



Roseburg Rescue Mission

Men's Shelter • Samaritan Inn • Thrift Stores

A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless

JANUARY 2022

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Warm Bed And New Start

Paul slept on a log to stay dry in Micelli Park last winter. For six weeks, he endured the elements. He said, "I felt like I was at the bottom of everything, and didn't know what to do." He wanted to be alone. He avoided big campsites to be away from drugs and alcohol. Paul knew the Mission existed but did not know what to expect. Food stamps gave him the means to buy sandwiches. He scavenged for material to build a lean-to. If social response had been to provide him better camping equipment, he would have sunk deeper into his depression. His turning point was law enforcement, through his Probation Officer, telling him to go to the Mission or back to jail.

He slept on a log to stay dry in Micelli Park last winter.

Life had not always been like this. There was a time when he lived with his girlfriend and their children. Both parents worked to support their family of five. For several years, Paul managed part-time employment with stay at home dad. When she relapsed into addiction, he became a single father. It caused depression, and he drank too much. In such a state of mind, he discharged a firearm in his backyard. He went to jail, lost his job, and the kids went to a relative's house. After release, Paul and his children moved in with a friend. He worked for more than a year, until the company downsized him out of a job. Then, the pandemic unemployment money was good, but he had too much time on his hands and stress from the kids staying home. He drank again. After a falling-out with his friend, Paul went camping alone.

When he had to go to the Mission, he said, "It was understandable and turned out to be good." His first impression was, "There are pretty decent folks around here." He then listed some advantages over camping: warm bed, hot meals, restrooms, showers, shaves, clothes, laundry, dayroom. Within a few weeks, he was ready to work again. He said, "I had not been feeling very confident to hold down a job." Now he has been working full-time for more than six months. He is saving money to get his own place and his kids back.

Paul said, "Chapels lifted my spirits, gave me examples in life." He related to a series we did from the Book of Job in the Bible, where Job loved God even though he went through so much. He said, "I consider myself a Christian, but I have not applied myself. The Mission encouraged me to pray." He downloaded a Bible and prayer app on his phone and reads it daily. He truly has a new start in life.

Winter Rescue

Rescue is freeing people from danger, not equipping them to remain in it. "Camping equipment," now called "survival gear" is often paraphernalia for addiction camping. We have warm, empty beds. Men, women, and children are not turned away for a lack of room. This is a safe, healthy environment to promote the well-being of everyone here. Warm dayrooms and dormitories provide relief, day and night, from cold weather. Three meals are provided every day, warm winter clothing is freely given to guests, and hope from despair is here. We have programs and counseling to develop individual plans for successful living. We are steadfast, not wavering in fear during the pandemic.

Often homeless campers increase their usage of drugs and alcohol to combat cold weather. Alcohol can give a false sense of warmth in the body, because it dilates blood vessels, increasing blood flow to the limbs. However, it actually increases heat loss, lowering core body temperature. A person can feel warm and not dress appropriately. Alcoholics can pass out in frigid water or snow. And alcohol suppresses appetite, depleting nutrition that generates energy for warmth. Winter camping can cause hypothermia, frostbite, pneumonia, influenza, and freezing to death.

warm day and night

During cold weather, the pendulum here swings more toward mercy for the sake of rescue, than the usual balance with accountability. Still, "no obvious use" of intoxicants is required, so a person could not cause many to relapse and leave here. When the forecast is for 36 degrees or less, including windchill, people on a timeout of the Mission can receive all services day and night. We are a safety net.



Before



After

Transformation

Transformation is changing the appearance, condition, nature, or function of a person or object into something new. It is converting one's personality or character. In the case of a building, it is remodeling to improve design, structure, integrity, usage, safety, and meet code requirements. The starkest contrast is in targeting the greatest need, which is true in both people and things. At the Mission, such transformation is ongoing. Old buildings and high use areas continue to be improved, and people with broken lives enter and exit with recovery, rehabilitation, and hope.

Before and after pictures above show the old and new look of our downtown Kitchen-Dining Room from the back parking lot. This project began with a need to meet the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for restrooms. The brick building was built in 1903, apparently without electricity or running water. Sometime after original construction, the areas on both floors with lap siding were added. Upstairs, a restroom, shower, and one additional rental room were added to the Single Room Occupancy hotel, first called "Roseburg House." Downstairs on the left is the walk-in freezer and cooler, on the right are the restrooms. So many unknowns were hidden behind walls, ceilings and floors, that the full extent of this project could not be known until they were opened up. A trusted contractor did the job on a time and material basis. Beneath the surface were unrepaired scars of poor workmanship, dry rot, and fire. With the principle of not "kicking the can down the road" any further, we corrected every problem as it was revealed.

People and facilities are being made new.

Transformation began on the inside, just like with people. The internal wall in our dishwashing room, that supports the upstairs addition, had to be completely rebuilt. None of the existing restrooms could be salvaged, they were demolished from roof to floor, including the foundation. The wooden upstairs porch and stairway were replaced with a metal fire escape landing and stairs. All the lap siding was replaced and a new roof put on the freezer and cooler. The result is a stronger, safer, better equipped facility to meet the needs of the homeless in our community.

Transformation of a life is more than just learning to survive from one temptation to another. It is the genuine, eternal satisfaction of the void in this life. It is a rebirth to a new creation with new desires. There is a new foundation and purpose, not just a cosmetic improvement. There is an internal conversion to a new identity unrecognized from the former state. Transformation is not identifying oneself as an alcoholic (or with any vice) for the rest of his or her life, but as a new person in the Lord, who used to have that problem. It is a hunger to serve, to give back, out of such deep gratitude for being rescued.

Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director



items needed

Egg Noodles
 Tomato Sauce
 Diced Tomatoes
 Mushroom Soup
 Canned Pork & Beans
 Macaroni & Cheese
 Oatmeal
 Canned Fruit & Veggies
 Cold Cereal
 Mens & Womens PJs
 Baby Diapers & Wipes
 Warm Coats, Umbrellas
 Disinfectant Spray
 Disinfectant Wipes
 Bottles of Water

used bikes & parts

are for sale in our
 Furniture Store.

items accepted

at our dock
 806 SE Pine St
 Mon to Sat 9am to 6pm
 Furniture
 Household Items
 Kitchen Wares
 Sporting Goods
 Electronics
 Clothing, Bicycles
 Walkers - Wheelchairs
*Items need to be in good
 condition and working order.
 Mattresses not accepted.*