



Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope
for the Homeless*

49

Years
1964-2013

SEPTEMBER 2013

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I Needed A Safe Place

Becky has an excellent work history in the midst of an otherwise turbulent life. Thus far at 30 years of age, employment has been a great source of security and confidence. She said, "Work is stabilizing. I bury myself in my work, and I don't have to think about the problems in life." She arrived at the Mission's Samaritan Inn for women and children with a job and she will leave with a job. She has a strong work ethic and sense of independence to provide for herself.

However, codependent or otherwise unhealthy relationships mark her past. A need to be accepted put an imbalance to her other responsible behavior. She has a maturity for holding a job, but an undeveloped means of building sound relationships.

The last place Becky lived seemed innocent enough at first. She had met and old friend from high school. She needed an affordable place to live; he had a room at his place. How could that be as bad as any of the nightmarish roommates, relationships or abuses of the past? It was the worst. Not only did he have severe personal issues that brought the police around, he wanted more out of the relationship than she did. Her conclusion was, "I needed a safe place."

Becky needed hope, but she did not trust

God in whom is all hope. She was angry at God for allowing all the bad things to happen in her life. Here she discovered where the fault really belongs. She shifted her blame of God to our sinful human condition. The truth was revealed to her of God's great love for us that He gave us the awesome gift of free will to choose good or evil. Being the victim of someone else's free will choice does not mean that God loves her any less. God loves the victimizer as well as the victim and wants both to turn to Him for their salvation.

Becky repented, turned toward God, acknowledged God's loving presence had been right there beside her all along. She said, "I was baptized at 13, but no one told me that I had to surrender. Now, I let God in and let go of the anger. I can't do it myself. I can't drive my life anymore. You, Lord, need to be at the wheel, because I will just wreck again. That day, I was different, not angry. He has given me strength. When praying with staff, the walls came down around my heart."

Soon, she will leave the safety of Samaritan Inn. She will still have her job, but she will have a new identity. There is no guarantee of protection from the world. There is, however, an assurance of her eternal relationship with the Lord. From there she can work on healthy relationships with people.



**"Work is stabilizing.
I busy myself in my
work, and I don't have
to think about the
problems in life."**

**BACK TO
SCHOOL
SALE
50%
OFF
ALL
CHILDREN'S
CLOTHING
MISSION
THRIFT
STORE**

**SEPTEMBER
2ND-7TH**

**Some Free
School Supplies
may still be
available.
Donated school
supplies first go
to our Samaritan
Inn for homeless
children living
there.**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many ways to be "A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless".

Here are some of our current needs:

Samaritan Inn

Chapel Services

Bible Study

Men's Mission

Chapel Service

Thrift Store

Men's Barber

Apply on our website or in our office.

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.

Items Needed:

Sliced Bread

Spices-Pasta

Pancake Mix & Syrup

Oatmeal

Disposable Razors

Deodorants

Twin Sheets

Towels

Pillows

**Remember the
Roseburg Rescue
Mission in your
Estate Planning**

Homeless And Mentally Ill

In the 1980s a move began away from large, aging hospitals and the warehousing of the mentally ill to put those patients back into their own familiar communities for support from family, friends and county facilities. Federal funding shifted from the general fund to support state hospitals to the Social Security system providing SSI checks to the mentally ill to decide their own treatment. New medications also helped to provide greater independence. For those able to meet the challenge, it was a great new freedom for housing and even employment. For those unable to cope, many ended up on the street, homeless and self-medicating with alcohol and drugs or not taking their prescription medications.

In Oregon, state hospitals closed or greatly downsized. Federal and state health insurance programs provide medications. Still many homeless, mentally ill people need help navigating the system, qualifying and applying for assistance. Many that would have been in a state hospital a few years ago are now using the emergency room, county jail and mission. Missions have become an extension of the government mental health and correctional systems.

We have the freedom in our country to be mentally ill and not taken against our will to some institution. But in order to be helped when life is out of control, a person has to be a serious threat to themselves or to others. Now the only way to get into a state mental health facility is to be criminally prosecuted, a geriatric or a juvenile, and then only if there is room.

Today in Douglas County, perhaps the greatest unmet service needed among the homeless is a halfway house for the mentally ill.

According to the National Institute of Mental Illness, 25% of American adults suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder. Serious and chronic mental illness is present in 6% of the general population. Most reliable sources report that about 40% of homeless people have some kind of mental health problem, and 20% to 25% have serious mental illness. Antipsychotics are now the top selling class of drugs in the US.

Mental illness is a part of our human condition, an infirmity that can be treated and managed effectively for most people. Its not a punishment from God; people do not ask for it or want it. Its just there and its frightening, devastating to self-esteem. How hard it is to just accept ourselves as a child of God! We want labels of intelligent, successful. Yet, we do not have to hide our struggles or risk rejection. And there is no reason to fear the Mission anymore than for any of the other issues that people bring to us. According to the US Surgeon General, "There is very little risk of violence or harm to a stranger from casual contact with an individual who has a mental disorder." People with mental illness are first people. They need our understanding and help. Many are Christians, some fall prey to the occult in their delusion. Every Christian, mentally ill or not, that comes through the door of the Mission has the Lord within them. Every non-Christian has the conviction of the Lord upon them. These are the very broken people we, the Church not just the Mission, have been called to serve. Christians started the first hospitals, including mental health facilities to treat the sick of body and mind. There will one day be no difference between those resurrected to new life in Christ. We should not love any less now. At the Mission, we get the privilege of seeing God work wonders in people's lives.

Lynn Antis, Executive Director



**"For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him Who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God."
Romans 8:20-21**