



Roseburg Rescue Mission

Men's Shelter • Samaritan Inn • Thrift Stores

A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless

MAY 2022

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



Freedom From Bondage

Out the bedroom window, Tia fled in the middle of the night. She was afraid that he would catch her leaving. In a hurry, she just grabbed a duffel bag with a few clothes. During their long relationship, she was not allowed her own vehicle, job, money, friends. He was verbally and physically abusive. The days of restrictions, insults, black eyes, even an ambulance to the hospital were over. Tia said, "One day the light turned on. I understood my background. It was abusive and neglectful. It played a part in the way I was living, the influence it was having on people around me, and how hurtful my actions were. I didn't want that for my life anymore."

An abusive childhood normalized codependent relationships. Tia's parents were drug users and they divorced. Each one remarried an addict. As a teenager, she bounced between the two addictive and abusive households. Then at 16, she moved in with her boyfriend. The culture of addiction and abusive relationships was taught by parental behavior. Yet, drugs were her personal escape from the destructive lifestyle. It was a self-defeating cycle. Even after getting clean from drugs seven years ago, the codependent relationship remained. They no longer had a mutual interest, but it took time to let go of the emotional tie.

rescued from a selfish, violent world

Family had an important role in Tia's transition. She was able to stay with a cousin for a few days. Because of laws about over occupying living spaces, her time there was limited. Department of Human Services referred her to Samaritan Inn. As she approached the front fence and locked gate, she was uncertain but not scared. It made her feel safe. There, Tia met a program supervisor, she said, "was very kind." A week later, she started the first job she had in years, through the referral of her aunt to the restaurant owner.

Freedom from bondage is Tia's new life. She has the independence to work her new, 35-hour a week job. She has the liberty to have friendly chats with people at work and her temporary home without the fear of reprisal. She has equal social and economic rights, even in a dormitory and shelter with other homeless women. She has more choice to move about the community, now using public transportation. Tia said, "This is a safe environment. There are no threats to my recovery, nobody is under the influence or talking about it."

Tia has been rescued from a selfish, violent world. Her feet have been placed on solid ground. "He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the mud; And He set my feet on a rock, making my footsteps firm" Psalm 40:2.

Chapel Volunteers

Mission chapel volunteers are now returning to our Men's Shelter and Samaritan Inn, after a long suspension, because of the COVID-19 virus. Only for short periods of time did our preaching actually stop. Our staff continued delivering messages a couple of times each week.

"For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword" Hebrews 4:12. That "Life" continued in the Mission during the restrictions, even as our very purpose. Power in the Word rescues people from hopelessness in the world. Chapel is essential for new life, not optional.

Chapel is essential

Chapel closures began in March 2020, when a State "stay home" mandate was invoked. In May 2020, staff returned to providing messages, and volunteers were brought back that summer. Then in November 2020, the "freeze period" began, restricting chapels to just staff again. Sermon videos were shown to some smaller groups. We returned to larger groups, until August 2021, when a new virus "variant" surge began. Finally in March 2022, the State indoor mask mandate was lifted, and we again returned to larger groups.

April 1, 2022, the statewide COVID-19 emergency declaration was rescinded. Guidelines for people with virus symptoms returned to pre-pandemic status. At the Mission, security, screening protocols, shields, and sanitation stations remain. Virus tests and vaccinations are not required for volunteers, staff, or clients. On-site testing is done for those with symptoms. Unless there is a new variant surge, it is now up to our chapel volunteer's discretion to return.



Memorial Day Honoring Veterans

Kenneth is among several veterans currently residing at the Mission. He said that he likes it here because its safe and people are sober. A service connected disability provides him a small income. He receives services and medications from the local VA.

Veterans are more likely to become homeless. According to the latest statistics, 13% of men in the U.S. are veterans, whereas an unfortunate 20% of homeless men are veterans. Even more compelling, 25% of the men at the Mission served in the military. HUD reports that the number of homeless veterans has decreased by about fifty-percent since 2009. The reasons are that armed forces are substantially smaller now, many veterans are older and passing away, and more emphasis has been put on meeting needs. Still, our country's respect and commitment to our heros stand. The leading causes of homelessness among veterans are post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), social isolation, unemployment, and substance abuse. Those that have experienced combat or other atrocities of war can have psychological scars, remembering, feeling guilty, having night terrors. It can take time to have a full affect and not be understood until latter in life.

Veterans are more likely to become homeless.

Roseburg is a hub of veteran activity because of the VA Roseburg Healthcare System. Roseburg Rescue Mission works with the VA to help homeless veterans with physical, psychological, and spiritual health, as well as, housing, employment, and shelter services. They can stay at the Mission while seeking inpatient treatment or receiving outpatient care at the VA. There are many similarities between military and mission life. Our dormitory resembles a barracks. Our food service line and dining room look like a chow hall. Both have work details, lights on and off, and behavioral expectations. Active military, VA healthcare, and the Mission all have chapels and counselors. The chaplaincy departments are a part of meeting the whole need of the service person, patient, and homeless. The accrediting organization requires a spiritual aspect in the operation of each hospital. In VA programs, spiritual assessments are done on each patient to determine their need while in that program. Mission chapels reinforce the truth that real healing and recovery come from a power beyond ourselves, indeed from the Lord.

Memorial Day began after the Civil War to commemorate fallen soldiers. It was first known as Decoration Day to put flowers and flags on grave sites. By the 1900s, it had become a day to honor Americans who died in all wars. Now, the day is one of remembering all the deceased, whether veterans or not. American flags are flown, military bands play, parades take place, work stops for many. Memorial Day is a time to thank our veterans, remember the sacrifice of their well-being and lives, the price of our freedom, and God's blessings on our country.

Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director



ministry 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

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
Cold Cereal
Disinfectant Spray
Disinfectant Wipes
Bottles of Water
Women's Deodorant
Mens & Womens PJs
Bath Towels
Wash Cloths

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.