



Roseburg Rescue Mission

Men's Shelter • Samaritan Inn • Thrift Stores

A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless

MAY 2021

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



Rescued From The World

Kayla and her identical twin three-year-olds, Elijah and Isiah, were living at her father's house. Their home life was a good environment. Her job as a part-time cashier in a major department store was a solid foundation. However, she was experiencing a problem in their small town community. Everyone seemed to know everyone else, especially those connected to her past drug addiction. She has been clean for four years. She wants to stay that way and provide a better place to raise her children. But those in the drug culture kept wanting to pull her back into their deplorable lifestyle. Kayla described them as a gang, even a pack of wolves, that have a common purpose but would turn on one another at any sign of quitting. There is evil in the world that has to be recognized. Kayla wanted out.

So, she devised a plan to move herself and children into the home of a family friend in a different community. She kept her job. Because the friend lives in subsidized housing that allows for a maximum two week visit, it was temporary. The existence of our Samaritan Inn was common knowledge among the women of that apartment complex. Kayla said we are considered a backup plan, not a means of escaping commitment or responsibility. Women there are more likely to stay in an abusive situation than go to any shelter. But Kayla and her boys had to leave. They told her Samaritan Inn is a good, safe place, and she would even have a private family room. Still, she was afraid that it would automatically open a Child Protective Services case, which it does not. We are a mandatory reporter for observed abuse, not for just being a resident.

**"I am learning to be myself as a woman,
not what some guy wants."**

"Everybody's been really nice," Kayla said, "My kids are hyperactive, but age appropriate. With the rules, there is an order here, and I understand the reason. I am learning to be myself as a woman, not what some guy wants. I have codependency issues. I need to be myself first, way before entering into a relationship again." She said, "The structure here is good. The security makes me feel safe, I know that no one is going to come in to get me." Kayla said, "I am comfortable in a Christian facility because I feel safer that God is here, and I can talk about Him. Sometimes, I can't do that at work. I believe that Jesus died for my sins, and I am going to Heaven. I am saved." Indeed, she has been rescued from the world.

Parachurch

The Christian worldview of so many church people today consists of their local congregation and foreign missionaries only. The domestic mission field is largely not considered for volunteering or career. Recently, a couple of local nonprofits closed their doors, not for a shortage of money, for a lack of capable staff. In the Mission's operation, finding people with a heart for evangelism is at least as much of a concern as finances. Like the police are paramilitary, the Mission is parachurch. It means "by the side of," or "going beyond," as in specializing but not taking the place of. Many nonprofits behave like para government organizations, financed by government and secular foundation grants, that focus on housing and other human services. Some Christian nonprofits have drifted from their purpose, one decision to fill a volunteer, staff, or board position at a time.

a heart for evangelism

The Mission is not a substitute for the Church. We do not perform the sacerdotal duties of communion, baptism, weddings, or funerals. There is no couples counseling here. We are a nondenominational arm of the Church specializing in evangelizing and caring for the needs of the homeless, that individual churches cannot be expected to meet or understand the complexities involved. The coronavirus has exaggerated the challenge by preventing volunteers from serving now and causing staff to have concerns about working in a congregate living environment. "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field" Luke 10:2. Workers are not being sent by the Church to the Mission, anymore than, we are not attracting them to us.



Truly Homeless

Hungry children peer through the clear, plexiglass shield on our Samaritan Inn's dinner line. The combination shield-shelf is a result of coronavirus precautions. The pre-virus standard was using hinged lids on food pans. This new custom designed, protective equipment makes food service safer from transmission of viruses. Steam can be seen rising from the hot food that will warm their stomachs this night. Children are excited to see the variety of foods to choose from. It is donated by people in the community and prepared by women on our program three times every day. Still, each one would rather be in their own home with their moms fixing meals. Children are truly homeless, innocent victims of circumstance that want a home. They need to be rescued; indeed, they want to be rescued.

innocent victims of circumstance that want a home

Following the local trend of the past decade, men have increased in addiction camping, while the truly homeless increase has been among women and children. In that time frame, the number of women and children at the Mission has tripled, while the men's population has actually decreased some. If not for our single room occupancy hotels for men, women and children here would outnumber the men. This past decade saw the move of our Samaritan Inn from residential houses to a commercial facility. Now having a dozen or more mothers with their 20 plus children here is commonplace. Since opening at our new location six years ago, we reached a high of 98 one night, that included 19 mothers and 32 children. Samaritan Inn now has 104 beds.

they want to be rescued

True homelessness is out of sight in shelters and foster care homes. Foster Care is in crisis mode. A shelter for unaccompanied minors no longer exists in Douglas County. Samaritan Inn has become an extension, of sorts, of the Foster Care program and Parole and Probation, allowing mothers to retain custody of children on condition of our supervised living environment.

Here is a means of actually working on the prevention of future homelessness among today's children, rather than just dealing with the broken lives of adults that need accountability. So many unhoused people had unstable homes in childhood. This is the point of breaking the generational cycle of passing this living condition on to children. This is an emergency shelter, not a place to support a counterculture lifestyle. We encourage independence with a timeline to follow and steps of progress to take along the way. Here is a place to learn parenting skills, a structured lifestyle, nutrition, sleep patterns, sobriety, God's Word. Life can be hopeful, productive, make an impact, about other people and healthy relationships, have opportunities, and a walk with the Lord.

Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director



items needed

Quilts 60" X 90"
Egg Noodles
Tomato Sauce
Diced Tomatoes
Mushroom Soup
Refried Beans
Gravy Mix
Spices, Salt, Mayo
Canned Fruit & Veggies
Pancake Syrup
Diapers & Wipes
Disinfectant Spray
Disinfectant Wipes
Bottles of Water

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.

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.*