



# Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope  
for the Homeless*

*JANUARY 2018*

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

## Boundaries Bring New Freedom

Without foundation, Gina was subject to her own reasoning and desires. Her father had not been in the home since she was six-years-old. She was raised by her single mother. Gina said her mother was poor and could not afford the nice things that she wanted. There was a basic instinct to simply have what one sees. Boundaries were not understood. She stole small things like socks and sunglasses, getting caught three separate times. She went to juvenile hall at 15, then to a group home until 18. In high school, she had a waitressing job. As an adult, she wanted to make more money. In a newspaper (not a local one), she saw an ad hiring women for an escort service. She had no idea what that meant. Even after the company explained the job, she took it. They were preying on naive girls that wanted money, to be accepted, to feel grown up. Gina said, "They took advantage of me, putting me into situations that I was not comfortable with." Her very first client introduced her to drugs to remove natural inhibitions; it was a part of that culture. She had to experience wrong to acknowledge it, only then, it was too late. She stayed with that job a few months, but by then drugs were a part of her life. There were no limits. Her boyfriend was using other drugs. She said, "I was just curious so easy to get. I was using drugs already, so I thought, 'What the hey'". He moved out of state, because his mom paid for treatment. She moved into her own place. Gina said, "I got more into drugs because of government housing that was free for one year, only paying electricity. I had a job and kept the money."

Gina needed to experience the alternative, better lifestyle. She found it at our Samaritan Inn. She said, "It had a lot of rules, structure. I didn't like it at first, because it was too restricting. I got used to them. If you follow them, they're not too hard." When she heard the Truth about life, she knew it and responded. She was rescued from addiction and changed into a new person, rejecting the old lifestyle. She felt the presence of the Lord upon her in chapel. In a particular message a volunteer here preached, Gina said, "'If there were sin in Heaven, that would ruin it.' And that just jumped out at me." That is what she had really been longing for. Gina accepted the Lord and began her new life. After about three months here, she got a job as a cook in a local restaurant. In another three months, she was living in her own apartment nearby. With her first paycheck, she bought a bicycle for riding to work and back to Samaritan Inn, as she says, a supportive place and one with friends. Gina has a verse that describes her life: "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 12:11. Boundaries, indeed, bring new freedom.

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knew it and responded.***



# 2017 Was Both Amazing & Challenging

Last year was a time of amazing improvements to our men's campus. We increased services, developed and enlarged areas, enhanced security and management. Several projects, that we had been working on for years, converged to fruition at the same time. Every improvement was met with related challenges. However, unexpected, separate issues arose.

Here are the basic events of last year and our situation at the beginning of this year:

## **1. Parking Lot Paving And Landscaping.**

The improvements to our parking lot north of the Thrift Store was the most dramatic project of last year. It met a Conditional Use Permit requirement and greatly enhanced Mission property in curb appeal and number of parking spaces.

## **2. Enlarged Courtyard.**

The area behind the Thrift Store was fenced and added to our existing courtyard. It was the biggest facility improvement for homeless men.

## **3. Security And Schedules.**

A fence and gate was added across an alleyway to completely enclose the courtyard. Security was further improved by adding cameras and monitors. The dinner time was changed from 7pm, to 5:30 pm for men staying in our dormitory. Now men stay within the campus of Dayroom/Chapel, courtyard, and dormitory from 6:30pm curfew to 6am wake-up.

## **4. New Transitional Housing Contract**

A new contract was made with our clients that gives our rental units a religious program exemption from state tenant law. All our renters go to chapel, have a curfew, and other program rules. There is still a waiting list to get a room.

These four significant improvements in a single year would have been great achievements by themselves. But as these projects advanced through the summer, an underlying, even undercutting, problem was unfolding. A wave of addiction swept through the community affecting the homeless on the street and those at the Mission. Fewer men were staying in our dormitory or joining our New Life Program. Our facility improvements were no longer enough to pull the homeless off the streets, keep them here, or stop some from relapsing in addiction. We needed to adapt a new strategy to meet the change in our clientele. We needed another improvement, an additional staff person. We needed to do more

pushing of men at the Mission into our Program.

## **5. New Case Worker.**

We hired a new, part-time case worker to do an intake interview with men staying in our dormitory. He evaluates their situations, giving each one a requirement to stay here. It may be to join our program, seek housing or employment, see a doctor or mental health worker, or complete some other social service task. This is not a new policy for us; it is adding a staff person who is fully devoted to meeting with each man in a more timely manner. He has a heart for people that need the Lord and hope for a new life.

This would have completed the story of 2017 just fine. But, there was more challenge to come. Our dormitory building had bricks pulling away from the wood frame structure. City records indicate that this building was built in circa 1895. Municipal water and electricity were not readily available yet. To put things into perspective, the first automobile arrived in Oregon in 1899, and the Wright brothers first airplane flight was in 1903. We formulated a plan involving an engineer, an architect, a general contractor, a brick mason, the City of Roseburg Planning Department, and the Historic Resource Review Commission. In previous years, the original large storefront windows were boarded over to darken the

rooms for Mission dormitories. We came to an agreement, preserving the historical design and accommodating our need. The entire face of the west side of that two story building is being replaced.

## **6. New Face to West Side Of Dormitory.**

This project is now under construction.

So 2017 ended with amazing accomplishments and some challenges. The parking lot went over budget. The enlarged courtyard and security measures were added to the financial plan mid-year and were in a sense borrowed from this year's plan for facility improvements. The construction work on the dormitory was completely unexpected. Our 2018 budget includes the architectural and engineering costs for the demolition and reconstruction of the men's and women's restrooms for the Dining Room. The restroom project is another requirement of the Conditional Use Permit that has to be completed in 2019.

We want to keep everyone informed of the progress at the Mission. Thank you for supporting this work among the homeless of our community.

Lynn Antis, Executive Director

***Facility improvements were no longer enough to pull men into the Mission and into our Program. We needed to do more pushing.***

***In October, many bricks became loose and started pulling away from the wood frame structure of the west side of our dormitory.***

