



# Roseburg Rescue Mission

Men's Shelter • Samaritan Inn • Thrift Stores

*A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless*

**SEPTEMBER 2020**

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## **"It Gave Me The Confidence"**

Allen said that for him, "The Program was mainly structure. I had a job, a schedule of something to do to occupy my brain to focus on and not on drugs. And it worked. If I kept doing what I wanted to do, I would end up homeless on the street. I see a lot of pain and being stagnant. I hoped to get out of drugs." When Allen was 24-years-old, he was impacted by the death of his father from cancer. He said, "I was holding his hand when he passed, and I felt the life leave his body. I did not want to feel certain emotions. I looked at him and thought of myself dying." At that point, Allen started to use meth and heroin.

Having a work ethic has not been a problem for him. At 16, he worked in a restaurant as a dishwasher and prep cook. He has done yard and residential maintenance. For five years, he worked in a print shop. Then he said, "I burned all my bridges with my drug problem, missing too many workdays. I decided to do what somebody else wanted me to do, with the hope of getting clean."

Allen especially likes Scripture verses about being still and listening for the Word of the Lord. It is the opposite of worldly drugs that block out the Lord. He said, "Staying clean and in touch with the Lord is more important. I have been knocked down, so I'm no longer number one." He went forward at a church altar call when he was 13-years-old and made a prayer of salvation. Now, he attends a local church.

## **"I like working with my hands."**

On our Program, Allen worked in the maintenance department and bike shop. He said, "I really enjoyed it, because I like working with my hands. If I can be a bike mechanic and do maintenance, it gave me the confidence, that if I can handle this load, I can handle a college load." A couple of Mission staff members encouraged him to go to UCC. Allen chose their automotive degree. After completing his first year of college, he received an "Outstanding Student" award for personal improvement.

We are expanding our Mission Bike Shop, and Allen wants to help. He knows from personal experience the loss of his Driver's License. He had a minor fender bender five years ago, did not notify the DMV, and could not pay the fee. He has been an active cyclist since. He likes moving the bike shop into our Furniture Store for convenience and putting a spotlight on it. He said that because of the virus, "One of the things we can still do is go out and ride a bike."

## **Hope During Virus Crisis**

Roseburg Rescue Mission remained "A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless" during the coronavirus crisis. Our Men's Shelter and Samaritan Inn stayed open to existing and new clients. We did not have to limit our bed usage nor meals served. We walk in faith, not fear. Still, precautionary measures have been taken to screen each person for symptoms and behavior for entry onto our campuses, require hand sanitation station use to enter dayrooms and dining rooms, as well as, face mask and glove use in certain areas.

Food Service has shifted from the traditional "soup kitchen" to more of a sandwich kitchen. The stock pot range is still used for soup, but the crisis caused us to purchase a commercial slicer for meat, cheese, and bread. Instead of having people in our Dining Room, that are not staying overnight here, we changed to providing sandwiches, chips, cookies and bottles of water to go. Breakfast to go is donated doughnuts. Everyone staying overnight still eats in the Dining Rooms. Three meals per day are still available to all.

### **Walk in faith, not fear.**

Chapel services stopped with the shutdown on March 17, when we needed encouragement the most. On May 15 with the Phase 1 re-opening, chapels resumed, yet limited to groups of 25. During that time they were only done by staff and each program met separately. On June 8 with the Phase 2 re-opening, chapels could be groups of 50. Then volunteers could decide the right time for them to return, and we were back to one service for all programs.

The needs of the homeless are still being met here. Any increase in campers on the street is due to a temporary state mandate to not clear out campsites.





## Mission Bike Shop

Transportation is a key element of independent living. Public transit provides a basic system, but has limitations in geographical areas and timing of service, even some confusion among riders with route schedules. Places of employment can be outside of service areas and close after buses stop running. Personal vehicles are often given up when jobs and housing are lost. Drivers' licenses are forfeited for a variety of reasons. The expense of repairing vehicles, needing special insurance, paying DMV fines, owing child support, all can ground a person from driving. Bicycles on the other hand, are inexpensive to buy and maintain. They are a simple, mechanical means of travel. With a few basic tools most people can do at least some repairs. However, having a bike shop and a person familiar with repairing bicycles, most repairs can be done.

Our Mission Bike Shop, as it is pictured here, is new. Prior to its recent development, it was located on the third floor of our warehouse, making it inaccessible except to those assigned to the work. We have had a shop for many years. Donated bikes have been repaired and placed in our Furniture Store. A few years ago, we purchased a rotary bin to sell used bike parts. Now, the whole shop is in our store. Increasing the visibility and access of the bike shop will generate additional bicycle and parts donations, repairs, and sales. Its a service that generates an income, but not with the expectation of a net gain. Its a part of the ministry of providing the essentials to succeed. We are starting with a simple operation. Bicycles are somewhat of a seasonal item. Exercise equipment will also be sold in that area. Yet, the bike shop will be open all year.

### providing the essentials to succeed

Here is a sense of community. As a matter of policy, we do not buy or exchange bikes or parts. We will not be a part of encouraging or enabling the theft of bikes or parts for resale. Certainly, bicycle riding is a benefit for personal exercise and to the environment. Individuals at the Mission, on our program and staff, benefit from the experience of learning a trade and employment skills. People will have the necessary resources to be self-sufficient. Too many times people have not applied for or lost housing and employment for the lack of a used bicycle. Several clients have reported that they will ride a bicycle back to the Mission after dark, when they would not feel safe walking the same route after work or meetings. For our homeless clients, their men's, women's and children's bikes are locked within secure fences and gates.

After considering various locations, on and off campus, economics required the shop to be within an existing store. The timing was directed by the coronavirus. Other projects have been temporarily suspended. That same condition has also caused an increase in demand for new bikes and parts, as well as, a decrease in supply from overseas. So demand for used bikes and parts has grown.

Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director



## Rescue

"Rescue me, O my God,  
out of the hand of the  
wicked, Out of the  
grasp of the wrongdoer  
and ruthless man."

Psalm 71:4

### 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.*