



Roseburg Rescue Mission

Men's Shelter • Samaritan Inn • Thrift Stores

A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless

SEPTEMBER 2021

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

New Playground Structure

Our Samaritan Inn has a new playground structure. Playgrounds are an important part of child development for the mind and body. They are a place for children to use social, emotional, physical, and mental skills. Children develop hand-eye coordination and balance. Imagination and a sense of adventure grow. Muscles build and children become stronger. Playing with other children, they learn social skills, communication, boundaries, sharing. Playgrounds help to counter the increase in childhood obesity, no doubt caused in part by electronic devices. They provide opportunity for fresh air and sunshine, to expend energy outside. There is a sense of freedom, a distraction from the chaos of being homeless, even a preparation for school and life. And they are fun.



An on-site structure has several advantages. Going to a public park or school is not an option for some mothers that have been restricted to Samaritan Inn by the Department of Human Services or Parole and Probation. There is some concern from mothers about problem behavior from certain adults in parks, so they feel safer in our gated community. Mothers and children that are victims of domestic violence

have greater security from their abusers by staying on campus. And it provides for the observation of mother and child interaction by authorities for the reuniting of families.

Six years ago, we moved Samaritan Inn from three residential houses into the old Umpqua Medical Center, that we had remodeled for our use. Our houses had a wooden play structure that could not hold up to the excessive use even then. Moving it to the new larger operation, with a greater demand, would not have worked. As we remodeled the new facility, we considered a commercial grade play structure made of steel. One was actually custom designed for the ideal location. However, remodel costs kept us from buying that structure as non-essential to opening the facility. Since then, other upgrade projects have been prioritized. The location of the structure has been obvious from the beginning. We did not want to change the general layout of the well designed campus, or lose parking spaces that may be needed as a requirement for future on-site building. The central courtyard remains intact. When resources became available, the existing plan was put into action. The structure complies with the Consumer Product Safety Commission regulations for structural integrity, minimum use zones, engineered wood fiber surface material, and drainage system. It was installed by a subcontractor of the manufacturer.

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The playground structure is designed for children two to twelve years old. Children here average in age between five and six years old. Six of the 27 children, that stayed here the night the photo was taken, are shown. There were 15 mothers plus other single women. Because of schedules and privacy concerns, most of our guests declined to be in the picture.

Anonymous donors provided the funds for the structure. They chose to leave a legacy donation in their estate planning, that will have a significant impact on many homeless youth for years to come. Satisfaction will not be in donors seeing bright-eyed children at play, but in knowing that they are a part of a ministry bigger than themselves. Homeless mothers and children will know that a community loves them.



A New Understanding

At 33-years-old, Katie was homeless, jobless, broke, and had burned every bridge with family and friends. She literally needed to be rescued off the street. She was told about Samaritan Inn. Its the first time for her to be in a faith based, Christian mission. Katie said, "I love it here. Its a really positive environment. The Programmers here are very encouraging. I started going to Celebrate Recovery with them. CR helps with hurts, habits, and hang-ups, and has helped me with my addictions, codependency, and anger. And they are big on worship (music). I am a Christian and have always believed in God." She went on to say, "This is a structured environment. I feel a responsibility to others, so that they do well, doing chores (like serving meals), being a responsible adult. This place does so much for us, I want to give back." Her favorite Bible verse is, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" Proverbs 3:5. She now knows that her condition is nothing to be ashamed of and can be dealt with in a more constructive way.

Condition can be dealt with in a more constructive way

If only Katie had understood that years earlier. She has bipolar disorder (a psychotic disorder characterized by alternating periods of mania and mental depression). In her freshman year in high school, the mood swings began, and she was diagnosed with the disorder. She was prescribed medication. Katie said, "For a while, I refused to take it, because I didn't want to think I was crazy." She understood that her condition needed monitoring, but she leaned on her own judgment. In her senior year, she moved in with co-workers from her job. Then she substituted her medication for marijuana. However, it made her condition worse to the point of being kicked to the street. For a while she slept in an apartment complex sauna, then in a storage unit.

Katie was "rescued" from living on the street by a meth addict. She was 18, he was 24 and a codependent partner that would be the father of their child. He introduced Katie to meth. She was so depressed over her situation that she thought, "What do I have to lose at this point?" She stopped using drugs while expecting her child, but six months after her birth, she relapsed. DHS took custody of her daughter. Katie's addiction grew worse. She could not maintain a job, fought with her boyfriend, went to jail for domestic violence. When they broke up, she could not pass a background check to rent a place. She stayed with a relative for a while, until that last bridge burned. Then she was on the street again.

That was when she learned about Samaritan Inn. She has been clean from drugs for several months and has a job. Katie's trust is now in the Lord, no longer in her own understanding.



Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director

items needed

- Quilts 72"X90"
- Egg Noodles
- Tomato Sauce
- Diced Tomatoes
- Mushroom Soup
- Refried Beans
- Gravy Mix
- Spices, Salt, Mayo
- Canned Fruit & Veggies
- Pancake Syrup
- Diapers Size #4 & #6
- Disinfectant Spray
- Disinfectant Wipes
- Bottles of Water
- Women's Deodorant
- Twin Strollers

used bikes & parts

are for sale in our Furniture Store.

thrift stores

shop our stores to help homeless men, women and children.

estate planning

leave a legacy of hope at Roseburg Rescue Mission.

job opening

Employment Position
Samaritan Inn
Supervisor
Mature woman to supervise women and children, provide weekly chapel message, work evenings and weekends.
Live off-site.
30 hours per week.
Send resume to:
rsbgmission@aol.com