



# Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope  
for the Homeless*

**50** *Years*  
1964-2014

JUNE 2014

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## Solution To Impossible Commute

David could not afford to drive to work. He lost his last job for a lack of gas money. Like so many others in Douglas County, just getting that job was hard to do. Then it was only part-time, and he had to drive from his native Myrtle Creek to Roseburg. One day, he called his place of employment to tell them that he did not have the gas money to get to work. He asked for a day, so he could do some day labor to earn gas money, but they said, "No." He was unemployed again. David has a family to feed; rent to pay. Their water was shut off for lack of payment.

Many of the larger employers around Myrtle Creek use employment agencies in Roseburg. He could not afford to get to the employment agencies with the consistency required to get a job. In a word, the answer was, "migration". As others have left Roseburg for opportunities in larger cities, some leave still smaller communities for Roseburg, a regional hub of employment activity and social services.

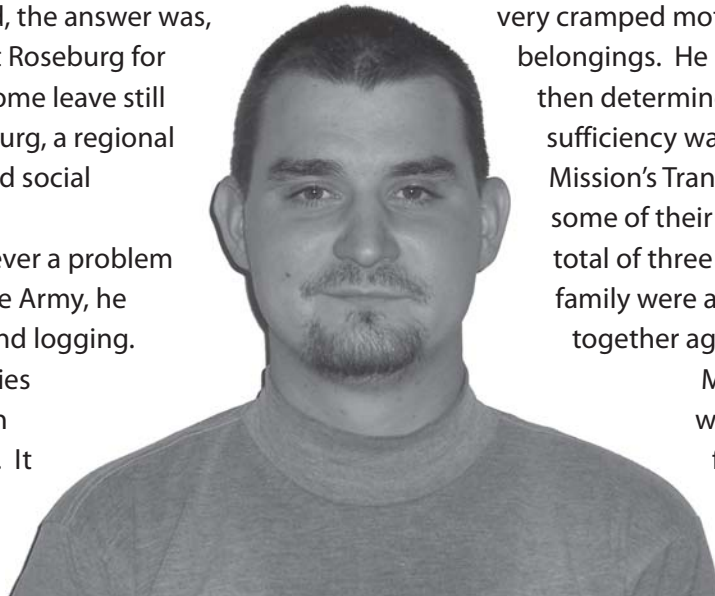
Having a work ethic was never a problem with David. After his stint in the Army, he worked in fast food, sawmills and logging. He took his family responsibilities seriously, deciding to resettle in Roseburg for work possibilities. It was a great plan, but not one that he could implement on his own. He needed some temporary assistance, then he would be independent again. The solution that David devised was for him to move into the Mission dormitory, while his fiancé and ten-month-old son would move later.

David said, "Once I moved to Roseburg, it only took three weeks to find work. Every morning, I got up and looked for work. I got a job by going to a mill every day. I was behind on bills. I needed a job. I just begged them, until I got a job. Every morning, I was there. They saw that I was serious and reliable, and I got the job."

The process was not all tenacity on his part. There was a bit of bravado, a courage of just taking one necessary step after another, a defiant confidence when he was really very worried for the future. He does not mind sharing that tears were shed while talking to and praying with a volunteer after an evening chapel service.

After three weeks on the job, he moved his family into a very cramped motel room with all of their belongings. He stayed in the Mission dormitory. He then determined that the next step to self-sufficiency was for him to rent a room in the Mission's Transitional Housing Program and store some of their possessions in that room. After a total of three months on the job, David and his family were able to move into their own place together again. Hope was fulfilled.

More than employment and housing was achieved. More than hope for a future in this life resulted. David said, "The Mission brought me back to God. The nightly chapel services, listening to the Word, it spoke to me. It turned me back. I believe the Lord died on the cross for our sin. I want to lead the life He wants us to live. There came a point where there was no more denying it." Now he has an eternal hope as well.



**"Every morning, I was there. They saw that I was serious and reliable, and I got the job."**

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

*Here are some of our current needs:*

- Chapel Services
- Bible Study
- Thrift Store

*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.

## Items Needed:

- Dry Beans**
- Rice**
- Canned Veggies**
- Potatoes**
- Oatmeal**
- Coffee**
- Pajamas**
- Disposable Razors**
- Towels**
- Deodorant**

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

# 7 Staff Were Homeless

Shared success is an encouragement for everyone around it. Hope is restored. Opportunities come alive.

Seven men and women are employed here part-time that used to be clients. Each one has shown the ability to actively contribute to the operation of the Mission. The jobs are not gifts; they are earned. The jobs are not subsidized by grants, neither government nor private. Compensation is paid mostly through donations and thrift store sales. Each employee is given a private room, board and salary; except one, who has now moved off-site and is paid an hourly wage, an even greater step of independence.

These positions are not administrative overhead; they are client services. They are a result, even a purpose, of this ministry. There is an engine of hope generating positions. Possibilities are opened up. Resumes are developed. Letters of recommendation produced.

**“Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.” I Thessalonians 4:11-12**

Clients accept staff positions for various reasons. For some, the position may be a means of working their last leg of employment to retirement on a high note of success. For others, the ministry or social service aspect attracts them. For some, it's the experience in a career field like cooking, driving or retail. Sometimes, it's just the fact that someone saw the potential in them, the value, the trust to place in a position of importance. There is a greater sense of purpose, a redefining of oneself, contributing to the community, even paying taxes. Confidence is built. They give back to society in gratitude for the help that they have received.

This is not a self-perpetuating state of homelessness, getting stuck in an institutional system. This is a step of independence, each one able to live off-site, if need be, on their own. Its opportunity where there was none. Some may have even given up hope of



**Sean is the newest member of our staff. He is a graduate of the New Life Program and works in our thrift stores.**

ever being employed again. Or like a jilted bride, the prospective employee may be wary of a new suitor for fear of rejection again.

These activities do produce a social service busyness, but not an unhealthy distraction from sharing the Gospel, indeed its a means of sharing the Good News and putting it into action, restoring lives.

In all of this, we remain understaffed, always seeming to wonder how all the work will get done. Volunteers help, but there are too few. Yet, we remain confident that the Lord will continue to provide all that is needed.

For these seven souls, and those who will one day be in their positions, hope is truly restored.



*Lynn Antis,  
Executive Director*