

Men's Shelter • Samaritan Inn • Mission Stores

A Beacon of Hope for the Homeless

**APRIL 2024** 

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



## Happy, Healthy Children

They peer through the clear, plexiglass shield on our Samaritan Inn's meal line. Their mother stays anonymously behind them. Out of the picture is a food server, putting their selected menu items on each one's tray as they go along.

Even picky eaters can be content, and foods are offered with them in mind. Nutrition is always an important part of meal planning. There are both chilled and hot foods that will satisfy their hunger.

## their needs are met and mom is comforted

The kids are happy because their needs are met and mom is comforted. The turmoil is outside our secure gates. On campus, there is an outdoor play structure and a safe area for bikes, trikes, wagons, balls. Indoors, there are private family rooms, shared living rooms and play areas, kid's tables and chairs. Children can have the right frame of mind to concentrate on doing well in school and cooperating with their mom.

## **Homeless Housing At Mission**

Our primary role in homeless housing is providing emergency shelter beds, comprising just over half of all residents. Still, it's significant that nearly half the operation is in programs to help our clients become independent. The percentages in the first chart represent housing needs, except that Emergency Shelter and Program Housing have open beds, but Transitional Housing rentals have waiting lists. If we had more low income rentals, Transitional Housing would be a larger part of our services.

### Housing Programs 2023 Men, Women & Children

Emergency Shelter	53%
Program Housing	20%
Transitional Housing	27%

The chart on the right adds more perspective to our housing provision. It's not surprising that there are more men, because that is what the public sees on the street. Perhaps what is unexpected is the size of our women and children's housing. It's nearly half the operation. Our Women's Emergency Shelter bed usage is actually larger than the Men's and when Mothers and Children's Emergency bed usage is added, it's larger still. Yet, fewer women are willing or able to join Program Housing, because they tend to be more broken from domestic violence and abuse.

# Emergency Shelter and Program Housing have open beds.

The Men's Transitional Housing seems heavily lopsided, but that is due to the two Single Room Occupancy Hotels on our downtown campus. Without them, the women and children would outnumber the men. Partway through 2023, we opened our first Transitional Housing units for women. This year, we are remodeling another building to add more units. When they are finished and rented out, our Women's Transitional Housing

will be a more significant part of the Mission.

Turnover rates impact statistics. Transitional Housing is the only segment without required move out dates, yet by natural attrition a full 50% of these renters in the units at the first of 2023 had moved out by the end of the year. They had achieved their goal of improving savings, rental histories, and credit scores, as well as had the time to find permanent housing. Even with required sobriety, curfew, restricted guests, and weekly chapel, there is still pent-up demand.

# Transitional Housing rentals have waiting lists.

Two thirds of our Program were new people at the end of last year. Turnover for Emergency Shelter beds changes daily, too numerous to track. Many larger city missions restrict emergency shelter beds to encourage their clients into programs to improve success rates. The downside is that more people are left on the street. They are reducing recidivism, the revolving door of continuing to return to emergency shelter. But fewer people are rescued and given an opportunity to succeed without programs. We restrain chronic abuse by putting social service requirements on people, so they will work on achieving independent living. Therefore, we maintain open beds to rescue people off the street and provide three housing options depending on their need.

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## **A Solid Foundation**

Alecia was feeling weary and burdened by the yoke of the world upon her that evening in chapel at Samaritan Inn. A yoke is a wooden frame fitted around the necks of a pair of oxen for harnessing them together, so they can be controlled to do strenuous work. The chapel message was based on the Scripture from Matthew 11:28-30, a call to go to the Lord for genuine rest.

#### "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

The yoke is made for a pair, Jesus and each of us, so we can have a Friend to guide and refresh us. Alecia said, "That hit my heart. I realized I wasn't alone. I was feeling overwhelmed by shame for all the things that have happened." Silently in chapel, she repeated the speaker's prayer to accept the Lord. She said, "Since then, I have been more motivated, had more energy, and am devoted to being on track in my life."



Because of addiction, Alecia had been carrying the weight of losing custody of her daughter Ember (now 13 months old). When Child Protective Services took custody of Ember, Alecia rebelled, relapsed, became homeless, slept in random outdoor places for a couple of weeks. When she came to her senses (like the Prodigal son), she went to our Samaritan Inn for help.

#### rebellion actually makes life more complicated

She needed to learn that it's not rules and regulations that make life harder, rebellion actually makes life more complicated because of consequences. She admitted, "I needed the accountability and structure, the basic rules, something to come home to. I have

## Rescue

"In Thy righteousness deliver me, and rescue me; Incline Thine ear to me, and save me." Psalm 71:2

## vehicle donations

are accepted here.
Receipt for tax
deductions provided.

### Mission Bike Shop

used bike & part donations accepted & for sale in Mission Furniture. Some new bike trailers, parts, & accessories in stock.

#### **Mission Stores**

Shop our stores to help homeless men, women & children. Stores generated 27% of Mission income last year.

### estate planning

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

grown spiritually and am a new believer." CPS developed a personal plan for her. She had to take the responsibility to complete a program of classes for addiction treatment, parenting, and anger management. She had to be sober for a set time period. After four months of just day visits with her daughter at the Department of Human Services, she was able to have Monday and Thursday overnight visits at Samaritan Inn.

# "If I weren't at Samaritan Inn, I wouldn't have my baby right now."

Three weeks later, mother and daughter were together full-time. Alecia said, "If I weren't at Samaritan Inn, I wouldn't have my baby right now." They still have to remain at Samaritan Inn as their Safety Service Provider. Any move out destination has to be approved by authorities. She said, "I'm grateful and humbled. I was wrong. What I was doing wasn't working. Now, I am going to church. Others can have success, if they have a solid foundation."



## A Sense Of Purpose

Scott spent years tent camping because of addiction. He did some prison time for burglary, breaking into an old abandoned house in the winter to get warm. He had an illicit drug problem that became worse when his mother passed away. He had been her caregiver in exchange for a place to live. When both were lost at the same time, he took to the streets and addiction camping. Scott said, "I wanted to camouflage the pain." Now he says the Mission Program is, "better because you don't have to worry about your safety, meals, stability, a sense of purpose. Here, we more than welcome anybody from the street. The number one reason people camp is drugs and alcohol. I'm humbled, grateful, and thankful, because without it,

I would be back on the streets involved in drugs." Scott went on to say, "Very few guys won't go to the Mission because of chapel. I have met some pretty dark people that just don't want to hear. I want to get fed the Word of God."



#### 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
Mens & Womens PJ's
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.

Thank you, Lynn Antis, Executive Director