



# Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope  
for the Homeless*

SEPTEMBER 2019

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## No More Camping

Bullying in middle school is at least partially to blame for a life of not conforming to expectations, according to Tasha. She started drinking at 12-years-old. By 13, she was in a recovery program. After just two weeks of high school, she dropped out. Tasha spent those years at home, while both parents worked. When they tried to make her go to school, she ran away, encountering new troubles. It scared her to return home, where she stayed until she was 25. During that time, Tasha had three children. Her youngest child was with her at an inpatient treatment program. When she threatened to leave, her child was placed in foster care. Tasha said, "That was the trigger that sent me downhill into heavy drinking."

When no one else would take her and her boyfriend in, because they were fighting so bad, they camped out along the river, summer and winter. A friend shared her SSI check. All three went to three food banks. Her boyfriend worked odd jobs, enough to sustain their lifestyle. Tasha's mom told her about Samaritan Inn, but she was too scared. Her meth addiction was stronger than any enticement the Mission had to offer. It took law enforcement to change her. After her third DUII, she spent five months in jail. Then she was caught driving with a suspended license and spent 10 months in prison. She was forced into getting clean and sober. Her prison counselor told her about Samaritan Inn. Tasha agreed saying, "I want to be with my family. I missed out on a lot." She knew the way to Samaritan Inn, because she used to take her kids to the old Umpqua Medical Center, before we purchased and remodeled it.

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Samaritan Inn is an important part of the transition from an addiction and homeless lifestyle, as well as prison life. There is a continuation of accountability and structure, yet with the freedom to explore the possibilities of employment and housing, and to re-unite with family and friends in a healthy way. At 33, Tasha got her first actual job, working as a motel housekeeper. She said, "I actually like it, because it keeps me busy. I will have money to get my own place." Her two oldest children told her, "We have wanted to live with you for a long time, but you've been too busy with friends."

Tasha has been re-connected with some women that did Bible studies at the jail, because they also do chapel here. Now she goes to church with them. She said chapel speakers talk about things that she can relate to, and they teach from the Bible. She expressed, "Chapel makes me happy, its uplifting, exciting, my time with God. Since I have been here, I have met a lot of wonderful people."



## Skid Row

Seattle is often said to have had the first skid row, dating back to the mid-1800's. To get logs to the sawmills, greased timbers were used as skids. They were placed along roadways to reduce friction and keep logs from bogging down in mud. A Seattle road became known as Skid Road. When a logger was fired, he was sent down Skid Road, said to be on the skids. Later as the city's main center moved north, the road was left. As sawmills closed, men would line up along Skid Road, waiting for work. What remained was a district, or a row of businesses, developed specifically for employees of the timber industry of that time, single room occupancy hotels, cafes, taverns. Skid Row then became the name of that district. There was high unemployment and alcohol use. That condition attracted still others in similar situations, creating a very run-down area. Skid Row has now become a generic term, describing a depressed area in any city.

### **greased timbers were used**

Roseburg's motto is, "Timber Capital of the Nation." We have undoubtedly seen our share of skid roads. Like other cities, Roseburg's skid row moved and developed by the train yard and depot, where migrant workers looked for jobs. That is where Roseburg Rescue Mission started and remains. Since then, the rail yard moved north of town, the depot became a restaurant, migrants can no longer hitch free freight train rides. Old storefronts, a café, and two single room occupancy hotels became the Mission. Services to the homeless are provided inside our buildings and courtyard. Loitering is not permitted outside of our facilities. Developing an outdoor skid row district in town, or allowing one to develop, legitimizes and perpetuates the condition. And history will repeat itself here.



## New Stock Pot & Stove Top Ranges

Hunger is physically, mentally, and emotionally consuming. Hunger demands satisfaction, takes priority over income and housing, preoccupies one's attention to other matters. Food meets that basic need, but does nothing to directly address homelessness. When providing three meals every day of the year is combined with the provision of meeting other needs to independent living, relationship is developed. Trust grows and an ear to hear the Gospel opens. We become neighbors in fellowship, not just providers of life sustaining food. Hunger of the heart needs to be satisfied for one to have hope in real life, not just the revolving door of daily appetite and feeding.

To maintain this ministry of meal service to the hungry and homeless, equipment needs to be upgraded and replaced at times. On the left is our new stock pot range, standing just 24" tall, having a three ring gas burner, and holding a 53 quart stainless steel pot. When serving a hefty 16 oz ladle of soup, the pot will hold 106 servings. It fits neatly in the same space under the exhaust hood as the replaced deep fryer, as a more practical cooking implement for our needs. On the right is our new stove top range, having six gas burners and a large oven. It replaced a range of the same size and features, that had become worn out, inefficient, and unreliable.

We received a 50% matching grant for the two ranges. A foundation provided \$5000 to pay for half the cost of equipment, shipping, and installation. The remaining \$5000 was paid from our general fund, that is primarily donations from individuals in our community. We have applied to another foundation to replace the griddle top range, on the right of the ranges in the photo, that also is worn from years of cooking. It too would be a 50% grant, needing donor support to cover the cost.

### **On average 332 meals were served every day last year.**

At our two dining rooms, 332 meals were served every day last year. The new ranges are at the downtown shelter. Our other dining room is at Samaritan Inn for women and children. That facility received new kitchen equipment four years ago. At the three set mealtimes every day, one only needs to be here to have a meal. There are no qualifying applications, no charge, no use of food stamps, no work to do, nor requirement to be living here. No questions are asked, just a need to not be visibly under the influence of an intoxicating substance, nor display rowdy behavior. There are no unaccompanied minors, and no backpacks in the dining room for security reasons. There is no food to go that would enable camping and addiction to continue.

Our source of provision is from food donations and purchases. We do not receive food from government programs or food banks. Businesses and organizations donate prepared and perishable food. Individuals donate items listed in our monthly newsletter. Individuals and ranchers donate meat through USDA facilities and eggs through an egg handlers license. Garden produce is accepted here. This is a community feeding program, open to the public and dependent on donations. Thank you for the new ranges and considering the hungry and homeless.

*Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director*



## **Rescue**

Return, O Lord,  
rescue my soul;  
Save me because of  
Thy lovingkindness.  
Psalm 6:4

### **food needs**

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

### **other needs**

Baby Diapers #5 & #6  
Baby Wipes  
Disposable Razors  
Deodorant  
Socks, Hats  
Strollers 1 & 2 Seats

### **chapel volunteers**

Samaritan Inn &  
Men's Shelter  
*Apply on our website  
or in our office.*

### **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.*