



Roseburg Rescue Mission

*A Beacon of Hope
for the Homeless*

SEPTEMBER 2018

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

Transition From Prison Life

"I had khaki pants, a button up shirt, and a paper bag of paperwork. That's all I had," David described, as his only earthly possessions given to him when he was released from prison. His parole would begin at the Mission. He had done his time and needed a place to transition back into society. David said, "I received clothes from the Mission store, meals, a bed, a bus pass, and help with a letter to get my I.D."

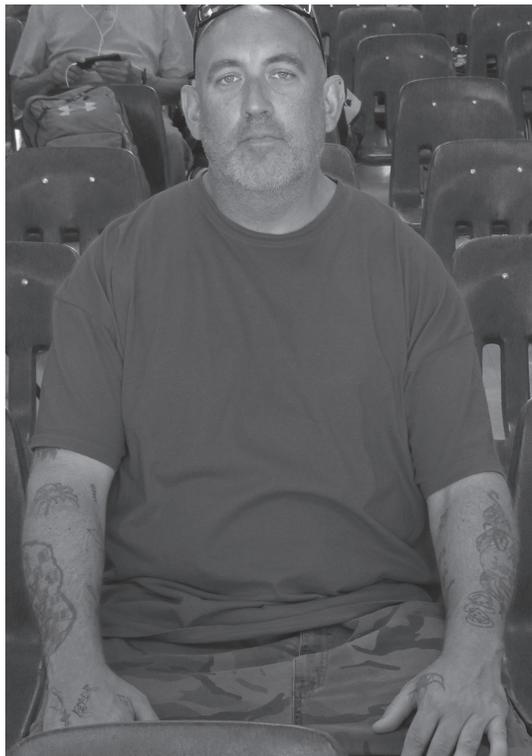
David's path to the Mission began as a child, growing up in a drug house. He said, "Everybody else was doing drugs; my parents were doing it. Every morning, the man in my house across the hall smoked meth right in front of me. All day long tweakers were coming in. Bikers beat me up all the time. My world was around drugs, so I just made it work. Back then, I didn't know what a choice was. Drugs got me everything – food, a place to live, girlfriends. To get off it, you need a place without drugs. I used prison to get clean. It became a new normal to not use drugs. The temptation was not there anymore. I was in control."

Now at the Mission, David made a remarkable statement, "I am still institutionalized for the moment. I need more time to transition to find just the right place for me." Institutionalization is the dependence of individuals on a facility to provide the necessities of meals, clothing, shelter, instruction, safety, rules, routines. When released from such a facility, a person naturally feels inadequate and reluctant to function on his own, until he reaches a point of

confidence and ability. Within days of arriving at the Mission, David landed a full-time job cooking in a local restaurant, and since has gotten three other people at the Mission jobs at the same place. He has enough money now to move out, but he is very cautious about the environment of any rented room or apartment. Clean living is his priority over independence.. His plan is to rent a room at the Mission in our Transitional Housing Program.

He got involved with Christian services while in prison, but, he said, "Everybody there just wanted to talk out their past. Before, I was always mad. I had so much hate, remorse, anger. I learned how to forgive and let go. Now I feel like I don't have that weight anymore. I don't need to take revenge; I just need to forgive." At the Mission, he wants to continue to go to chapel every day. David said, "Any chance I have to learn about God, I'm there. God is working in my life. I pray and now try to help other people. I am living a life for Him. He gives me the power to stay off drugs."

The Mission is a type of institution by the very nature of our communal dayrooms, dining rooms, dormitories, and chapels. We have structure, time schedules, and security; yet, we are more of a transitional operation with freedoms to learn to be self-reliant. We are a Christian organization with the purpose to evangelize by preaching, teaching, counseling and praying. We connect people to employment, housing, and a church home, so they will become independent from us.



***"I am still
institutionalized
for the moment.
I need more time."***

Transition To A Care Facility

Bill reluctantly admitted to himself that he could no longer live on his own. He needed a place that could assist him with some of the basic elements of daily living. There would be a loss of personal pride and independence. He arrived at the Mission in his handicap accessible van that was almost out of gas. His electric wheelchair would not work, because it needed to be charged. He reeked of defecation on himself, his clothes, wheelchair and van. And it had been that way for some time. He was unlovely and said that other places refused him services. Bill had additional medical issues that needed immediate attention. We called a non-emergency ambulance that transported him to the hospital. Then a few hours later, a medical transport van dropped him back off, as if he lived here. We had not made a determination if his condition met the requirements of our policy, yet he was delivered to us with the expectation that we would care for his needs, whether we had the medical staff to do so, or not. And we do not. And he did not meet our minimum requirements. We were left with the choice of stretching the intent of our policy or turning Bill away to fend for himself. On his own, he obviously had been lacking medical attention, sanitation, nutrition, and social services connection. It seemed a matter of survival.

***"If one of you says to him,
'Go, I wish you well; keep
warm and well fed,' but does
nothing about his physical
needs, what good is it?"***

James 2:16

At the very moment this article is being written, Bill is on his way to an adult foster care home. Forty-one days of painstaking transition later, he was placed in an appropriate facility for his need.

Our Samaritan Inn, for women and children, is no different. A woman in our community stopped taking her mental health medication. She wandered away from her home, became violent, and was committed to the Oregon State Hospital for psychiatric treatment. Then she was released to Samaritan Inn. She resisted communication, cooperation, medication, and working with social service agencies. She is too vulnerable to survive on her own. Unless she becomes an imminent threat to herself or others, she remains with us. We are collectively working on placing a client into a care facility, who is working against us.

These are not isolated examples, but everyday life here. We have become an extension of government services, without their financial support. By default, we are like an annex to adult corrections, parole and probation, human services, adult and child foster care, mental health, medical care, hospice. We opened shop to preach, and the needy and disabled pour in. Many are receptive, so this ministry is effective. For every person successfully placed in a new home, at least one more arrives behind him.

This newsletter is about transition. David is transitioning from prison life. Bill is transitioning to a care facility. In this process, we cannot be so intent on meeting physical needs, that we miss the big picture of the transition from this life to eternity.

Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director



Rescue Roseburg

NEED CANS OF:

Tomato Sauce
Diced Tomatos
Corn, Green Beans
Sliced Carrots
Fruit Cocktail
Peaches, Pears
Mushroom Soup
Refried Beans

11,548 MEALS
SERVED IN JULY

ACCEPTED AT
OUR DOCK

806 SE Pine St
Mon to Sat 9am to 6pm
Furniture
Household Items
Kitchen Wares
Sporting Goods
Electronics
Clothing
Bicycles, Tricycles
Wagons, Big Wheels
Baby Diapers

*Items need to be in good
condition and working order.
Mattresses not accepted.*

Remember the
Roseburg Rescue
Mission in your
Estate Planning