



Roseburg Rescue Mission

Men's Shelter • Samaritan Inn • Mission Stores

A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless

JANUARY 2024

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60 Years of Hope

Legacy has been handed down, a foundation built upon, outreach expanded, and success achieved. 60 years ago, Norman Williams, the Founding Director, started this Mission. He was a combat veteran of WWII. The atrocities of war hardened his heart toward life and humanity, causing him to become an alcoholic. Then, he had a dramatic conversion, accepting the Lord at an evangelistic crusade at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in the early 1960's. He attended Full Gospel Temple in Winston and was baptized in the South Umpqua River. He owned Winston Shoe Repair. Norman put feet on his new found faith, taking the same Gospel of salvation and hope, that had given him new life, to others that were still hurting. He moved his shoe repair business to downtown Roseburg across the street from the train depot and rail yard. Norman rented the building on the northeast corner of SE Sheridan St. and SE Lane Ave. in 1964. He bought that building in 1975. There, he ran his shoe repair shop at 516 SE Lane Ave., as well as provided food, clothing, beds, and



Norman Williams, Founding Director

chapel services to homeless men around the corner of the same building on SE Sheridan St. This ministry was an extension of his private business. He trained some of the men to repair shoes, others worked in the shop and shelter. As they learned a trade, they were counseled and encouraged. A work therapy program was a founding principle of this Mission to restore personal value. He moved to this new location just five years after the Blast Of 1959 and only two blocks from the explosion. (The Blast was an accidental detonation of a dynamite truck that devastated downtown Roseburg). Property values had declined, and Norman had the financial, volunteering, and prayer support of his parents and sisters. It was mostly a family run mission in those early years. He played the guitar, sang, and preached in chapel and the park. His sister Juanita went to Bible college and held chapel services. His sister Charlotte played the piano and was the bookkeeper.

Then 1977, the Mission was incorporated under the Oregon Nonprofit Corporations Act

and registered under the US tax code section 501(c)3. A board of directors was selected from the local community. The Constitution and Bylaws state the purpose of this organization as evangelizing homeless people, the very reason Norman started this ministry. The official name of this organization was recorded as Lighthouse of God Mission, thus the lighthouse logo. To avoid confusion with other operations, in 1980 the Mission began doing business as (dba) Roseburg Rescue Mission. Also in 1980, Norman Williams retired as the Founding Director.

In 2011, the eighth adjacent property to the original one was purchased, resulting in the Mission owning a full block-and-a-half of downtown Roseburg. The train depot has become a restaurant, and the rail yard has been moved north of town. However, the location remains a hub of activity for homeless men. Now in 2024, the Men's Shelter has 113 beds in three programs: Transient, Program, and Transitional Housing. Also on the downtown campus are the administration offices, two thrift stores, and a warehouse.

In 1985, the Mission opened Samaritan Inn for homeless women and children in a residential house. After growing to three houses, in 2015 they were traded for a down payment on a commercial complex. Since then, two additional properties have been purchased. Samaritan Inn now has 110 beds, including Transient, Program, Mothers and Children, and Transitional Housing. Now in 2024, the women and children at the Mission would outnumber the men, except for the two single room occupancy hotels for men's transitional

housing. And the number of homeless women and children are growing faster than the men.

In the past 60 years, the face of homelessness has both changed and increased. The evangelistic purpose of the Mission remains, and the outreach has expanded to meet the social need. The era of middle-aged, alcoholic, train tramping men, that was much of the original clientele, is over. The family unit is not the safety network, that it used to be. Drug use, mental illness, and domestic violence have increased and affect all ages. A shift from just the rehabilitation of men to the prevention of the next generation of children becoming homeless has happened in this ministry.

The Mission has never built a new building. Every purchase has been depressed property at bargain prices. No government funding is received here. The primary source of income is from individual people in our community. Other income is from thrift store sales, transitional housing rent, foundations, churches, and recycling, in that order. The ministry is an interdenominational, parachurch organization, not affiliated with any particular church or denomination.

The core values of chapel and sobriety remain. The fundamental change of the heart to the Lord is still the only solution to the emptiness inside each person. Social services alone cannot end homelessness for individuals. As the history of Roseburg Rescue Mission continues to unfold, may it never forget the roots of its purpose to preach with boldness, unashamed of the Lord of our salvation.



