



# Roseburg Rescue Mission

Men's Shelter • Samaritan Inn • Mission Stores

*A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless*

**FEBRUARY 2024**

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



## Warming Centers

*Heated dayrooms and dormitories await the homeless at our Men's Shelter and Samaritan Inn for women and children. Warming Centers are for safety from hypothermia, frostbite, pneumonia, influenza, and freezing. Our policy of "no obvious use" of drugs and alcohol produces an environment of safety from being harmed by others, and one that does not trigger people to relapse from their recovery. Security measures require a screening process to gain entry.*

### ***Safety from suffering cold, harm, or relapse***

*Day or night, when temperatures drop to 36 degrees or below, including windchill, our Warming Centers open to include people that do not regularly stay here. Generally, this group of increased winter clientele are homeless campers. There is opportunity to make connection, and introduce them to all our services. They are integrated with other clientele, allowing for firsthand reports of our programs. Some will return to camping, but not because of a lack of support from here.*

## Director's Message

A man called the other day needing to leave home. His wife got mad about something and broke his nose. He was a victim of domestic violence and needed safety. One of our guys chuckled for a moment, but it really was not funny. Generally, women flee from violence, not men. Then in consideration of why other men are at the Mission, broken relationships are a very common reason, although not as violent. And age or length of marriage or relationship is not such a factor. Men leave or are kicked out. Reconciliation can be very difficult when one party retreats to a homeless shelter. Pride, trust, and love are hurt.

### ***He needed to heal from a broken nose and heart***

At the Mission, he has opportunity to peacefully consider his situation. He can connect with staff and befriend other displaced people. Broken relationships can be mended from a distance in due time. Still, this is not a place to escape responsibility, but to be held accountable to move forward in life. And each donor is a part of every success.

*Thank you,*

*Lynn Antis*

*Executive Director*



## Supporting Mothers & Children

Some mothers arrive at Samaritan Inn with their children, others are alone, seeking to regain custody of their children. Some mothers have timed-out of ever being with them again, because the separation has been long enough that their children have bonded to their new family. Some mothers have children in each of these categories. Grandmothers arrive here with grandchildren, or even three generations of family. The goal is to keep children with their biological mother in a healthy environment. Children develop better and are happier in their nuclear family than in extended or foster families, unless there is a problem requiring them to be rescued to a more nurturing home. Foster parents fill a great need in society. Samaritan Inn is a supportive alternative, allowing mothers to maintain and regain their children.

Most mothers, needing shelter here, are victims of domestic violence. Some have been abusive themselves, or neglectful of their children. Some have addiction problems, lost employment or housing, violated restraining orders, been placed in jail or prison. Some mothers choose abusive relationships and/or addictions over keeping their own children. There can be a fear of rejection, homelessness, loneliness, worthiness, shelter conditions and rules. The intensity of codependent relationships can be stronger than the motherly instinct. In Oregon, the number of mothers in jails and prisons, that have minor children, has increased dramatically in recent years. Oregon Foster Care struggles to have enough foster parents.

### ***keep children with their biological mother***

Families that would have otherwise been separated are allowed to stay together, because of the accountability that Samaritan Inn provides. Some mothers are not permitted by the Department of Human Services to live with their children unsupervised. DHS has approved Samaritan Inn as a supervised living environment. Some mothers are actually grounded by them to our property or given permission to go to designated locations only. DHS has a safety plan for mothers to have conditional custody of their children: 1) have a homelike setting, 2) have a safe environment, 3) have a safety service provider on-site, 4) the mother has to engage in any required parenting classes, addiction recovery, or counseling.

### ***there is a homelike setting that is safe***

Mothers seeking to regain custody of their children can begin the process with DHS supervised day visits at Samaritan Inn. Unaccompanied mothers can stay in our dormitory, then move to a private family room on nights they have custody. For some mothers, there is a gradual rebonding time, approved for a night or two at a time. Some mothers have shared custody with another person off-site, so we adjust the mother's living quarters here, depending on

her schedule of custody visits.

Mothers need to bury any shame and regain their personal value. They need to reclaim any lost respect, position, authority with their children and have the confidence of being a creditable parent. If possible, mothers can even attain hero status for being overcomers.

Names will remain anonymous for the privacy of the family pictured in this story. The mother arrived at Samaritan Inn alone, because she had lost custody of both her children. They have



different fathers and were in the temporary care of separate grandparents. The mother struggled with drug addiction, although she was able to maintain employment. When she relapsed into an out of control ruckus, police were called, she was arrested, and her children relocated. Because of her income, she was able to post her own bail and keep her job. Immediately, she went to an out-patient treatment program to show the judge that she had initiated the process to regain custody of her children. Still, she lost the court case, because she did not have properly supervised housing.

### ***She needed a supervised living environment***

That is when this mother sought the help of Samaritan Inn. In two weeks, she had her daughter back. Regaining her son was more complicated, because of issues with his father being in the area. She had DHS supervised visits with her son at a friend's house for a while, then unsupervised visits at Samaritan Inn, then full custody in five weeks.

Roseburg Rescue Mission is about more than just reuniting families and holding people accountable. We teach Biblical Truth, the moral compass to keep people from being indifferent and falling into worldly traps. Genuine recovery is not just housing, employment, and abstinence from drugs and alcohol, it's in having identity in the Lord of Life.

## **warm quilts needed for winter**

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

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## **used bike sale for February**

12", 16", & 18" wheel  
bikes 50% off  
all month in our  
Furniture Store.  
Donations of used  
bikes & parts accepted.

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## **mission stores**

Shop our stores to  
help homeless men,  
women & children.

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## **board of directors**

Jeff Wikstrom  
*President*

Jennifer Kramer  
*Vice President*

Ron Aitken  
*Secretary*

Mike Winters  
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## On The Mend

Whitney had to quit her job because of a life-threatening medical condition that required radical surgery. She was bedridden for an extended time. It added to some existing depression, enabled an addiction to pain medication, and caused an uncertainty over her future health, employment, and housing. In time, Whitney and her husband were evicted from their place for not paying rent. Emotional stress over the whole situation strained their marriage to a separation upon leaving their home. She considered living in a tent, but was in no condition to do so. With reluctance, she went to our Samaritan Inn, unsure of what to expect. Whitney arrived with a self-admitted anger at life. It was time to face up to a new reality, difficult as it would be to overcome. And she has done just that.

### ***physically, emotionally, and spiritually***

She began a determined regimen of exercise and wellness, conditioning herself for returning to employment and independent living. A few months after arriving here, she was strong enough to take on a fast food job. Months later, she is still employed. Her relationship with the Lord and her husband have grown. With a new confidence, Whitney said, "Since being at Samaritan Inn, I can now talk to my husband about Jesus. I could never do that before." This couple has a hopeful future, that they are planning together. She is on the mend physically, emotionally, and spiritually. She is saving money, and waiting for a subsidized housing voucher for low income households. Before long, Whitney can be in permanent housing, having journeyed through a life-transforming experience now better than before. It has made her stronger, restored relationships, and increased faith.

### **items needed**

Macaroni & Cheese  
Spaghetti, Egg Noodles  
Tomato Sauce  
Diced Tomatoes  
Canned Pork & Beans  
Refried Beans  
Cold Cereal  
Spices, Salt, Mayo  
Canned Fruit & Veggies  
Pancake Mix  
Cornbread Mix  
Bottles of Water  
Ground Coffee  
Winter Coats  
Diapers – Newborn, #5, #6

### **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.*