



Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope
for the Homeless*

AUGUST 2016

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

The Problem Inside Me

Kory had a rough start in life. He was conceived in his alcoholic, sixteen-year-old mother. She lived in an unwed mother's home and gave him up for adoption at birth. He was born with fetal alcohol syndrome and raised by adoptive parents. A combination of the genetic inclination to alcoholism and undisciplined environment during adolescence caused alcoholism to be an almost natural outcome. The unbridled control of his adoptive father, Kory said, "caused self-hatred, nothing was ever good enough." His strong work ethic was developed early in the family janitorial business, but it also provided unlimited access to alcohol in a client's restaurant. He said "It was getting that buzz, a way out of the fact that my life was not good." When his father insisted on rent money, he moved out. Kory was homeless at sixteen-years-old. He said, "For two-and-a-half years, I lived on the streets, completely alienated from my adoptive family."

He has had a life of both successes and failures. Identity became a key factor. He said, "I couldn't stay clean and sober, keep a job or a relationship. I thought alcohol and drugs were the only things that would fix the problem. I didn't understand that the problem was inside of me." Then, when he was 26-years-old, a call came from his biological mother. For two years, he spent time with his mom, learning more about himself. But then, he said, "She abandoned me again, because her husband was jealous about her attention." Kory fell hard, right back to his previous state. Still, he managed the following 20 years, cycling between achievements and defeats, increasingly weary.

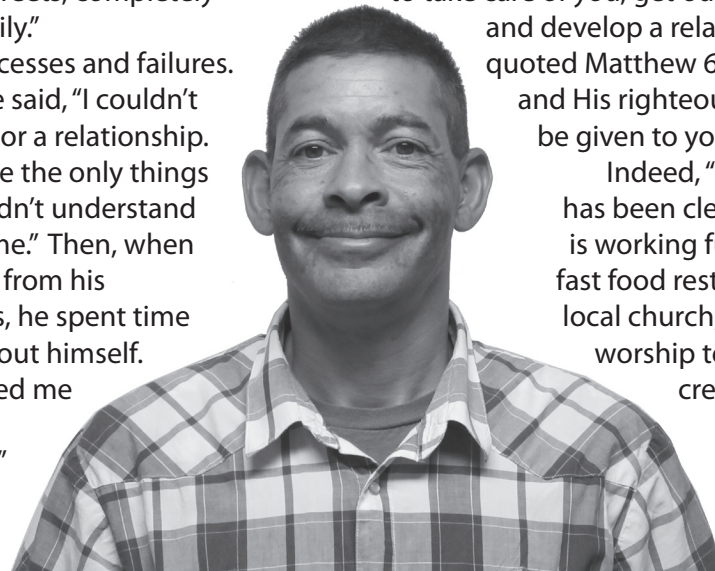
When his last job ended in disappointment, he was homeless for the umpteenth time. He was drinking, not eating right, sleeping in the weeds, dirty and had not

showered in six weeks. Kory recalls, "I said a desperate prayer, 'God, I don't want to live like this anymore.' The obsession to drink or use drugs was immediately removed, no more depression. The Lord touched my life." A new man then walked in the filthy reminder of the old one, and winter was setting in.

He caught a ride to the Mission. Soon, he was in our New Life Program that provides work therapy, chapel, group Bible studies, counseling, life skills and an addiction class that "provides both a Biblical and neuro-chemical understanding of what is broken that causes us to be self-destructive." Kory needed reconciliation, acceptance in a family of similar people with an understanding of his struggles, difficult as that can be at times. He said, "It was the structure. The program allows you to depend on God to take care of you, get out of yourself, help other people and develop a relationship with the Lord." He quoted Matthew 6:33, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Indeed, "these things" are happening. He has been clean and sober for 18 months. He is working full-time as a manager trainee at a fast food restaurant and renting a home. At a local church, he is very involved with the worship team, youth group, audio/visual crew and being an usher.

Kory's problem was inside of him, and so was the solution. It was not an external issue with employment or housing. When he cried out to the Lord, his life took a new course. He said, "I want to thank the Mission for opportunities, especially in the Thrift Store, keeping me occupied while I was getting my head on straight. Thank God for directing me here."



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For The Hungry, No Questions Asked

The Mission is literally the source of life sustaining food for many hungry and homeless people in our community. We have 21 mealtimes every week at two separate locations. Our dining room downtown is for men, women and children (with accompanying parent or guardian). Our other dining room is at Samaritan Inn for women and children. There is no qualifying application, no charge, and no requirement to be living here, work or use food stamps.

Some people utilize our feeding program as a supplement a couple of times per week or at the end of the month. We do not hand out food boxes or any other food items, because we want the homeless, who are living outdoors, to come into the Mission for help. The exception is when we pack a lunch for a person staying here, when he or she has an outside job, until they receive their

first paycheck.

Our sources of food are from individuals, institutions, grocery stores, restaurants, companies. We receive no food from the USDA or any food bank. Last year, we spent \$13,282 on food and over \$100,000 for a commercial kitchen at the new Samaritan Inn. This year \$30,000 was spent on our downtown kitchen-dining room for structural repairs, linoleum, handicap accessibility and new hot food and utility serving counters. Last year 90,280 meals were served, an average of 248 per day.

This year, that meal count will be higher because of our new, larger women and children's shelter.

This is a community feeding program, open to the public and dependent on food and monetary donations. Thank you for considering the hungry and homeless.

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No End To Homelessness

We cannot change the hearts, minds and souls of everyone to stop bad thoughts and behaviors. We cannot stop all birth defects, illnesses, accidents, wars or natural disasters. There will be mistakes, addictions, crime, domestic violence, victims. We have free will and a free country in which to express ourselves.

The Great Recession of 2008 began a period of economic decline. From it, Occupy Wall Street began in 2011 as a protest against social and economic inequality. It became an overnight encampment which attracted homeless people to join the protest. A sense of empowerment spread, encouraging people to occupy the streets, insisting on certain rights like homeless housing encampments. Campers want to camp.

Yet locally, the Roseburg Rescue Mission has been and remains the homeless person's greatest advocate and source of services. There is no need for panhandling to stay at the Mission. We have large, well equipped drop-in centers and plenty of beds available. There is no waiting list for our programs. We serve three meals every day.

Our community has not failed the homeless for social services, employment or housing. The exception is a continuing need to expand mental health treatment. It is commonplace at the Mission for a homeless person to get a part-time job within just a few days, then rent a place in town shortly thereafter. When he or she leaves us, another person in crisis arrives. There is no end to homelessness.

Jesus said, "For the poor you have with you always." Matthew 26:11

Items Needed:
 Garden Produce
 Egg Noodles
 Cornmeal
 Dry Beans
 Salt & Pepper
 Diapers, Baby Wipes
 School Supplies
 Children's Backpacks

Vehicle Donations
 Accepted



Receipts For
 Tax Deduction
 Provided