



Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope
for the Homeless*

MARCH 2017

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Awakened To A New Life

As a child, Denise bounced from one family member's household to another, because her mother died when she was just eight-years-old. Early in life she learned, "If I stirred something up, then I had to go live somewhere else." So, she stopped communicating. She felt sad and lonely. At fourteen she discovered, "Pot made the feeling just numb." By twenty-seven a family member made the meth introduction so, she reasoned, "You don't have to feel the pain."

Denise never married and hardly ever was employed. By the time she was forty, she had three children- ages ten, eleven and sixteen. Child Protective Services took custody of them when she failed to return to her unpaid motel room. She said, "I started living in the streets, in abandoned houses, by the river, parks. I was twelve years on the streets, too strung out on drugs. I would hold a sign, do whatever I had to do, steal. I never did get my kids back." At fifty-two, she tried going back to school and living on financial aid. Then she got sick, lost her income and low budget motel room.

Samaritan Inn was suggested to her, but she had never been in a homeless shelter. She recalled, "I didn't want to be there, or answer to anybody. I was very rebellious. When I got there (Samaritan Inn), I sat on a couch. Linda (our manager) said, 'Can I pray for you?' 'No, you can't, I said with an attitude of anger.' Chapel started softening my heart. All these people would give me hugs." For

the first few months, her mind and body were learning to live free of chemical addiction. She continued, "I got a taste of life. When you are a drug addict all your life, there are a lot of things that you don't get to experience – people, relationships. I had no clue what I was missing." Denise joined our New Life Program as a cook. She said,



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"It was really amazing. It felt good to help people, to feed them. What a blessing!" She attended our addiction recovery classes, sharing, "You get to feel some more, opening up, going through the yucky mire, processing all that stuff."

Denise's faith grew, confessing, "Throughout my life, I always believed in God, but I never really thought that I was worthy of being loved. But when you sing those songs, you start believing you are a new creation, worthy. Salvation was slow, building a personal relationship, reading daily devotions in the morning, praying." She quoted, "Cast all your anxiety

on Him, because He cares for you." I Peter 5:7.

Denise has moved out of Samaritan Inn to a new life. She has been clean of drugs and sober of alcohol for two-and-a half years. For several months, she has been working the first full-time job that she has ever held in her life. She bought a car, is attending a local church, and restored relationships with her three children who are now adults. She concluded, "I am grateful for Samaritan Inn. It is awesome what the community does; they must love."

Living Up To One's Potential

We reserve the right to selectively identify clients, that are not living up to their potential, for conditions on their continued use of Mission facilities. Our goal is for everyone to achieve independent living, or as close to it as possible. The Mission is a place of opportunity, encouragement and hope. Some clients are surprised to discover that the Mission's not here to support an alternative lifestyle. Some believe they have a right to be here, even one provided by the government. That is not the case. We are a private, non-profit organization, governed by a local board of directors. Donations stay within our community, and policies are set here. Government grants are not received.

Specific conditions are given to clients that are either lacking self-motivation or are unable to make progress on their own. We directly assist those that need help accomplishing the goals set for their situation. Some resistant clients are given an ultimatum to fulfill a task within a reasonable time period or leave the Mission. Proof is required. Possible requirements may include: submitting applications for employment or housing; going to social service offices like the Department of Human Services, Social Security, Veteran's Administration; seeing a doctor, dentist, mental health worker; attending addiction recovery meetings; getting their birth certificate, identification; or joining the Mission's New Life Program.

Income and the personal management of it are key factors in the length of a person's stay here. Every client eligible for age related income or considered a likely candidate for disability income is required to apply for such assistance as a condition of staying here. Every client with a base line income from any source is given a time limit based on his or her situation. Mothers are required to apply for state housing grants and are given move out dates that coordinate with available housing. No one is required to move into more permanent housing until or unless they are capable of succeeding at it. No one is stuck living on the street, because we have shelter beds available. No one is stuck at the Mission, because there are places to rent in our community.

Mission & Client Expectations & Limitations

The basic condition of entry into the Mission, other than sobriety and good behavior, is that a person be able to care for their own personal needs. That includes being ambulatory, eating, showering, using a restroom, and administering their own medical needs, independently. People that do not meet this criteria are being dumped at the Mission. When faced with receiving wheelchair bound individuals or turning them away to the street, we accept them. But we are not a medical clinic, hospital, nursing home, adult foster care facility, or hospice for end of life care. We have no nursing staff. Those dependent on personal assistance are here only because there is no other place to go. This is a hole in our community's continuum of care. Likewise, there is a gap between being unemployable and being eligible for government assistance. The Mission becomes some people's full potential, at least temporarily.

Success is relative to one's present condition. For some it is food, clothing, shelter and safety. It may be entering a care facility. It can be managing one's day to day sobriety, mental health, anger, depression. It can be a painful process discovering one's new normal, abilities and shortcomings. Some go back to school to try a new exciting field, meeting success and failure. Others have to accept more mundane jobs. A part-time, minimum wage job is success, and they are available. Some clients use their experience to become social service workers. There are people that have achieved professional positions, managers, business owners. One is now the senior pastor of a significant church in town. One went from being homeless here to Harvard University. Some are now our prayer partners and donors. Mothers and children are being successfully re-united as families. All over Douglas County and beyond are people that are reaching their potential, that have come through this Mission.

Rescue Roseburg

BASIC SERVICES

For Men, Women and Children

Food: 3 meals every day at Men's Mission and Samaritan Inn.

Clothing: Available to all who are staying at either shelter.

Housing: 128 beds for men in Dormitory, New Life Program, and Transitional Housing Program. 104 beds for women in Dormitory, New Life Program, and Family Rooms.

Recovery Program: Open to men and women.

Dayrooms: Open all day at both shelters. Restrooms, showers, laundry, telephone, social service help. No requirement to stay here to use these services.

ITEMS NEEDED:

Pancake Mix
Syrup

Peanut Butter & Jelly

Egg Noodles

Elbow Macaroni

Corn Bread Mix

Salt & Pepper

Rice, Beans

Strollers

Walker, Wheelchairs

Bath Towels

Remember the
Roseburg Rescue
Mission in your
Estate Planning