

Men's Shelter • Samaritan Inn • Thrift Stores

A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless

**MARCH 2020** 

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



## **Living Paycheck To Paycheck**

A 2017 survey by employment website CareerBuilder reports that 78% of American full-time workers are living paycheck to paycheck, a trend that crosses over income groups. Households are one mishap away from not paying the rent or mortgage. Family, friends, and credit cards are not always available to fill the gap.

For Ted, it was a day like any other in a long career of blue-collar jobs. He was bending down to stock shelves when it happened. A sharp pain shot into his knee. His doctor prescribed light duty work; however, his employer had no work like that. Ted concluded that for a \$12.50 per hour job with no benefits and only a minor injury, he had no recourse on his employer. He lost his job, but just needed a short time for his injury to heal. He left his roommate, who could financially manage, to go to the Mission. He had been here once before during a three month seasonal layoff. His knee quickly recovered and soon he had a new job through the Employment Department doing property maintenance. It pays \$12 per hour with benefits. For a month, he slept in our dormitory, until his name rose to the top of the list to rent a room in our Transitional Housing Program. He just needed a paycheck to have his own place again.

Ted is a veteran. He served six years in the Navy as a torpedo man on a submarine. Obviously, there is no need in the civilian sector for experience like that. However, he was able to use his training in hydraulics, pneumatics, electricity, pipe fitting, and valves. He said Mission life is very similar to military barracks, dayrooms, and chow halls. And he likes our meals. The initial uncertainty was in the kind of people that would be here and the rules. But he said, the supervisors filled him in on the operation and are very kind, patient, and understanding. In the picture above, he is standing by our dishwashing machine, an area that he worked to earn his bed voucher when he was sleeping in our dormitory.

### Life is about more than just earning a paycheck.

Ted grew up in an unchurched home and remained so, until he arrived at the Mission. Here, a seed has been planted and is being watered. He said, "I have witnessed God's beauty in the wilderness, and He spared my life a few times. I have been thinking about it my whole life. Then, I went from total freedom to not, its an eye opener, a very humbling experience." He heard our messages, but kind of ignored that part of the Mission schedule. Then he admitted, "As I listened on a nightly basis, I actually began to talk to God."

### **Income Sources**

Roseburg Rescue Mission is a corporation that is exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the US tax code, with a "religious" purpose as opposed to a "charitable" or "social service" one. This designation restricts us from receiving government funding and some private foundation grants, because they cannot or will not support our evangelistic ministry. Some foundations have stopped granting us money specifically because of our Christian moral principles. We cannot receive USDA food, because in their terms, we proselytize, that is, we persuade people to convert to Christainity. We call it sharing our faith, praying, providing chapel messages, and doing Bible studies. The advantage to our "religious" label is the freedom to openly proclaim the Gospel and receive donations for doing so.

#### **No Government Funding**

Our sources of income are well diversified, not being too dependent on one resource. We are not supported by a single church or denomination. We have a relatively high level of earned income, meaning that a service has to be provided for it. Our thrift stores and Transitional Housing rental units provide a significant amount of funding. Last year, we had an unusually high percentage of foundation income because of one large grant for the remodel of our men's dormitory.

We have a low level of staff and high client participation in the operation, so we can be as efficient as possible.

### 

Other.....2%

Government

0%

## Prodigal Son – Luke 15:11-32

A certain man had two sons, and the younger requested his share of the family estate (God has two peoples, one is responsible the other is not). The younger son went on a journey into a distant country (the prodigal son left his community to a place with no accountability). There he squandered his estate with loose living (he indulged in defiant behavior). When he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred and he was in need (he was bankrupt, hungry, and homeless). He attached himself to one of the



citizens of that country who sent him to feed swine (he joined with unethical people and did improper things). He was longing to eat the pods the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him (he could not eat discarded food nor make a living by begging). When he came to his senses, he remembered that his father's hired men had enough to eat, and he was starving (when he realized his condition, he knew the people at the Mission had enough to eat). He decided to go to his father and admit his sin (he went to the Mission, acknowledging his lack of independence). While he was still a long way off, his father saw him, felt compassion, ran, embraced, and kissed him (wherever the prodigal is at, God is merciful and

longs for him to return to the family of God). The father told his servants to bring out the best robe, put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet, bring the fattened calf, let us eat and be merry (there was full restoration and generosity beyond expectation, the Mission provides meals, clothing, shelter, programs, and a means to return to community).

# Prodigals are our own brothers that God loves with boundless mercy and extends more grace to repentant sinners than righteous souls that do not need repentance.

This son of mine was dead and has come to life again, he was lost, and has been found (there is real hope to be redeemed from the world and restored to the Kingdom of God, the Mission preaches the Gospel of salvation to bring new life to him that puts his faith in the Lord). Now the older son was in the field when he heard the music and dancing, and asked what these things might be (a person working hard in his career field sometimes will ask what the Mission is busy doing). He was told that his brother had returned and his father had received him back safe and sound (he is told that prodigals go to the Mission because they are accepted as worthy of restoration). But he became angry, and was not willing to go in (he became indignant and would not support the attention given to prodigals). He said to his father, look for so many years I have been serving you, and I have never received such a celebration (it may seem unfair because the prodigal has not earned nor deserved such a blessing). The father said my child you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours (the responsible one's reward is in his/her long term

relationship with the Lord). But we had to be merry and rejoice for this brothers of yours was dead and has begun to live (prodigals are our own brothers that God loves with boundless mercy and extends more grace to repentant sinners than righteous souls that do not need repentance).



### Rescue

Because he loves Me, I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges My Name. Psalm 91:14

### food needs

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

### 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.