



Roseburg Rescue Mission

Men's Shelter • Samaritan Inn • Thrift Stores

A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless

JULY 2020

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



Summer Rescue

The attraction may start with just wanting to break free of responsibility for a season, to get away from the troubles of the daily grind. The taste of freedom seems pleasing. Pride says, "I can do this, then return to society anytime I choose." Some believe they are better than those that self-destruct. They cannot imagine ever ending up in such a deplorable state. But the camping culture is not just some innocent communion with nature, its an addicting lifestyle that seeks to destroy. When the fantasy of independence fades into the reality of being lost, it can be very depressing. One can give in or seek help.

a juncture of deciding how to live

Its a vulnerable time, a juncture of deciding how to live. This summer, the Mission too will be an attraction, an outpost of services. Now with the coronavirus pandemic, people are all the more afraid and needing assurance. Its a time of being open to really hearing God's Word and call. It becomes a season of hope.

Will you be a part of this summer rescue of people in our community that really need our help?

Lynn Antis, Executive Director

Invitation To Safety

Streets and camps are dangerous places to live. Desperate people with addiction issues cause harm to self, others, businesses, and property. Distinction between truly homeless people and campers has been growing in recent years. Coronavirus has tipped the scales of our approach at the Mission from an open door invitation of our services to a more protective one of security for clients and staff. Once inside our safe perimeter, all the services are still here. People that want out of homelessness want the security of a home, even the Mission as a temporary one. At our Men's Dayroom door and Samaritan Inn's gate, we have screening for medical conditions and behavioral issues. People are vetted to stop domestic abusers, predators, users. These entry points are now locked 24/7, but are free for exiting at any time. People feel safer, they are safer. Security is as much an attraction as any program here. We had to reduce the extent of one program out of a lack of client interest, and expand safety as the priority, to keep them motivated to stay in their plan.

Security is as much an attraction as any program here.

Violence is increasing. People have changed. Illegal drug labs are producing a substance that is not just a stimulant, but a poison that causes permanent damage. Street drugs are causing mental illness. One cannot tell whether a person with mental illness used these drugs as a means of self-medicating, or a person used the drugs and became mentally ill. Either way, erratic behavior is the result. Safety is needed, not enabling the destructive behavior.



Samaritan Inn Or Car Camping

Lisa (55) and her daughter, Syrenda (33) were in a housing predicament. Syrenda needs certain accommodations for her electric wheelchair. She was born with spina bifida that causes paralysis. At about the same time as she was being discharged from a long-term, medical rehabilitation facility, her mom was returning from an extended stay with another adult child during his surgery. However, they could not immediately find adequate housing together. Lisa moved in with a friend that had stairs her daughter could not use. Syrenda shared a place with a family member that did not have room for her mom. When Syrenda's special needs became too much for the family member's household to bear, she was made to leave. Lisa went to the rescue of her daughter, with the option of Samaritan Inn or car camping.

People are sheltered in place, and there have not been housing openings.

Since last July, they have been at Samaritan Inn, sharing a private room. They are in our special needs pod, that has four bedrooms, two private restrooms, a private shower room, and a shared living room. They are number one on two housing waiting lists, but are not moving up. People are sheltered in place, and there have not been housing openings. New, temporary laws prevent evictions during this virus season, slowing the rental turnover rate. One list, they are on, is for a downstairs apartment, that is hard to find, because many older buildings do not have elevators. The other list is for a complex built for handicap access.

She was working 20 hours a week, until the virus slowed activity to fewer hours.

Each has her own medical issues, yet shows real determination to overcome them and have a home. Lisa has dealt with depression, cancer, and more. Her job is driving a bus, transporting people with disabilities to various locations. She was working 20 hours a week, until the virus slowed activity to fewer hours. She really wants to work and provide. Syrenda struggles with a need to feel perfect and to belong somewhere. She said, "This place is a sanctuary."

Before we had to temporarily suspend our chapel services, Lisa said, "That is when I truly felt close, worshiping was euphoric, feeling the Lord's presence. I felt like I just glowed. Without chapel, I feel a little more depression and sleepless nights. I have withdrawn and isolate, not as social as before." Still her faith is strong. She said, "People ask, 'How can you profess God, when all these things are happening to you?' It is because He is the One Who got me through it."

We are all hopeful for life to stabilize. They are grateful for not having to live in their minivan, for Samaritan Inn being accepting of and providing for their special needs, and being patient with the long waiting lists for housing. Soon, they will have their own place and more working hours. Already, our chapel services are returning.

Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director



Rescue

"In Thy righteousness deliver me, and rescue me; Incline Thine ear to me, and save me."

Psalm 71:2

food needs

Garden Produce
Spaghetti, Macaroni
Tomato Sauce
Diced Tomatoes
Mushroom Soup
Refried Beans, Salt
Oatmeal, Spices
Pancake Mix & Syrup
Canned Fruit-Veggies
Bottles of Water

other needs

Diapers-Baby Wipes
Sanitize Spray-Wipes
Toothbrushes & Paste
Deodorant, Razors
Shoes, Boots
Towels, Pajamas

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 to Sat 9am to 6pm
Furniture
Household Items
Kitchen Wares
Sporting Goods
Electronics
Clothing, Bicycles
Walkers - Wheelchairs
*Items need to be in good condition and working order.
Mattresses not accepted.*