



Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope
for the Homeless*

50 *Years*
1964-2014

MARCH 2014

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Byron in his Transitional Housing Program rented room.

A Stepping Stone

Byron referred to the Mission as “a stepping stone”, that is a solid footing to cross over a turbulent time in life.

The storm began to brew much earlier than his present 39 years of age. His mother died when he was just eight. His father was a functional alcoholic and physically abused him. He left his tiny logging town when he was sixteen. Byron went from a graduating class that would have only had thirteen students to a large Portland community college. He was at least two years younger than his peer group. They called him “the kid”, and “showed him how to drink.”

Amazingly, Byron graduated with an Associate Degree in Child Psychology and Communication. But he had become disillusioned with that course fulfilling his expectations. He continued to work in restaurants, the means that had supported

him through school. A few years later, he had worked his way up to be a chef in a fine restaurant. But his socializing still would not stop with just one drink. He lost jobs and relationships. The years went by.

He tried a fresh start in a different city, but it was really isolating without support of friends. Searching for social connection, he contacted his family that he had been estranged from for many years. He discovered that his father had died and his siblings wanted nothing to do with him. A deep depression

engulfed him. In a move that took him back to the logging days of his youth, he got a job with a reforestation company. He fought the enormous Glendale forest fire of 2013. He was on the frontlines, risking safety, saving people and property. After living in a crew camp for months, he went home and blew his sobriety, relationship and money.

“It was the spiritual part, and it kept me sober. Those are the two big ones here. It gave me a line out.”

Items Needed:
Pancake Mix
Syrup
Spices
Oatmeal
Spaghetti Sauce
Dry Milk
Bicycles
Twin Size Blankets
Disposable Razors
Baby Wipes
Hair Brushes
Women’s
Nightgowns

**DONATE A CAR
OR TRUCK
Donations are
tax deductible**



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

His girlfriend told him to go to the Mission. Byron said, "I remember walking into the dayroom. I had an overwhelming feeling of, 'Wow, I'm at the bottom now. I don't think I can go any further down.' I have always been a proud man. It was a real eye opener for me. Ken (a program supervisor) was very supportive; he showed me the ropes. The Mission does its job. It was the spiritual part, and it kept me sober. Those are the two big ones here. It gave me a line out."

After a day or two, Byron started looking for a job. In a couple of weeks, he was working in a restaurant. By six weeks, he was in our Transitional Housing Program renting a room.

Every night, that he was not working, he was in chapel. Of the chapel volunteers, he said, "Most of them were pretty cool. They have the gumption to come down here, showed me that they believe in what they are talking about. I believe in

Christ the Lord. I went to church as child and was baptized in the Nehalem River. I never lost my faith." But Byron went on to talk about the discouraging hypocrisy in people that he had worked with in the past, carousing around then inviting him to church. Then he said, "Here people practice what they preach. I love them,

they are awesome. I was reawakened. There is hope! Things happen for a reason. Now, I can get on with my life. Obviously, I was not doing the right thing. When people fall, you can get your life together again. Without this facility, I don't want to think about where I would be right now."

Rules That Attract

Each of the three categories of Mission clients have specific rules to enhance the effectiveness of those programs. Whether a part of the transient guests, New Life Program or Transitional Housing Program, clients appreciate rules. So many tell us that they want to be held accountable. They do not want to be afraid of or tempted by others' behavior. They want their Mission neighbor in the next dayroom chair to be sober too. They do not want to be intimidated by the person in the next bunk. For a man renting a room in one of our two Single Room Occupancy hotels, he does not want rowdy behavior in a room down the hall. Clients want to eat in peace and safety in our dining room.

Mothers appreciate the Mission's scheduled routines and the rule of their children having to pick up their own toys etc. A pattern is established here, taking that practice to their new homes with them. Its rather empowering to be supplied a kit of new tools with which to take control of life!

Curfew is a protective measure to keep people accountable to otherwise late hour behaviors. Curfew is for the order of the Mission routine including: check-in, baggage storage, U.S. mail call, chapel, dinner, showers and lights out. Clients can come in late with verifiable employment or meetings.

They expect and deserve a clean and sober living environment, a place of order and hope, a place where knowledgeable staff can direct people to available services here and elsewhere. On occasion when a rule is broken and a person has to leave the Mission for a period of time, it does not reduce our population. At least one more person comes in right behind, looks around and realizes that this is a safe place that they can stay and get the help they need.

Gospel That Appeals

A recent survey conducted through the National Association of Gospel Rescue Missions shows that 90% of Roseburg Rescue Mission men and women clients "prefer a spiritual emphasis". People want to know that the Presence of the Lord is in this place. Even secular Alcoholics Anonymous teaches a "higher power" otherwise self attempts are hopeless.

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes." Romans 1:16

Chapel is as much a part of Mission life as chapel is to any Christian primary or secondary school or Christian college. Chaplain type staff are as essential to Mission health as chaplains are to private or veteran hospitals. Mission chapel services are an outreach of the community. Volunteers from churches bring a thirty minute message of hope and uplifting music, even an invitation to attend their own churches.

The Mission's logo is a lighthouse. The Gospel Light warns of the dangers ahead if one steers in the wrong direction, and it guides into a safe harbor. The Mission can be relied upon to be a stabilizing element in a person's life and for the community as a whole. The Mission is the homeless person's biggest advocate. We advocate for the right of the majority to have a place that is uplifting and hopeful. Without rules and the Gospel, there is only lawlessness and godlessness – that is not an environment in which to have a new life.

Lynn Antis, Executive Director



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Here are some of our current needs:

Samaritan Inn
Chapel Services
Bible Study

Men's Mission
Thrift Store
GED Tutors

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: 24
Transitional Housing: 36
Client Shelter: 118
Emergency Shelter: 32
Total Beds Available: 210
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.