



Roseburg Rescue Mission

Men's Shelter • Samaritan Inn • Thrift Stores

A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless

JUNE 2022

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Bondage Is Broken

Bryan arrived at the Mission from the Douglas County Jail, wearing Department of Corrections issued clothing. He wore sweat pants, a t-shirt, and flip-flops. The clothing he had going to jail was torn up. Besides, he had gained 17 pounds from being booked to released. Clothing that fit right continued to be an issue as he returned to his normal weight at the Mission. Drug addiction had taken away his appetite, and recovery brought it back.

Life had been going along fine. Bryan lived with his girlfriend and her parents in their house. His job was working with her father. But the family and employment arrangement fell apart with the news of his girlfriend expecting a child from another guy. Bryan turned to drugs as an escape, but it caused him to lose both his place to live and work. He was then homeless and lived in his van until it was impounded.

At a city park, he was given a tent and camping supplies. Bryan said, "Its a bad thing, because they are enabling the homeless. Friends died from drug use. Needle exchange is enabling, just as bad as giving away camping equipment." He said that he did not try to get out of addiction camping, because everything was provided for him to stay in it. His turnaround began when he was arrested, then went to the Mission. He said, "Look what the Mission did for me. In a few months, I am completely sober and working a great job. I have never been this healthy. The difference is that I would have been back on the street."

"chapel...would help me through my sobriety struggles"

A few weeks after arriving here, he got a job at a mill. He had asked another man at the Mission, that returned dirty every day, where he worked. Now, Bryan rideshares with a co-worker, and they split the rent on a two bedroom apartment in Roseburg. He started his job working 48 hours a week, but having three days off and a paycheck was too much idle time and temptation. So, he works a fifth day to stay busy.

Bryan said, "I was raised a Christian, and I have seen tons of faith here. I hurried to get here from work to chapel, because it would help me through my sobriety struggles. It gave me reason and faith. If it wasn't for God, I wouldn't have gotten here. I am in a way better place, and there is a future for me now." Bryan wanted his picture taken by the mural on our Dayroom wall to show that his bondage is broken.



Story From Past

Some stories need to be told so they are not lost. This one was told to me, Lynn Antis now Director of Roseburg Rescue Mission, by Ernie Unger, past Director of Eugene Mission, during the 15 years I was on staff there. It took place between 1962 and 1966, during the same time Norman Williams was beginning Roseburg Rescue Mission. It happened at Eugene Mission. They were still struggling to get a foothold in the community at an old farmhouse on Roosevelt Blvd. near Chambers St. One day while the Director and crew were out, a band of men dug a grave in the front yard. They were still there when Ernie and his men returned. The small mob jumped on the hood and roof of the old station wagon as the occupants locked the doors in fear. The rebels jumped up and down on the vehicle with shovels in hand. They yelled and threatened anyone continuing to help the homeless would end up in that grave. Both Ernie and Norman persistently continued to develop their respective Missions in Eugene and Roseburg.

justifying existence

This story gives historical perspective to the homeless situation. Today not only is there no community voice objecting to helping the homeless, it seems as though enough cannot be done. Rescue Missions are well beyond justifying existence. We no longer need to show community support by printing church names on chapel calendars in newsletters. Our need is not questioned, and there is no sense of unwarranted competition with churches or nonprofits. The question is in the extent of services that should be offered, whether helpful or enabling.



Engaging In Mission Life

Larre is on our Program, engaging in Mission life, providing a service to a non-program client. Larre arrived at the Mission needing a place to live and physically heal. The medical condition of a heart murmur, lung problems, then an infection in his leg caused the loss of his part-time job. He used to sleep in his pickup and store food and clothing in a shed. He smoked and drank too much, until he couldn't take it anymore. Most of his life, he worked under the table and does not qualify for age related Social Security. He is working on a disability claim. Larre said, "The Program keeps me awake, physically working, gives me circulation, some sort of purpose, helps make friends."

Pictured above is the operation of our men's Box Room. Its located near the showers and dormitories as a point of screening out unwanted paraphernalia from the sleeping areas. Program living areas have lockers by their beds. The Box Room has shelves holding plastic containers of personal belongings for overnight use only. They are just for street clothes and hygiene items. The rest of a transient clients' belongings are securely locked in the Baggage Room in our Dayroom. Clean pajamas and towels are handed out each night. Then that daily laundry becomes a chore for another person.

Pull Yourself Up By Your Own Bootstraps

Bootstraps are a loop or tab at the back and top of boots used to pull them onto one's feet. Of course, it is literally impossible to directly lift oneself off the ground by doing so. Its a metaphor that means a person needs to work on improving their own situation in life and stop blaming or depending on other people or circumstances for their present condition. We supply the tools to independence for individuals to do the work of recovery, not staff or anyone else in their lives.

Our clients are not guests in a recovery resort being pampered. This is not a self-focus group. Some understanding of the reasons for an individual's situation is important, but we have also been blessed with time helping us to forget and move on. Work therapy is an important part of treatment for those that have disconnected from a healthy lifestyle. Work takes the focus off the self and puts it onto a task at hand. Its a needed distraction from dwelling on and being overwhelmed by problems. God put Adam in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. Paradise had activity in it as a normal function of the body and mind. A lack of purpose and exercise is unhealthy, even depressing. Work produces a set of values, accomplishment of goals, focus, self-respect, organization, habit, and strength of character. Engaging in Mission life prepares our clients for transitioning back into the community.

Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director



items needed

Oatmeal
Spaghetti, Macaroni
Tomato Sauce
Diced Tomatoes
Mushroom Soup
Refried Beans
Potatoes
Spices, Salt, Mayo
Canned Fruit & Veggies
Pancake Mix
Cornbread Mix
Bottles of Water
Mens & Womens PJs
Twin Sheets
Bath Towels
Work Boots

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.

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.*