



Roseburg Rescue Mission

Men's Shelter • Samaritan Inn • Thrift Stores

A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless

AUGUST 2021

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Working On Independence

Diana is 31-years-old and thus far has been dependent on various members of her family. She has dyslexia as well as a developmental disability, causing her difficulty in reading and learning. She was raised by her single mother, who never seemed to have patience with her. She felt like a burden to everyone except her grandma, so at 17 she moved in with her. Diana said, "I was spoiled. That was when my childhood really opened up. I was able to have friends over. I was able to do chores together with my grandma and had fun doing it. Grandma treated me like a blessing." However in time, the natural rambunctiousness of a youth in contrast to the calmness of a senior caused its own problems. Diana said, "Nobody wanted me here."

She moved in with an older sister for three years, then on to another sister's house for four years. That was her last relative to live with, but the household was filled with addiction issues and domestic violence. There was nowhere else to go. A grown woman with childish dependence was going to be homeless.

From a life of not having a job or household rules, Diana entered Samaritan Inn, a place that is well organized with a set schedule throughout the day. She said, "When I first got here, I had a hood on, sunglasses, and listened to a lot of movie theme music loud to drown out people. I was not able to look a person in the face, broken. I felt like I was worthless and I had no purpose. It was horrible and like a nightmare, closed off, shut down. After being put down by people my whole life, I felt like I would never amount to anything." At that point,

she considered applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), a federal program funded by general tax revenues. Once dependent on SSI, human nature makes it hard to give up for those able to work.

For a few months, Diana unsuccessfully tried to find employment with very little work history and no self-confidence. She hesitated to join our program, because she thought it was all about addiction issues, that she does not have. Yet, she was encouraged to join our Program as a means of personal growth and development of job skills. For more than a year, she had the position of Housekeeper, stripping dormitory beds and doing laundry. Diana said, "The Program brought me closer to God. I prayed more than I could

have imagined before. I used to get told by my grandma, 'If you're struggling in life, just pray to God and He will take care of it.' I prayed for a job that I could manage and understand and keep up with. I was afraid that I wouldn't remember everything."

Through a local, contracted service provider of Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation, Diana was assigned to a Job Developer that helped her get a job as a Housekeeper in a motel. A

Job Coach shadowed her for a short time, reminding her what to do and how to make it less stressful. One month later, Diana was not only working on her own, she received a two dollar an hour raise.

Diana said, "Now I can do whatever I set my mind to, just ask for help, and don't be ashamed. I am exiting Samaritan Inn as a brand new person than was brought into the world."

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Back To The Classroom

Dezirae and her daughters, Kaity (to be a senior) and Madi (to be in 8th grade) are pictured here with new backpacks and school supplies. Mother and daughters alike are anxious for this coming school year to have students go back to the classroom. During the pandemic, it was much more difficult for Dezirae to help her girls with their homework. It was a combination of the distractions of being homeless and living at Samaritan Inn with the confusion of school closures and online learning.

For years, Dezirae was employed providing in-home healthcare. She quit that line of work to be a cashier in a convenience store, so she could be closer to home for her daughters. When the pandemic hit, the wave of confusion caused her to lose her job and place to live. She went to Samaritan Inn with her younger daughter, while the older one went elsewhere for a time to make attending her high school outside of Roseburg more manageable.

Kaity was a good student in the classroom, but online learning proved to be more difficult, especially for one college prep subject. Just watching a video was not working for her. Hybrid learning, a combination of in-

class and online instruction, helped because there was a teacher to ask questions. This fall, she will be in class full-time. She said, "I am anxious to get back in person. I want a normal senior year, homecoming, prom, cheerleading." Kaity is the flyer other cheerleaders throw into the air, and she is homeless.

Madi also did well in the classroom and struggled with hybrid learning. When the same class had both in-person and online students competing for the teacher's attention, she felt left out when not in the classroom. Madi said that she is not embarrassed about living at Samaritan Inn, because it's better

students are grateful for Samaritan Inn and school supplies

than living on the streets without a roof. Both girls said they only tell their closest friends about being here. They do not know of other homeless youth at their schools, but they may be as quiet about it as they are.

Dezirae said they have a storage unit, because for their last move, they had time to pack just a few things. So, these students are grateful for being at Samaritan Inn and having school supplies.

Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director



school needs

#2 Pencils, Pencil Cases
 Washable Crayons 24 Pkg
 Glue Sticks, White Glue
 Box of Tissues
 Pink & White Erasers
 Washable Markers 8 Pkg
 Fiskar Blunt Tip Scissors
 Graph Paper
 Wide Rule Spiral Notebooks
 Pocket Folders
 Colored Pencils
 Broad Tip Markers
 College Ruled 3-Hole Paper
 Plain Copy Paper
 Wide Rule Paper
 Composition Notebooks
 Highlighters
 Red, Black & Blue Pens
 Ruler, 1" Binders
 Subject Dividers
 Scientific Calculators
 Pocket Dictionary
 Pencil Sharpener
 Children's Backpacks
 Over The Shoulder Bags
 Disinfecting Wipes
 USB Flash Drives
 Index Cards
 Thermal Lunch Box
 Thermal Water Bottle
 Gift Cards For Shoes, Coats

kids like

Pork & Beans
 Macaroni & Cheese
 Cold Cereal
 Jelly

job opening

Employment Position
 Stores & Warehouse
 Manager
 Position is for a man to manage staff and men on our program. Ideal candidate will provide weekly chapel message.
 30 hours per week.
 Send resume to:
rsbgmission@aol.com