. He has been encouraged and uplifted, especially when going through a difficult transition in his life.

Josh has launched to independence. He is content with success that he has achieved. Indeed, he has become an example to others.



Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director

Rescue

**"I rescued
the poor who
cried for help"
Job 29:12**

NEED CANS OF:

Tomato Sauce
Diced Tomatoes
Corn, Green Beans
Sliced Carrots
Fruit Cocktail
Peaches, Pears
Mushroom Soup
Refried Beans

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.*

Vehicle Donations Accepted



Receipts for
Tax Deduction
Provided