



Roseburg Rescue Mission

Men's Shelter • Samaritan Inn • Thrift Stores

A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless

NOVEMBER 2019

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



Give Thanks

*“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
His love endures forever.” Psalm 107:1*

Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks for the fall harvest, that is to give thanks to the Provider, not just for the provision. This day is set aside to celebrate and to be reminded that we cannot take our blessings for granted. Indeed for homeless men, women, and children that memory of harder times is all too real and not so long ago. Even as our guests enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, it can be a bittersweet time of reflecting on past holidays, yet knowing that right now a generous community cares. They are not alone. The dining room is full. There is hope. Independent living awaits. May next Thanksgiving find them in their own home surrounded by family and friends again, with the hurts of the past healed. May we have an eternal perspective on life as we love one another now. And may my gift for the homeless be an offering of my Thanksgiving.

Lynn Antis, Executive Director

Happy Thanksgiving

“Back To The Inside World”

At a Mission mealtime, a man shared his thoughts on law enforcement cracking down on homeless camping this summer. He said for him it was time to get “back to the inside world.” He was tired of being chased from camp to camp. He said he was ready to grow up, stop goofing off, and get a job again. He was going back to the coast. Other campers knew friends that left for larger cities north of here, where they were more free to camp. Still others went back to couch surfing locally. Displaced persons did not chose to move to the Mission for our social service help.

crackdown on camping

“Freedom Camp” was the largest one. It was located on the river in the 1800 block of SE Mill St. It was full of trash, had brush fires, and violence. In July, a stabbing occurred there, requiring the victim to be hospitalized. Two weeks later, that county property was auctioned off to a private party, eliminating any squabble over use of public property.

To decriminalize being homeless, lastfall the federal appeals court ruled that a person cannot be arrested for camping on public property. Local enforcement was then suspended, until this spring when a new plan of action was developed. Camping on public property is still illegal, but campers can only be cited for it. Many are being cited for littering. A notice of 24 hours to vacate is posted, then camps are cleaned up at taxpayer expense.

The Mission cooperates with city and county requests that food, clothing, and camping equipment not be handed out to homeless campers. They can eat prepared meals here, use restrooms, showers, laundry, dayrooms, courtyards, but nothing is handed out to litter public property.



Tipping And Turning Points

Samantha, known as Sam, was married for 25 years. They had three children, a mortgage payment, a car, a cat and a dog. Her husband worked in the field of education, she worked in retail. She said, "I thought we had the perfect life, we even went to church." But after 23 years of marriage, he met someone else online. She stayed for two more years, afraid that no one else would love her. Some residual fear of abandonment remained with her from years of living in foster care as a child. The tipping point was losing her job after 20 years. When Sam could not find another job soon enough and could not make the house payment, the family split. Her husband pursued his new relationship, their children (ages 18, 20, and 24) went their own ways, and Sam was left with no place to go but to live homeless. She was too embarrassed to tell her children, too deeply hurt and depressed to even seek proper help. The focus of her life was the emotional response to rejection and loneliness. She settled for unhealthy, codependent, even abusive relationships. Living on the streets, she would return to a violent partner for protection, rather than be lonely and vulnerable. For six years, she lived an uncertain life based on fear. Much of the time, she was employed, but bounced between living on the streets, in motels, an unheated garage, and with family or friends.

breaking the bondage of abusive relationships

Her turning point happened in a Celebrate Recovery group on physical/emotional/sexual abuse. She began breaking the bondage of abusive relationships, damaged emotions, and poor identity. There, she met people that recommended the Mission's Samaritan Inn. Sam said, "I wanted my children to have a peace of mind (about me), get my life together, and be a person my sons and grandchildren could be proud of." Here, she has a stable, supportive environment. She said, "Samaritan Inn is a blessing. I have a roof over my head, showers, food, feeling safe, a good place to start life over. There is good support from staff and program." Then, Sam discovered that she had a serious, internal medical problem, that required surgery and hospitalization. Even though she was now on the right track of building a new life, it was undoubtedly a consequence of living homeless that remained. After recovering from the illness, she had to find a new job. She has been working at a gas station for a year now.

Sam said, "I like learning more about God. My kids were brought up in church, but now I can talk to them about it." Here, she has developed an assurance of her salvation. During a recent thunder and lightning storm, she was talking to her granddaughter on the phone. The child was afraid for herself and the homeless on the street, knowing that her grandma used to be out in storms. Sam was able to talk to her about God in the midst of her fear, whereas before she would not. Sam has not only grown in her own faith, she is now sharing it through generations.

Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director



Thanksgiving Menu Items Needed

- Turkeys
- Potatoes
- Stuffing
- Gravy Mix
- Yams
- Rolls
- Pies
- Cool Whip
- Fruit Cocktail
- Cranberry Sauce
- Mixed Vegetables

Homemade pies and cookies can not have milk products in them. Pumpkin pies, cream pies, cream cheese have to be made in a commercially licensed kitchen.

Dinner At 1pm

Men, Women & Children at Mission Downtown
516 SE Lane Av.

Women & Children Only at Samaritan Inn
544 W Umpqua St.

Sock Drive

New socks will be given away at our Thanksgiving Dinner. Have a sock drive. Let's make some happy feet.

"He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor."
Proverbs 22:9

Fall Harvest Decorations In Mission Thrift Store