



# Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope  
for the Homeless*

**51** *Years*  
1964-2015

MARCH 2015

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

## To Start My Life Over Again

Larry is a native of south county. After graduating from high school, he did a full stint of military service, first with the National Guard then active duty in the Army. When he returned home, he worked many years in a wood products company. He married, had children and provided them a home. When a divorce broke up their family, Larry's choice of suppressant for the ensuing depression was to put in all the overtime available at work. He said that he was so busy and then tired, it kept his mind off his broken home. His work therapy lasted until his employer brought automation into the plant. Machinery replaced many employees, including Larry. He could replace the job, but he had not really dealt with the relationship loss. He was suddenly, really disconnected.

He sought redemption in the workplace, but was met with disappointment and frustration. He had trouble transitioning from millwork to other types of available work. Unemployed, he went to live with a sister, but was unable to stay long because of guidelines about the number of occupants in an apartment. He surfed the couches of friends until the tensions became too great. When the mix of people changed in the last place he stayed, he said, "I had to leave. I was on the streets. I had a blanket and my bags. I found a place by the railroad tracks in some brush and trees." Then our native son was just surviving. He had food stamps, bathed in the river, went to the library. He was very discouraged.

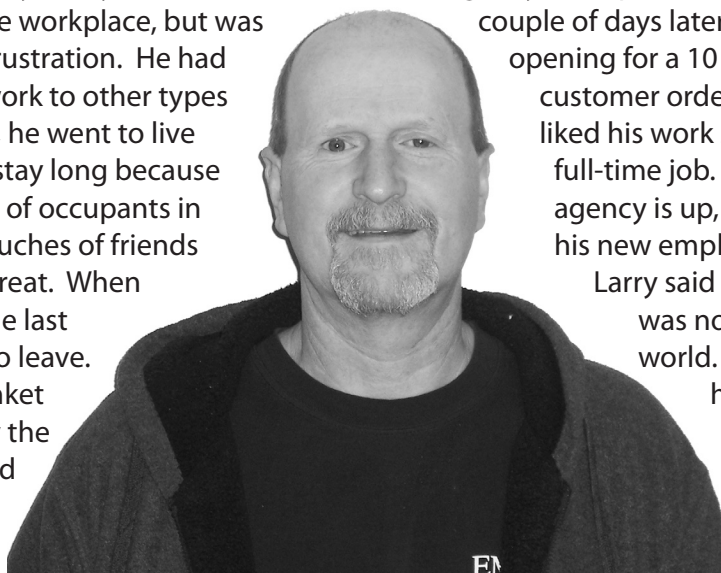
"I had seen the Mission, driving by it for years. But I didn't know what the Mission was. I heard about a guy staying here, but I never thought about what the

Mission did. Other guys would eat here. I didn't know the situation. One day after 3 or 4 weeks, I got tired of it. It was going to start raining. I grabbed my bags and came on down. I came to the Mission to start my life over again. I was off the street, not alone, not thrown away. I could keep my head, meet people, make friends, have connections," Larry said.

When hope was restored, he diligently went about the task of finding a job. He went to the Employment Department, Umpqua Training and Employment and temporary employment agencies. They helped him with his resume, job applications and using a computer. Larry's opportunity came through a temporary employment agency, a simple 4 hour job unloading trucks. A couple of days later, the same company had an opening for a 10 day job, that included pulling customer orders off shelves for shipping. They liked his work so much that they offered him a full-time job. When his contract with the agency is up, he will be working directly for his new employer.

Larry said that he needed to know that he was not alone. "Its not the end of the world. Tomorrow is a new day. I have hope for myself. I can be better. There's still a lot of good out there for me."

He said, "I enjoy chapel; the best part is the different providers, the different messages. I believe in God. I have encouragement and hope." He said the Mission helped to take his focus off of himself and put it on other people and emotionally put his head above water.



**"I was off the street, not alone, not thrown away. I could keep my head, meet people, make friends, have connections."**

## 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.

**Housing:** 250 beds

**Transitional Housing:** Rentals (Men)

**Recovery Program:** Open to Men and Women.

**Dayrooms:** Open all day.

Restrooms, laundry, showers, phone, etc.

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

**Chapel:** A part of our daily lives.

# Bookstore Demolition

## Parking Lot Paving & Landscaping

We closed our Bookstore, on the corner of SE Pine St and SE Cass Av, last November. Severe cracking began to appear during the summer. Inspection of the building revealed that a corner of the foundation was sinking and the walls were pulling away from the roof structure. It was made of cinder block that was not reinforced. Repairing the damaged portion would have been expensive, and we still would not have a building with a long life expectancy.

In making such a decision, we had to consider the future of the Mission's downtown complex. We took into account a projection of the change and increase to the homeless men's population. The Bookstore is a small, single story building remote from other buildings. We cannot add a second story to it. Planning had to include a consolidation of the scattered buildings purchased over the years. And the need for city required parking spaces is always a part of the picture. We concluded that the solution was to concentrate parking on the north end of the block so that future building could be done on the south end among the other buildings.

Other factors were included. Insurance does not cover this kind of damage. Items in the Bookstore could be moved to our Thrift Store and Furniture Store without losing any net income. We can increase income by leasing out more parking spaces. And the cost of demolition was significantly less than repairs.

In evaluating this situation, we were reminded of why this property was purchased in September of 2011. The following is an excerpt from that month's newsletter:

*"We have a contract to purchase 527 SE Cass Av. We made this decision based on the following reasons: 1. Homelessness continues to increase. 2. The property became available. 3. The price was very reasonable. 4. We were able to repackage an existing mortgage on another property, not increasing our monthly payment. 5. We can rent out the property. 6. We will own the whole block. 7. We will be able to use the additional parking spaces to negotiate future Conditional Use Permits. Really, not buying it would have been poor stewardship. We will need to do some repair work on the building and find a renter." Newsletter, September 2011.*

Clearly, the property was not purchased with the intent or need for an additional thrift store. It was based on availability, price and future planning. The property was a foreclosure, priced at the worth of the land alone. Removing the building will not decrease the value of our investment, and it will increase the usability of the whole Mission complex. All things considered, demolition was the best conclusion.

**"There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under Heaven. A time to tear down, and a time to build up." Ecclesiastes 3:1, 3**

As we tear down the Bookstore, we are building up the new Samaritan Inn. And parking lot paving and landscaping will replace the Bookstore. We want to be a good neighbor in the downtown business community. This rather prominent corner needs to be appealing. In addition, the whole gravel parking lot north of our Thrift Store has a requirement for the same improvements, based on a Conditional Use Permit from a past remodel with a rather short timeline for completion.

Indeed, timing and financing have become the issues. In the middle of remodeling the old Umpqua Medical Center into the new Samaritan Inn for women and children, the Bookstore has become a safety problem, as well as paving and landscaping a necessity. We did not need or want more projects right now, but here we are. Without the ability to prepare for such inopportune events, our resources are being stretched.



Lynn Antis, Executive Director

**Items Needed:**  
Oatmeal  
Canned Fruits  
Canned Veggies  
Mayonnaise  
Tuna  
Toothpaste  
Disposable Razors  
Towels  
Deodorant

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