



Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope
for the Homeless*

49 *Years*
1964-2013

JUNE 2013

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Bridging The Gap

When the housing market went bust, Jerry lost his job. He had worked for more than five years for a local manufactured home sales company. He did the installation work, building foundations and leveling homes. When the stock market dropped in 2008 and companies were laying off employees or going out of business, sales of manufactured homes plummeted. There was no demand for Jerry to install new homes. He lived on unemployment benefits as long as it lasted and continued to make mortgage payments on his own home.

At 57-years-old at the time, Jerry had a barrier to employment. Its just a natural phenomenon, younger workers have an easier time finding blue-collar jobs. It was not for a lack of work ethic or trying that kept him out of the workforce. He did day labor, but alas, it was not enough to keep his home.

He couch surfed for quite a while, first with a sister, then with a daughter. But, they had their own families. Then Jerry stayed with his son, who had also lost his job because of the recession, in a small camp trailer with no heat and little food. Jerry said, "Instead of doing nothing, I decided to donate my time and come to the Mission." He volunteered working in the kitchen. He did day labor from the Mission and continued to go to the Employment Department. Jerry was not counted among the unemployed anymore, but among the homeless.

After four years of first unemployment, then couch surfing, then living at the Mission, he gave up the search for employment. At 61-years-old, he had to face the reality that it just was not going to happen. So, he refocused on spending a year in

the Mission's New Life Program, then collecting Social Security early at 62, a retirement benefit that he had worked hard for and had certainly earned. And Jerry is not alone, many older workers have had to find a means to bridge the gap between recession lay offs and retirement. The government reports significant increases in Social Security early retirement, as well as, disability claims.

Jerry was rescued. He had hope and a workable transition plan. He had a purpose that he could apply his life experience to helping younger men find their way. His program position was that of a supervisor, checking men in at curfew and keeping watch over them through the night.

He went to program classes of Bible studies, behavior group and life skills. As he was growing personally, he was encouraging others. He said, "It gave me the understanding that all of us need each other truly. I learned to be less critical and judgmental."

Jerry was uncouncted as unemployed by man, but not forgotten by the Lord, who counted him among His own, even able to count the very hairs of his head (Matthew 10:30). The Mission is the Lord's provision to the poor for food, clothing, shelter and the Bread of Life, the Word of God. Jerry had accepted the Lord years before arriving here, but was not really living his life as unto the Lord. He had been living as unto himself, dealing only with his own needs and concerns. But, he awakened here to a deeper commitment to the Lord, His Kingdom and people. As his relationship with the Lord grew, his involvement in others expanded, even as a ministry.

When Jerry received his retirement benefit, he bought a trailer. He is a



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home owner again, although on a smaller scale. He is renting a space locally to be near his parents, children and grandchildren. He is switching churches from one close to the Mission to one in which he made a connection with one of our much appreciated chapel volunteers. The gap was bridged between unemployment and retirement, between uninvolved and relationship with the Lord, church, community, family.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Thrift Store

BASIC SERVICES

For men, women and children

Food: 3 meals every day

Clothing: Available to all

Recovery Program: 20

Transitional Housing: 36

Client Shelter: 120

Emergency Shelter: 24

Total Beds Available: 200

Dayrooms: Open all day
Laundry, showers, phone, etc.

Thrift Stores: Items vouchered to those in need, sold to others

Chapel: A part of our daily lives.

New Men's Program Living Area

We are remodeling an area adjacent to our Dining Room. It's an apartment with adjoining bedrooms. It appears to be the manager's living quarters of the original Roseburg Hotel. There is still evidence of a hotel check-in counter and cabinets for registration materials. We are preserving the 110-year-old construction, but remodeling later work done circa 1960s. Pictured is a view of the renovation from the kitchen looking to the living room on the left and through an exposed wall into the bathroom on the right.

This area had been rented out as three separate rooms in our Transitional Housing Program, a program that still has 40 rooms. Our New Life Program needed to be expanded and improved. This new area has more windows and light, room to move around and separation between sleeping areas. There is a common living room, kitchen, bathroom, shower. And its located in a building separate from our transient guests, giving a greater distinction to the program. There are obvious privileges not given other guests that can only access their service areas at certain times of the day.

The New Life Program is not for everyone. Some do not need it, others may not be ready for it or are not eligible. When a person loses a job then cannot pay his rent, or just loses his place to live and comes to the Mission, he needs only to look for another job and/or a new place to live. He does not need this program. Or if a person has certain medical, mental health or other issues, we assist him outside the program.

The purpose of the New Life Program is to overcome obstacles to a successful life by meeting the need of the individual with a structured, progressive course of work, classes and counseling. Flexibility is built into the program to keep the focus on personal growth. Our goal is to graduate people from the program and place in independent living arrangements. A person can graduate in one year. In that time, we address each aspect of our human condition: physical, mental, emotional, psychological and spiritual. The program introduces and develops relationship with our Creator and Savior.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the Nations.” Matthew 28:19

The content of this discipleship program includes a well rounded curriculum. There is work training. Work in itself is therapy, learning a skill, accomplishing a task, working with others, taking instruction. There are Bible classes that include morning chapel messages, group Bible studies and attendance at an outside church. There are life skills classes that include resume writing, financial planning, computer skills, GED. There is a Bible based class that teaches a process to address obsessive-compulsive-addictive behaviors. Issues of medical, psychological, dental, medication and legal needs are dealt with. There is counseling and goal setting. The new living area will enhance the conditions and success of the program.

Lynn Antis, Executive Director



Items Needed:
Elbow Macaroni

Pepper

Dry Milk

Oatmeal

Disposable Razors

Hair Brushes

Socks

Twin Fitted Sheets

Pajamas

DONATE A CAR OR TRUCK



Donations are tax deductible