



Roseburg Rescue Mission

Men's Shelter • Samaritan Inn • Thrift Stores

A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless

OCTOBER 2020

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Teenage Domestic Violence

Domestic violence in a personal relationship began at age 14 for Alecia. It molded her formative years and young adult life. Her boyfriend was 17 and domineering; she was too young and meek. He was proud and had great plans to conquer life and succeed. As alcohol abuse and the reality of life set in, Alecia was the center of his venting frustration. They were caught in a codependent relationship and a downward spiral of addiction and unmet expectation. Dating domestic violence followed them into eleven years of marriage. Alecia said, "It was emotional violence, verbal abuse, degrading, demoralizing, then you start believing the lies, you lose yourself, identity, value, not good enough, not going to make it without drugs. He said I was stupid. He spoke for me in public." Family members started them on prescription pain pills as a social connection to keep them close by. A couple of years after the pill addiction started, they discovered, she said that, "Heroin was cheaper and more prevalent. For two years the amount continued to increase to stay 'well,' as in not sick." Then she said, "I realized that I had a problem and I needed to get clean (of drugs) and learn a new way to live."

When Alecia arrived at Samaritan Inn in 2017, her daughter, Serenity, was just a year old. They stayed nine months. Alecia said, "It changed my life, structure, responsibility, order, re-prioritized my life. I wanted to follow the rules. I wanted to be successful, and I was now the one in charge of those decisions. I opened my heart to God. In my room after chapel (at Samaritan Inn) on my knees, I prayed, 'I can't do this by myself. I need You.' And my heart opened up." She then wrote a several page testimony of the faith, hope, and love that she had found in the Lord, as the opposite of the darkness and oppression of the domestic violence that she had endured for so long. She truly had a new life.

She truly had a new life.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Its a time to be reminded that this tragedy exists in our society, and to be aware of the telltale signs of its existence. In the case of teenage friendships, prevention can stop a broken life from happening. Signs someone is being abused: excuses for injuries, personality changes to low self-esteem, constantly checking with partner, overly worried about pleasing partner, never having money, skipping work, school or events, wearing clothing to cover bruises. Ways to make a difference: volunteer, donate food and clothing, wear purple ribbons and clothing, donate money, read and share written materials, encourage an abused person, refer a woman to Samaritan Inn.

Mission Bike Shop

We opened the new Bike Shop in late July. Now located within our Furniture Store, it has good exposure and low overhead. Its the right combination for providing low-cost transportation to our clients as a key element of independent living. The shop is meeting expectations, measuring success by the people being helped. More than half the sales of used bicycles and parts have been sold to people in the community, supporting the service to the homeless. Its a part of the ministry of providing the essentials to succeed. A used bicycle, or the repair of one, can mean the difference between getting a job, housing, or social service help. Bicycle riding is also generally considered to be safer from predators than walking. It does not require licensing, registration, or insurance. We do not buy or exchange used bikes or parts, and every bike sold comes with a receipt of sale recording the serial number.

Low-cost transportation

A stand-alone, used bike shop could not financially survive in our community, especially during the winter. Since we opened, this fact is witnessed by a donation to the Mission of the contents of such a shop that could not make a go of it. Nearly 100 used bikes plus parts were donated here, giving us an abundant supply. We already had 50 or so. It was anticipated that the very presence of our bike shop would generate additional bike donations (and it has done that), but this was a blessing beyond expectation. This operation is about providing a service, meeting a need, recycling a product, encouraging independence. It is restoration and hope for people in need.



Information Center

Missions have long had information centers in a variety of forms. I used to work in a mission that had one called, "The Cage." It had an imposing, elevated floor, so supervisors could keep a watchful eye on people. It had a small, wooden, sliding window for exchange of items and communication. Other missions have counters like the receptionist window of a professional office. Some have incorporated them into their baggage room. Our old information center was a simple desk, filing cabinet, and hygiene locker located midway in our Men's Dayroom. When we remodeled the old Worn Again Thrift Store into our Dayroom eight years ago, the information center was kept mobile, not a built-in unit. The day use area was on one side, the chapel on the other, and doors on both ends of the room could easily be monitored. At that time, casework for clients was done in an adjacent, private office.

Times and needs have changed. Information centers are no longer just observation posts and hygiene dispensing stations. And our casework needed greater accountability and visibility for the benefit of both staff and clients. As soon as the coronavirus pandemic hit, one of the very first changes made was to lock the front Dayroom door and move the desk to that door, so supervisors could screen clients for symptoms. It just took the moving of telephone and data cables (for the security camera monitor), and the installation of an electric door strike, so the door could be unlocked by the press of a button. Its the new normal, a new information center, combining supervision and casework into a single center. Yet, there are two work stations: one for a Program Supervisor to screen clients for entry, the other for a Staff Caseworker to help clients with their needs. The two men are able to support and relieve one another. This is the hub of client information and services. Intake interviews are done here to assess a man's need and develop a personal plan for him. There is information about policy, New Life Program, Transitional housing Program, work assignments, day labor, laundry, clothing vouchers, check-in, hygiene items, housing, employment, medical needs etc.

**at least one other person will enter our facility,
a place where he will not be triggered to relapse**

Client screening has become a necessity for virus symptoms and behavior, both past and present. We are a low barrier shelter among missions, in that, we are a "no obvious use" facility. Breathalyzers for alcohol and urinalysis for drug use are not required for entry. We use discernment to receive people. We reserve the right to use urinalysis to confirm suspicion and for accountability. For every person not allowed into the Mission for being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, at least one other person will enter our clean and sober facility and know this is a place where he will not be triggered by the sight and smell of chemical use to relapse and can get his life together here.

Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director



Rescue

He will rescue their
life from oppression
and violence."
Psalm 72:14

items needed

Spaghetti, Macaroni
Tomato Sauce
Diced Tomatoes
Mushroom Soup
Refried Beans, Salt
Oatmeal, Pepper
Cooking Oil, Mayo
Canned Fruit
Baby Diapers–Newborn
Baby Wipes
Disposable Razors
Deodorant
Socks, Hats
Strollers 1 & 2 Seats
Sanitize Spray–Wipes
Wheelchairs
Furniture
Household Items
Clothing

chapel volunteers

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

used bikes & parts

are for sale in our
Furniture Store.

We accept donations
of used bikes
and parts.

vehicle donations

are accepted here.
Receipt for tax
deductions provided.