



# Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope  
for the Homeless*

*AUGUST 2019*

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



## A Sense Of Community

\$600 rent per month, on a 25 foot fifth wheel trailer, was Nick's housing expense. Without a current job, it was very difficult to find any place. At best, that is a 200 square foot home, costing \$3 per foot. At that rate, a 600 square foot apartment would rent for \$1,800 per month, and have better amenities. That is a tight housing market! His trailer was only equipped with a travel sized refrigerator and stove, a toilet, and a shower closet. It was old enough to have a cassette player in the built-in radio. Utilities were paid, but the propane heater did not work, causing him to use an electric space heater. There was no laundry facility in the trailer park. However, he did have community, a neighborhood.

Nick's sister, her husband and four children, live locally, but their small home has no room for him. He was married for just a few years, divorced now about seven years, has had no children, nor other long term relationships. He has no addictions, depression, medications, nor military service.

After paying motel rent for a month, Nick was glad to find that trailer as a more affordable alternative. There are rooms for rent in the community, but the time on waiting lists would have drained his savings even faster. Between using his bank account and doing day labor, he stayed in the trailer nine long, persistent months. Nick is 55 years old and apparently not considered a candidate for long term employment in the minimum wage service industry. Some very physical labor jobs also limited his options. He took classes at the Employment Department, utilized temporary employment agencies, and contacted businesses directly. Finally, he landed a job using his cell phone internet applying to a retail store. He works 24 hours per week at \$12.50 per hour, receiving freight at night. And he was happy to get it.

### **He had no desire to isolate; he just wanted an opportunity.**

Before Nick got that job, he ran out of money to pay the trailer rent. He was not going to live in his car, nor become a homeless camper. He had no desire to isolate; he just wanted an opportunity. Employment and housing were his goals, so he went to the Mission, where there are available beds and services. Now, he can save money and wait for the right housing option for him.

Homeless campers need to enter the Mission for recovery and rehabilitation, before they will be ready for employment and/or independent housing.

About 12 years ago, Nick went forward in his church and made a public commitment of faith in the Lord. He said that he is different now, a new person, having "joy, happiness, contentment, the pressure released, more calm, and prayer." Mission chapel services are a welcomed part of his day, an affirmation of his belief. The Mission community is a part of his sense of belonging that he did not want to lose.

## Rescue the Perishing

*care for the dying,  
snatch them in pity  
from sin and the grave;  
weep o'er the erring  
one, lift up the fallen,  
tell them of Jesus,  
the mighty to save.*

*Refrain:*

*Rescue the perishing,  
care for the dying;  
Jesus is merciful,  
Jesus will save.*

*Though they are slighting Him,  
still He is waiting,  
waiting the penitent  
child to receive;  
plead with them earnestly,  
plead with them gently.  
He will forgive if  
they only believe.*

"Rescue the Perishing" was written on a hot July night in 1869. At a mission, Fanny was addressing a large company of men, in one of the worst sections of New York City, the Bowery. During the service she felt impressed that some mother's boy must be rescued that night or not at all. She made the plea for salvation and a boy of 18 came forward and exclaimed, "I promised to meet my mother in heaven but the way I now am living, that will be impossible." Fanny prayed with this precious soul and he was joyously converted. He rose from his knees, with a new light in his eyes, and said, "Now I can meet my mother in heaven, for I have found her God!" A friend remarked, "Isn't it wonderful what these rescue missions are doing?" While riding between the Bowery and Brooklyn, in a hired horse-drawn hack, she started writing because she could not wait until she got home. A Biography of Hymn Writer Fanny Crosby 1820-1915. She was blind from six weeks old, and wrote over 8,000 poems set to music.





## Focus On The Invitation

Rescue and redemption begin with the invitation. It is by attraction to something desirable, resulting in acceptance or rejection. The invitation is inclusive, overlooks inabilities, sees potential in individuals. It is to safety and hope for a future.

Roseburg Rescue Mission invites the hungry to three meals every day, with no restriction on having to live here. Both our men's and women's shelters have empty beds, just waiting for the homeless to accept the offer. Both have open dayrooms, courtyards, restrooms, showers, baggage storage, laundry, telephones, clothing, social service help, programs, staff, security.

Our invitation is to a clean and sober living environment, yet with the grace of no obvious use of drugs or alcohol. We are not a zero tolerance facility, but drug and alcohol use has to be undetectable to our discernment, so it will not trigger relapse in other people, expecting and deserving a healthy living community.

We provide services to attract homeless men and women. When homeless campers accept the invitation to do their laundry in Mission facilities, river sand damages our washing machines. It is a cost of the invitation. People are more important than machines. Restrooms and showers are abused, even vandalized, but the accommodation stays. When campers arrive for mealtimes, rowdy behavior increases significantly. Denying the general service is not the solution. The problem will be dealt with by security measures, not canceling the invitation. We want homeless campers to access our services and make connection here and throughout the community. It requires work, expense, inconvenience; but it is our determination. An occasional act of ingratitude by a client is a reaction to their situation in life, not a reason for us to limit services.

### **"I was a stranger and you invited Me in." Matt 25:35**

The ultimate invitation is the conviction by the Holy Spirit of His presence on humanity. We accept or reject. The Mission's purpose is to make an invitation to the homeless to enter the Kingdom of God. We do that through providing social services and chapel messages. Our master plan reads, "Do not stop required chapel services or (program) Bible studies for the sake of acquiring grant money or to appease anyone's objection. Human nature is such that if chapel and Bible studies were made optional, even thinking people would be more receptive, that it would only be a matter of time before it would fall out of favor and no one would attend." Without the Lord, recovery is significantly more difficult, and leaving homelessness frustrated. Even secular Alcoholics Anonymous teaches the need for a higher power to have recovery. Optional chapel would be like optional sobriety, life, salvation.

The invitation is for homeless men to be responsible to self and family, mothers and children to have a safe place, women to be committed to regaining custody of their children, victims of domestic violence to be free of oppression, addicts to be released of that burden, disabled to have opportunity, unemployed to have jobs, homeless to have a home, downtrodden to be lifted up, lost to be saved.

Supporting homeless campers invites them nowhere. It enables people to remain encamped. Without the invitation to directly partake in services of rescue, there is no rescue.

*Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director*



## school needs

- #2 Pencils
- Crayons 24 Pkg
- Glue Sticks
- Box of Tissues
- Pink & White Erasers
- Washable Markers 8 Pkg
- Fiskar Blunt Tip Scissors
- Pencil Case
- Wide Rule Spiral Notebooks
- Pocket Folders
- Pencil Crayons 12 Pkg
- Broad Tip Markers
- White Glue
- Plain Copy Paper
- Wide Rule Paper
- Lined Composition Notebooks
- Red & Blue Pens
- Ruler, 1" Binders
- Subject Dividers
- Scientific Calculators
- Pocket Dictionary
- Pencil Sharpener
- Children's Backpacks
- Over The Shoulder Bags

## other needs

- Oatmeal
- Pancake Mix & Syrup
- Canned Fruits & Veggies
- Spaghetti Noodles
- Tomato Sauce
- Garden Produce
- Mayo, Oil, Ketchup
- Deodorant
- Disposable Razors
- #5 Diapers
- Baby Wipes

## items accepted

At Our Dock  
806 SE Pine St  
Mon-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.*