



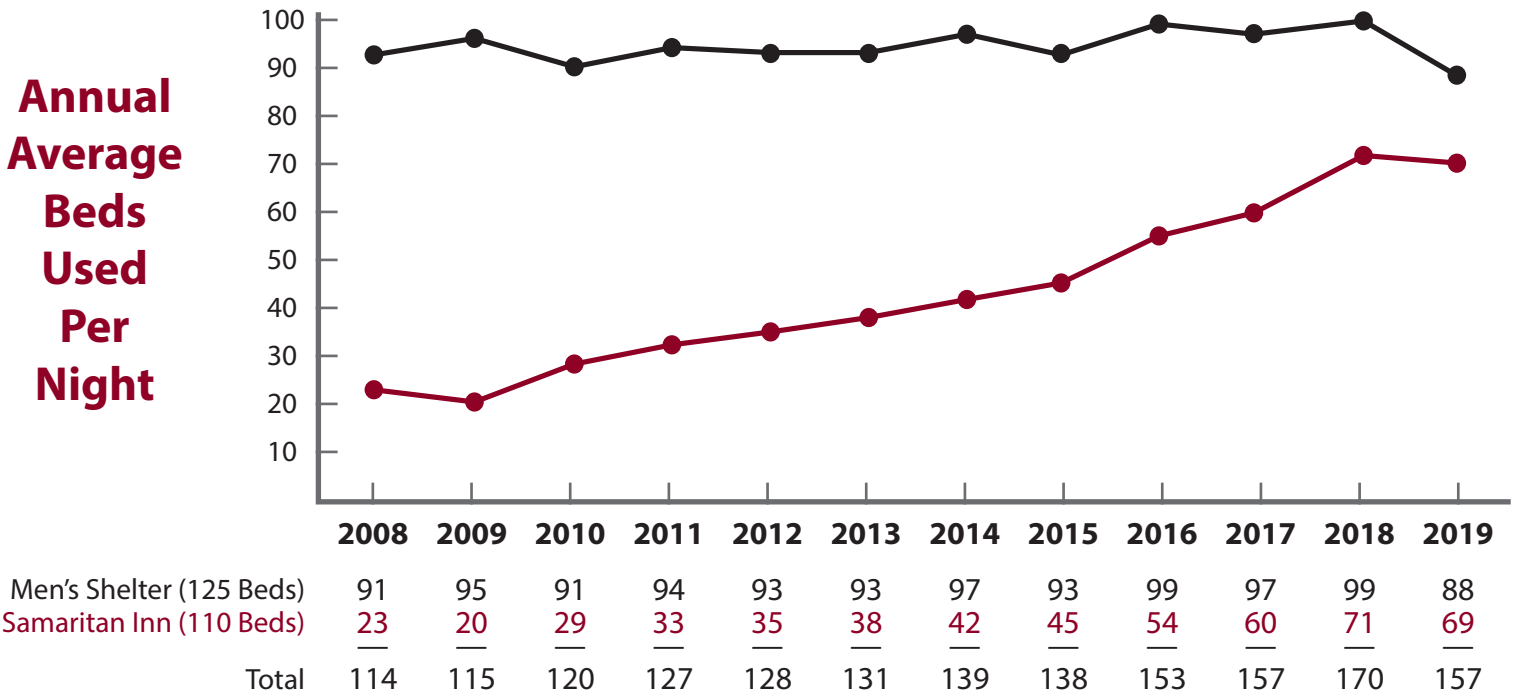
Roseburg Rescue Mission

Men's Shelter • Samaritan Inn • Thrift Stores

A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless

FEBRUARY 2020

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Roseburg Has Reduced Homelessness

The west coast's homeless population is growing rapidly. Roseburg is doing what the larger cities should be doing to reduce this social condition. We do not need to look to them as models. If they were to follow our lead, then they too could experience our success. Roseburg's city leaders are to be commended for not following "national best practice" and addressing our local homeless problem with a plan that is working. Our community's success is a direct result of cracking down on illegal camping. Many left here to become a part of the camping problem in larger cities that are not addressing the issue as a counterculture movement. Beginning in June of 2019, there was a direct correlation between the City's new, more resolute plan of citing people for illegal camping and the reduction of men's beds used and meals served at the Mission. If this problem solving measure had been introduced at the first of the year, the bed usage chart above would have shown a greater reduction. In 2018, we averaged 102 men per night from June to December; in 2019, the average was 83 for the same seven month period. Considering that approximately half of our men's clients have historically been in our New Life Program and Transitional Housing Program, the decrease in our transient men's population has been significant. It has not been this low since 2006. From June to December our transient men's count was down more than 30% compared to the same time period last year. This has caused a considerable reduction in manpower. We are adapting with literally a dozen changes to facility and policy. Adjustments include remodeling an area, hiring additional staff, and requiring men to be on our New Life Program for a time as a condition of joining our