A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless

Aging Out Of Childhood

Ready or not, when minors become 18-years-old, they age out of childhood. They are adults. It's called emancipation, releasing a child from parental control and supervision. Foster children age out of State support for their foster parents, although eligibility can be extended to age 21 under certain circumstances. Nationally, 20 percent of foster youth become homeless on their eighteenth birthday. Some of them are taken to local Missions by their social workers. They are instantly homeless. Others that go it alone, couch surfing between friend's homes, end up homeless before long.

20% of foster youth are homeless on 18th birthday

They face many dangers on the street, including sex trafficking. Across America, over half the homeless have lived in foster care, and about two-thirds of the incarcerated population have been in foster care. They are far more likely to not graduate high school, become employed, nor have housing. They are more likely to have criminal convictions, need public assistance, become parents needing help. The problem is not inherently in foster care, it's in the brokenness



Tori (20), Kayla (22), Jordyn (19)

of the biological parents. Foster care is the solution to state run orphanages. Yet the children arrive with issues of abandonment, insecurity, anxiety, depression. They are more likely to rebel. Adopted and biological children also age out of childhood. They face pressures from self and family to launch from home.

Over half the homeless have lived in foster care

Tori was eight-years-old when she went into foster care because of abuse from her mom. She was terrified that her biological parents would take her back. She had nightmares, waking up

screaming and yelling during the day. Tori said, "Foster parents could not handle me." For four years, she was in multiple homes. Then one set of foster parents adopted her, only to be abused by the father. As a teenager, she moved into her biological grandparent's home, but they were critical of her and charged excessive rent. She flunked out of school and had trouble holding a job. Tori turned to drugs and homeless tent camping.

a new start with encouragement to be successful adults

Kayla was an infant when she was adopted by her great-aunt. She was born with drugs in her system, so her mother lost custody. It caused Attention-Deficit (Hyperactivity) Disorder. Kayla has trouble with concentration, impulsiveness, emotional control, and decision making. She was in an early education program and given prescription medication. She graduated from high school, but dropped out of the community college, because it was too intense. She experimented with alcohol and limited drugs, but found no satisfaction there. She has had jobs in fast food, as a store clerk, and a gas station attendant. Kayla said, "I was let go of some, quit others, because I couldn't hold it together."

Jordyn was raised by her mother and two different stepfathers. The first one hurt her mother. The second stepfather was verbally abusive to Jordyn. He constantly demeaned and yelled at her. The home environment was noisy, chaotic, stifling, depressing, constricting, intolerable. She had trouble concentrating on school work and dropped out in her junior year of high school. She stayed at home until she was 18-years-old, then left without telling anyone there. She was actually rescued by a girlfriend and her mother. The town Jordyn left was too small to work and live in without being found out.

All three of these young adults were vulnerable and needed the security of our Samaritan Inn. Each one is a professing Christian and appreciates the support of their faith in the Lord here. Now, they have the opportunity of a new start in life with an environment of encouragement to be successful adults.



Continuity Of Care

One bad decision and behavior after another, Jacob's life spiraled out of control. It cost him two years in prison. He had time to reflect on his life and the consequences of his action. While incarcerated, his father passed away. There would be no family to go home to when he got out. Jacob was then alone. He said, "I turned to God. He was the only One that could pick me up from the cellar. I went to prison chapel everyday, and was baptized there." Jacob had found a new life, but he worried about the time of his release, "Where am I going to go, what if I lose touch with God? His parole officer said, "Go to the Mission, they have plenty of tools available." When Jacob arrived here and discovered our nightly chapel services, he thought, "Perfect, problem solved." On his sixth day of freedom, he was back in the woods as a choker setter. After a few weeks, he rented a room in our Transitional Housing Program. The continuity of care from prison to mission ministries completed Jacob's rehabilitation.

Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director



items needed

Canned Fruit & Veggies
Egg Noodles
Spaghetti, Macaroni
Pork & Beans
Refried Beans
Mayo, Ketchup, Mustard
Cold Cereal
Cornbread Mix
Bottles of Water
Ground Coffee
Pancake Mix & Syrup
Quilts 72" by 90"
Winter Coats
Diapers #4,#5,#6
Baby Wipes

chapel volunteers

Samaritan Inn &
Men's Shelter
Apply on our website
or in our office.

items accepted

at our dock
806 SE Pine St
Mon to Sat 9am to 6pm
Clothing, Furniture
Household, Kitchen
Sporting Goods
Electronics, Bicycles
Walkers - Wheelchairs

Items need to be in good condition and working order. Upholstered furniture and Mattresses not accepted.