



Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope
for the Homeless*

51 *Years*
1964-2015

OCTOBER 2015

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Accidents Happen

Through no fault of his own behavior, Rick took a serious fall, hitting his head on a concrete sidewalk. His forehead became swollen with a lump the size of a baseball. A tumor formed inside his head. He has a history of having seizures, but that was not the cause of his accident. He does not use drugs or alcohol. He continues to use anti-seizure medication.

When Rick was finally release from a long stay in the hospital, he got his old job back. He has been a part-time Courtesy Clerk in a local grocery store for the past 18 years. He bags groceries, carries them out to customer's cars, stocks the dairy section and cleans the restroom. He used to work for years at a local boat manufacturing company until they went out of business. He said, "I've always been very independent, supported myself and had a place to stay."

In the three years since his accident, life has been different. Rick said, "I have noticed that I don't walk as fast, and I have to ask friends to slow down." Maintaining stable housing has also been a challenge. He has bounced from friend to friend, sometimes for a night or even a few months at a time. The last friend suddenly moved out of town. On his low income, he has had trouble saving first and last month's rent, deposit and utility costs. He had run out of options. Without warning, he was homeless. It was not for a lack of housing units available. He became homeless because his earning potential had decreased due to his accident. He refused to apply for SSI in favor of continuing to work. He is a victim of circumstance. He has no criminal background. And his story has been verified by a family member who regularly visits him here.

In the photo, Rick is standing outside of his new home at the Mission. He started by sleeping in the first floor dormitory, then moved to a private rental room on the second floor. He is saving his money so he can move out on his own.

Accidents and disabilities do happen. Its an unfortunate part of life. Rick just needed a temporary place to call home, then he will be independent again.



**"Vindicate the weak and fatherless;
Do justice to the afflicted and destitute.
Rescue the weak and needy."**

Psalm 82:3-4

Housing Veterans

Roseburg Rescue Mission is a place of hope and dignity that homeless veterans can utilize while waiting for the Veterans Administration to sort through our mutual client's medical and housing needs. The VA hospital attracts veterans, some of which are homeless men and women, to Roseburg. Our last survey, done in October 2014, showed 28% of the men staying here at the Mission are veterans, down from 35% the year before. Still, we are double the national average, based on surveys. Roseburg's homeless veteran's population is above the national average because of the VA services offered here. The recent influx of money to the VA, to shorten waiting times for services, has apparently opened up new housing and other benefit opportunities for veterans. The VA van regularly picks up and drops off clients at the Mission. Some vets choose to stay in our dormitory and just receive the basic services of food, clothing, shelter and use of our dayroom. Some choose to join our New Life Program and go to classes in Bible study, addiction recovery and life skills. Still others choose our Transitional Housing Program, renting a private room here. And some vets will move between our three options, as well as, go back and forth between the Mission and VA inpatient and housing programs. Unfortunately, some veterans end up on the street, as a result of their condition, not a lack of beds available here.

Jon arrived in Roseburg two years ago, specifically to receive VA medical and mental health services. He has stayed at the Mission during that time. He said, "I have a service related condition for many years of depression. That is why I am homeless and have failed marriages. I am trying to clean up the wreckage of my past. I traveled around the country a lot to get away from bad environ-



ments. I have 14 years of sobriety now because of mission protected environments. Its structured, so it helped me to stay sober." Jon said that he has sought services at over 12 VA facilities. Now his records get delayed or lost because of going to multiple locations. He said, "I had given up on the system. I could not get therapy because I wasn't on medications." It was then that Mission staff identified Jon as a person without a workable plan to achieve independence. We gave him 30 days to show evidence

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that he was doing something toward that goal; and for him, it was specific to pursuing his VA benefits. He said, "At first, I was upset, but it motivated me to contact the VA again." Now Jon has a surgery scheduled, a housing voucher and disability benefits being expedited. He said, "Its important to me that the Mission has given me the amount of time needed to find solutions to my problems. Without this place I would have cracked up and gone back to drinking. And if I were camping out, I would never be able to deal with all these issues."

Items Needed

- Canned Fruits
- Canned Veggies
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup
- Coffee
- Egg Noodles
- Disposable Razors
- Toothpaste - small
- Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Bicycles

Dear Friends,

The open house of our new Samaritan Inn for homeless women and children took place on August 19, 2015. About 100 people attended. There were brief messages from Mike Winters (a board member), Lynn Antis (Executive Director) Linda Greco (Manager of Samaritan Inn) and Chris Boice (a county commissioner). Two days later, our guests moved into the new facility. A week later, the remaining furniture and materials were moved. On August 28, we did a final walk through of the three houses of the old facility, locked the doors and turned the keys over to the new owner. It was a nostalgic walk, remembering the way it used to be, as well as, past staff and clients. But the overwhelming sense was one of, "how did we ever make it work in these cramped quarters?" The comparison to the new facility is remarkable.

Thank you,
Lynn Antis
Executive Director