distinction between the counterculture movement and actual homelessness

Transitional Housing Program. So, our expenses have increased as a result. Still, we are in favor of making the distinction between the counterculture movement and actual homelessness. We are here to help people that are genuinely homeless, not to enable a growing counterculture population.

One of the biggest hurdles that we as a society have to overcome is just accepting the fact that some people do not want a home. There is no material enticement that we have to offer them that will change their camping lifestyle. When they had to leave campsites in Roseburg, they did not enter the Mission to get help in getting a home. They left to find a more camping friendly city.

Roseburg Rescue Mission averaged 37 empty men's beds and 41 empty women and children's beds per night last year, because counterculture people do not want shelter. Confusing the two groups enables them both. Opening some new, government approved campsite would legitimize and support the counterculture population and do nothing for the truly homeless.

Last year, our Samaritan Inn remained at an historically high number of clients, because of the continued crisis in the foster care system. If not for the structured environment here, 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 safe from abusers. Their alternative is separation or endangerment. Still other women here wait to be reunited with their children that are presently in foster care. There does not appear to be any reduction in homeless women and children in the foreseeable future.

Men's Chapel Changes

Roseburg Rescue Mission is committed to publicly preaching the Gospel. We do so in our chapels at Samaritan Inn and Men's Shelter. There has been an AM and PM men's chapel for many years. The reasoning was because our old chapel would sometimes fill up in the evening, and it provided for a more intimate devotional time for our New Life Program in the morning. Back then, our Transitional Housing Program men had no requirement to attend chapel. Beginning in 2012, all new renters in that program began attending chapel one time per week with an encouragement to go on Tuesday mornings. I put hours of preparation into each message, and I could keep track of attendance on my chapel morning. After five years, 35 of the 40 renters were required to attend. At that point, we had a new renter's contract drawn up, making our Transitional Housing Program one with a religious exemption from Oregon tenant law. All 40 men made the agreement. In 2012, we moved into our larger men's chapel-dayroom. Filling up this new area is not a foreseeable problem. Our New Life Program has grown beyond intimate, and the new location is open for others to attend.



Through the course of all these changes, an element was overlooked. Paul did not just preach, he established churches. Billy Graham crusades connected people that went forward to a church. Roseburg Rescue Mission is not a church, nor do we intend to be a substitute for one. Our purpose is evangelism, as we provide emergency, program and transitional housing. Delivering a weekly message to our Transitional Housing Program has been great to see develop; however, I inadvertently became their preacher-pastor and the Mission their church. Men in all three of our programs need to have contact, even develop mentor relationships, with volunteers providing our chapels to help them find a church home. Unfortunately, there have been several evening chapels without assigned volunteer providers and a high rate of absence among them.

combining our AM and PM mens' chapels into one

To bring all these issues together, we are combining our AM and PM mens' chapels into one. They will now be in the evening only. At our Samaritan Inn, we already discontinued the morning devotional when we moved to the new location in 2015, because trying to get upward of a hundred women and children together at 8AM was not workable. There is a PM chapel for women and at the same time a separate one for mothers with younger children. All three of the mens' programs will still have required chapel, but they will be at the same time. Instead of doing my Tuesday AM chapel, I will move to one of the weekly PM chapels. Three other men's staff will also move to PM Chapels. This change will increase the efficiency of our presentations, improve chapel provider attendance, raise our client's contact with volunteers and their churches, and improve evening supervision. We still have a need for chapel volunteers in both shelters.

Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director



Rescue

Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me.
Psalms 50:15

food needs

Pancake Mix & Syrup
Egg Noodles
Canned Vegetables
Canned Fruit
Mayo, Oil, Vinegar
Spices, Salt
Tomato Sauce
Diced Tomatoes

other needs

Baby Diapers
Baby Wipes
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Twin sheets
Bath Towels

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.*

vehicle donations

are accepted here.
Receipt for tax deductions provided.