



# Roseburg Rescue Mission

Men's Shelter • Samaritan Inn • Mission Stores

*A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless*

**DECEMBER 2023**

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## *Together For Christmas*

*Mother and daughter were reunited at our Samaritan Inn. They had been separated for two long, agonizing years. Even though the mother had left her boyfriend, the daughter continued in rebellion from his mental, emotional, and physical abuse. The teenager said, "I slept under bridges, in cars, on the ground, on benches, and random people's homes. I felt abandoned and had separation anxiety. I was afraid to get help, because I would be sent to juvie (a detention center)." DHS required a supervised living environment and recommended Samaritan Inn. When they saw each other, the daughter said, "I ran to her and almost knocked her down. I missed her, I was home."*

*Their broken lives have been restored, and both openly acknowledged the unconditional love of the Lord in their reunion and now in their lives to stay. This Christmas, they will celebrate the birth of their Savior together.*

## **Merry Christmas**

# Restoring Childhood

Lost childhood is irreplaceable. When parents are in trouble or not present, children react, retaliate, run. Some children are left to fend for themselves, some become substitute parents to younger siblings. Too much responsibility and freedom, without the maturity necessary to make good decisions, causes many minors to experiment with forbidden behaviors. Permissiveness, addiction, abuse, and neglect steal away a healthy childhood. When children are not valued, they can become self-destructive and lash out at those around them, especially authority figures. Childhood is a time of adults having the weight of responsibility and children play, learn, grow. Poverty adversely affects the brain and body, decreases achievement, causes poor physical, emotional, and behavior health, as well as exposure to increased crime and violence. When childhood is lost, parenting skills are not learned.

A proper environment is needed for restoring childhood. Samaritan Inn offers a time and place for mothers and children to refocus on each other, while we care for the household. In the realm of homelessness, almost always the child's mother has custody. Together, they are a family needing restoration. They need structure, routine, safety. They need to know their roles of parent, child, student. The generational cycle of dependence being a learned behavior has to be restrained. Homeless children need the support of a strong Christian community. Yet, they are hidden from public view.

It's the emergency of homeless campers that is given attention. Government programs follow complaints of public camping and media reports about the assumed problem. Most campers can trace their issues back to broken childhoods.

What is not reported is that our homeless women and children's population at the Mission already outnumbers the men, if not for our two single room occupancy hotels for men's transitional housing. And they are growing faster than the men. Our Samaritan Inn has been blessed to have 17,500 square feet of buildings, 1.75 acres of land, and 110 beds for women and children. We are presently equipped to meet emergency shelter needs. This year our average bed usage is about 60 women and children per night, down from pre-pandemic levels. Still, we are currently working on expanding the size and programs needed for homeless women and children.

Restoring Christmas, the story of baby Jesus, celebration, tradition, faith, and receiving presents develops childhood. Happy holiday times that can be remembered and shared create a sense of belonging and purpose. Having common social activities helps to prevent isolation and develop a greater sense of identity, family, and community that carry into adulthood. Two-year-old Meadow was here last Christmas, along with her mother and older sister and brother. Her mom had lost her job and was struggling financially. Childhood and Christmas were restored.

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# Christmas Hopes

## I would like to have

*"Good health and peace in the world." Allen*

*"My family to be happy and to see them." Johnny*

*"A studio apartment in this area." Scotty*

*"My parents to do well,  
they have medical problems." Ricky*

*"My legs to be better, so I can walk farther." James*

*"A white Christmas." Thomas*

*"A place for my daughter and I to call our home."  
Nichole*

*"My son-in-law back form the military overseas."  
Sabrina*

*"A place where my grandkds can come to see me."  
Dan*

*"To get ahead on my bills and health  
for the ones I love." Robert*

## Christmas Menu

Turkeys	Hams
Stuffing	Potatoes
Yams	Rolls
Gravy Mix	Cool Whip
Pies	Fruit Cocktail
	Cranberry Sauce
	Mixed Vegetables

Homemade pies and cookies can not have milk products in them. Pumpkin pies, cream pies, cream cheese have to be made in a commercially licensed kitchen.

## Christmas Gifts

New Hats  
New Socks  
New Gloves  
Deodorant  
Body Wash  
Shampoo-Small  
Disposable Razors  
Shaving Cream  
Toothbrushes  
Toothpaste-Small  
Hairbrushes  
Combs  
Candy Canes  
Cough Drops  
Hand Sanitizer Gel  
Diaper Bags  
Childrens Pajamas  
New Toys  
Doll Clothes  
Children's Back Packs  
Arts & Crafts For Teenagers  
Strollers  
Scooters  
Fruit Snack Packs

Please Do Not Wrap Packages.  
Items needed by December 20th.



## Year-End Rescue

As 2023 draws to a close, we are in the middle of remodeling an old doctor's office into a Transitional Housing Program facility for homeless women. The photo above is a view from the waiting room into the receptionist area. To minimize remodeling expenses, the waiting room will be the living room, the receptionist area is to be the dining room, the kitchenette in back will remain, three exam rooms and a large storage room will be bedrooms, a shower will be added to one of the restrooms. All the windows will be replaced for energy efficiency and some for fire safety. A new roof has already been installed. There will be siding, flooring, and painting done.

At this point, we have completed a Pre-Application Meeting with City Community Development Department, received a Completion of Submission Notice for a Conditional Use Permit, and been approved for remodeling under the Residential Code. These are significant outcomes to minimize the process and expense. Architectural plans are now being drawn.

### **Happy New Year**

The new year should bring the opening of this facility. Homeless women will have an opportunity to learn independent living skills and develop a rental history, while still having full access to our Samaritan Inn campus, staff, and support services. There is still accountability of behavior, visitors, curfew, chapel, as well as a safe, healthy environment to gain confidence.

Please consider a tax deductible, year-end rescue gift to help complete this life transforming project. We do not receive government funding, so private donations support this ministry. You make a significant impact in caring for the homeless. Together, we are "A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless" in a dark world. Thank you for being a rescuer.

*Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director*



### **warm quilts needed for winter**

72" x 90" quilts  
go on every bed for  
men, women, children.  
Mothers & children  
only can take quilts  
to permanent housing  
when they move  
from here.

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### **warm winter coats needed**

men, women, children

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### **Christmas decorations**

for sale In  
Mission Store &  
Mission Furniture.

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### **vehicle donations**

are accepted here.  
Receipt for tax  
deductions provided.

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### **estate planning**

leave a legacy of  
hope at Roseburg  
Rescue Mission.  
The impact on  
people's lives  
can be eternal.