



Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope
for the Homeless*

JUNE 2019

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Mission Is A Transition Home

Timothy had served his term in the Oregon Department of Corrections. He had time to realize that his past way of life was destructive. The addictions, anger, and poor choices were over. Timothy accepted the Lord while incarcerated. At thirty-one-years of age, he was born again into a new man. He was ready for a fresh start in life, and needed a transition home, an opportunity for success.

The Oregon DOC has a short-term transitional leave program, that provides, "an opportunity to secure appropriate transitional support when necessary for successful reintegration into the community prior to the inmate's discharge to post-prison supervision." It assists, "in preparing a transition plan and in identifying and applying for an employment, educational or other transitional opportunity in the community." This trans leave program allows for up to a 120 day early release and is not available to those with more serious convictions. The Mission is an approved living environment. In that sense, we have become an extension of the corrections system. Yet because we do not receive compensation, we are free to engage in our ministry. Our presence reduces the tax burden of the corrections systems, and allows for our impact in the lives of men and women.

Timothy was given a 90 day trans leave option, conditioned on securing appropriate housing. He requested permission to live with his grandparents, but it was denied. The home inspection revealed a situation that did not allow an approval. Then he asked to live with his mother. When he was released, he had 24 hours to

check in with his Parole Officer. Only when he checked in with his PO did he find out that his mother's home had also been denied. Felons were not allowed in her mobile home park, as is the case in a lot of housing units. He was upset over the dilemma, but chose freedom. He was homeless, penniless, jobless, and had court fines to pay.

Not knowing what to expect here, he was encouraged that, "everybody was pretty friendly." He was met with a communal living arrangement similar to what he had been used to. We have a common dayroom, courtyard, dining room, dormitory, and chapel. He did not need our program, he already had all the rehabilitation needed. Getting a job was his mandated priority, and part-time,

minimum wage jobs are plentiful. Ten days after arriving here, he went to work in a restaurant. He thought he was going to be a dishwasher, but the desperate employer handed him a cook's apron. Five months later, his name was at the top of our list for the Mission's Transitional Housing Program. He moved into a rented private room in one of our single room occupancy hotels that have restrooms and showers at the end of the hallway. At about the same time, he had his old traffic fines paid and was able to get his driver's license and buy a vehicle. He works the graveyard shift plus extra hours, so the room was appreciated for sleeping during the day.

Timothy said, "I am a new and different person. I don't go looking for trouble," And he has not been any trouble in nine months of being here. The Mission is Timothy's transition home, easing the assimilation process to independent living.



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Children Are the Future

32 homeless children, a new record for us, were safely with their respective 12 mothers at our Samaritan Inn recently. At the same time, the State of Oregon reported that more than 80 foster care children are living in out of state, for profit shelters. Oregon is no longer allowed to house children in hotels or offices as temporary emergency lodging. There are not enough foster homes nor facilities in state. In the last two years, there has been a significant increase in the use of out of state agencies, many of which are closed campus, remodeled detention centers. Most of those children are hard to place, needing counseling, not confinement nor isolation from family.

If not for the structured environment of our Samaritan Inn, the Department of Human Services would have to separate more families for the well being of the children. We provide a place where they can stay together, accountable for addictions and free from abusers. Their alternative is separation or endangerment. Some mothers are given an ultimatum to live at Samaritan Inn

or lose custody of their children, some mothers are restricted to our property or have limited travel. Otherwise, these children may have no place to be transferred to in this state. Still other women here wait to be reunited with their children that are presently in foster care. Just like the front page story, we are an unofficial extension of this government program, also without compensation. This ministry reduces the tax burden and provides an environment of positive influence. We have organization, schedules, curfew, mealtimes with a balanced diet, bed times, chapel services. Our rules often become mothers' parenting skills, that they retain. Here mothers and children accept the Lord, rededicate their lives, find a church home that they continue to attend.

The generations that pass through here will remember a loving community that impacted their lives, and the consequences of lives gone awry. Children are the future of our society, and an increasing part of the unfolding direction of Roseburg Rescue Mission.

32
homeless
children
rescued at
Samaritan Inn
in one night

Rescue the children

“Vindicate the weak and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and destitute. Rescue the weak and needy.”
 Psalm 82:3-4

children's needs

Strollers 1 & 2 Seats
 Car Seats, Highchairs
 Pack-N-Plays
 Wagons, Tricycles
 Diapers, Baby Wipes
 Cold Cereal, Fruit

other needs

Spaghetti, Macaroni
 Tomato Sauce
 Diced Tomatoes
 Mushroom Soup
 Refried Beans, Salt
 Oatmeal, Pepper
 Cooking Oil, Mayo

board of directors

John Miguelena
President
 Jeff Wikstrom
Vice President
 Ron Aitken
Secretary
 Mike Winters
Treasurer
 Allen Wilber
 Jennifer Kramer