



Roseburg Rescue Mission

Men's Shelter • Samaritan Inn • Thrift Stores

A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless

AUGUST 2020

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Determination To Overcome

Forrest is the victim of a violent crime. An intruder broke and entered into his home to steal. Forrest suffered a gunshot to his neck, jaw, and ear, causing permanent damage. It caused a stroke, a heart attack, and a coma. When he awoke six weeks later, he had amnesia, not knowing his own identity or that of family. With mental and physical therapy, he regained much of his memory. A service dog helped him manage life for a few years. He was left with a noticeable difficulty in his speech, a lost career, and penniless after paying medical expenses. The condition was not the consequence of his behavior, but his resolve was a determination to overcome.

Transitioning from a young, healthy, homeowner, with a bright future to having a handicap caused depression, even anger at first. It affected his self-image, income potential, and relationships. He became a recipient of the Supplemental Security Income system, getting enough to meet basic needs. His parents had passed away, so he lived with his grandmother. There, he went through his own rehabilitation, working around her house and trying to reinvent himself.

Online dating became a means for him to overcome his new apprehension in meeting people. After six months of corresponding on social media, Forrest met his girlfriend in person. This relationship encouraged him to strike out on his own, even as it meant living at the Mission.

"This place helped me realize my potential"

In just one month, he began renting a room in our Transitional Housing Program. While looking for employment, he volunteered in our warehouse, testing and repairing electronic items for our Furniture Store. He wanted to be busy, productive, and learn. The photo above shows Forrest in that area. A Mission staff member connected him with Umpqua Valley Disabilities Network. For a few months, he volunteered there as a receptionist and did computer networking, setting up client appointments for rides and housing. He was connected to Vocational Rehabilitation that referred him to an employment opportunity at a retirement facility. He got a part-time job there as a dishwasher. During the virus season, there were only pots and pans to wash, because residents were eating in their rooms using disposable tableware. So he was given grounds care work to do.

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Of the Mission, Forrest said, "Life here taught me to be more responsible, to go out and get things. I'm getting a better life message (in chapel), trying to not let things in my life bother me. I'm thankful. This place helped me realize my potential." Forrest said that in his depression after the gunshot wound, he rededicated his life to the Lord while in recovery. So, Mission chapels are great, and he is encouraged by them.

Rescue Me Tomorrow

"Tomorrow," Pharaoh replied, when Moses asked when he wanted the plague of frogs to be removed. The Lord told Moses to tell Pharaoh, king of Egypt, to obey or else, "I will plague your whole country with frogs... They will come up into your palace and your bedroom and onto your bed, into the houses of your officials and on your people, and into your ovens and kneading troughs" Exodus 8:2-3. They were not able to sleep nor prepare meals. Pharaoh was given an invitation to be free of the plague of his own doing. Indeed, his magicians made even more frogs, showing their power but increasing their suffering. Yet, they were unable to remove the plague. Essentially Pharaoh was saying, "Rescue me tomorrow, for today is mine." He was in misery, but at least it felt like he was in control.

For Today Is Mine

He was full of pride and would not submit. His decision was for one more night of frogs, keeping him awake and in torment. He was king of a nation and of his life, and would not admit defeat by the unnerving croaking of mere frogs. When the plague was lifted, the rebellion and tomorrow remained.

People are no different now because of stubbornness, wanting one more night of frogs. Tomorrow, they will stop their behavior, seek help, agree to treatment, go to the Mission. But not today. They want to linger a while longer, to savor their way.

In the end, even after ten plagues, Pharaoh did not want to be rescued. He would rather be destroyed than give in. So it is with some today. Those, that wanted to be rescued, were saved, then and now.



Homeless Home Schooling

The coronavirus caused school closures and home schooling, even for homeless families. Ariel now teaches her daughter Dezzerae (8) second grade and her son Andreas (6) kindergarten. She is a self-motivated, soon to be, single mother. Since the divorce proceedings began, she said, "Its been hard on the kids, they have climbed into my bed and stay there." Finding available and affordable child-care during the pandemic season has been challenging. Suddenly, she lost her child-care provider, and it threatened the loss of her job. She had just landed the part-time position as restaurants re-opened for dining. Ariel went to social media, met a woman who said her daughter babysits, paid for a background check on the woman, and did a reference check on the daughter. It's a 20 mile drive each way, but it's a plan that is safe and works.

At Samaritan Inn, home schooling can be more difficult because of the distractions of being in a congregate living environment. Ariel said, "There are other kids in our home that want to play, instead of do homework. I have to ask multiple times to get them to do something, whereas their teachers only had to ask once. They saw them as teachers, rather than a parent." There is no principal or father figure for any further instruction or correction students may need. Men are not allowed as visitors on our women and children's campus for obvious reasons. During the virus season, women visitors have been limited for physical distancing. The task of teaching her children has been on Ariel alone. She said, "I feel like I'm not adequate enough for them. I don't even have an actual roof to call home." She has an Associate Degree in Business, not education. She has developed a friendship with another mother here. Her children have more of a social isolation from school and friends. On the other hand, she has not had to worry about rent, utilities, groceries, or cooking while here.

School supplies are still needed.

Whether public school classrooms re-open in the fall or not, school supplies are still needed. At Samaritan Inn, we have students arriving throughout the year with little to no supplies. Families generally have just a few bags of clothes. Ariel needed an ink cartridge for her printer to print out work sheets for her children. They excitedly chose new backpacks, then notebooks, binders, pencils, pencil cases, markers, erasers, rulers. A list of needed items is in the side column.

Free vouchers and 50% off student clothing sale

Back to school clothing is another need. For mothers staying at Samaritan Inn, they receive free clothing vouchers for themselves and each of their children to shop in our Thrift Store. For families not staying here, there will be a 50% off student clothing sale before the normal start of the school year. Any school supplies received, that are not needed for our guests, are given away in our Thrift Store during the student clothing sale.

Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director



school needs

- #2 Pencils, Pencil Cases
- Washable Crayons 24 Pkg
- Glue Sticks, White Glue
- Box of Tissues
- Pink & White Erasers
- Washable Markers 8 Pkg
- Fiskar Blunt Tip Scissors
- Graph Paper
- Wide Rule Spiral Notebooks
- Pocket Folders
- Colored Pencils
- Broad Tip Markers
- College Ruled 3-Hole Paper
- Plain Copy Paper
- Wide Rule Paper
- Composition Notebooks
- Highlighters
- Red, Black & Blue Pens
- Ruler, 1" Binders
- Subject Dividers
- Scientific Calculators
- Pocket Dictionary
- Pencil Sharpener
- Children's Backpacks
- Over The Shoulder Bags
- Disinfecting Wipes
- USB Flash Drives
- Index Cards
- Thermal Lunch Box
- Thermal Water Bottle

other needs

- Oatmeal
- Pancake Mix & Syrup
- Canned Fruits & Veggies
- Spaghetti, Macaroni
- Tomato Sauce
- Garden Produce
- Mayo, Oil, Ketchup
- Deodorant
- Disposable Razors
- Diapers #5 & #6, Baby Wipes
- Disinfectant Spray
- Student Clothing
- Bicycles

chapel volunteers

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