

RESCUE PORTLAND

THE 1ST STEP TO A
2ND CHANCE™



**Portland
Rescue Mission**

FALL 2016



A Meal Made A Difference

“You look like a guy who could use a cup of coffee.” Shivering from Portland’s winter rain, Don* gratefully accepted the hot mug, treasuring its warmth in his cold, stiff hands, feeling it radiate through his body. The simple, kind gesture by a Mission staff member grabbed Don’s heart. Once again, he was amazed. These were people who cared.

Don’s mind flashed back to a much different experience last fall. After burning out every friendship, he laid down on a wet, freezing sidewalk in devastating acceptance of how far he’d fallen. After 25 years as a professional teacher and musician, alcohol had torn apart everything he’d loved – his marriage, children, home and career. The humiliation of being homeless hit hard.

“I made a little hut and pulled the cardboard up around me, because I didn’t have a blanket,” Don recalls. “Eventually, a guy came along and said I couldn’t sleep there.” Don apologetically gathered his things, only to discover most of it had

been stolen. He’d have to spend that day in another cycle of finding basics like a toothbrush, shower, clothes and food. It was a fight for survival in the midst of the greatest heart-ache he’d ever experienced.

“Once you’re on the street, people look at you differently,” Don says. “I wasn’t a professional anymore. I’m not Don down the street with the nice wife and kids. I’m not anyone’s friend. I’m nothing.”

After days without food, sitting down to a real meal at the Mission was more than just relief from hunger. “That meal was a new start, a doorway for me to walk through,” Don says. “If I can have this meal every day, maybe I can get a routine. Maybe I can talk to someone and figure a way out of this mess. That meal was hope – absolutely.”

“Don, I see something in you,” one of our Burnside Shelter staff said, taking Don by surprise.

In a busy day, someone was taking time to focus entirely on helping him out of his situation. “You’re in a bad place right now. You just need to do the next right thing, and I’m going to help you decide what that is.” The kindness in his words, the way he listened and truly wanted to help, was something Don hadn’t recently experienced.

Don joined our New Life Ministry at The Harbor for a yearlong journey of ending his addiction, drawing closer to God and rebuilding his life with practical skills.

The serenity of The Harbor brought Don a new pace and perspective. “I was always striving, searching for the next thing, making something happen,” says Don. Now he’s slowed down to listen to God, soak up insights from counseling, and accept challenging truths. Instead of pushing people away, he’s leaning in to supportive relationships.

Don is embracing a new life filled with gratitude for a second chance.

A meal at the Mission changed the course of Don’s life.

Please give today to provide that same life-restoring care to more hurting people.

*Name and image changed for privacy.

GIVE PORTLAND'S HOMELESS

Hope for the Holidays

SHARE OUR "12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS" GIFT GUIDE!

Thousands of people in Portland will struggle this Christmas. Hunger, homelessness, addiction and abuse weigh heavy on their hearts. Without help, they'll spend the holidays alone and in despair, wondering if there's any hope for a better tomorrow.

You can make a brighter holiday for these men, women and families in need!

Help us distribute our "Hope for the Holidays" Christmas gift catalog to your church, business, organization, neighbors, family and friends! The catalog highlights 12 great gifts for people who are homeless and hurting. Choose practical items like meals, shelter, socks, towels, jeans and coats. Or give someone a fresh start in life in our variety of programs that help with employment, housing, addiction recovery, life skills and connection with God.

Tell us how many catalogs you'd like. Email sunita.szabo@pdxmission.org, call **503.608.4151**, or visit www.PortlandRescueMission.org/GiftGuide.

look inside! →

On the 9th day of
Christmas, my gift
for friends in need...

9 TOILETRY KITS

Your gift provides toiletries like soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and a toothbrush to help with hygiene, dignity and good health.



\$45



THE 1ST STEP TO A 2ND CHANCE™

**CAN ONE MEAL REALLY
MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

Portland Rescue Mission serves hundreds of meals each day – hundreds of thousands each year. Every tray of hot, healthy food comes with a message: you are valuable, you are loved and you have not been forgotten. And that is why a meal can very often be the First Step to a Second Chance. Here's how it works.

**HUNGER
HURTS**

"Without food, it feels like you're going to die, and there's no hope. I knew when I came to the Mission that I was safe for the first time in my life."

-FIONA

**A MEAL
GIVES
HOPE**

"When I came for a meal, I was treated with respect, like a human being. It's amazing what that little bit can do for people." **-JEFF**



HOPE LEADS
TO RECOVERY

"I wouldn't have come here except for the food. But they made me feel welcome and wanted me to be there, even though I wasn't looking too good. It really made me start thinking about recovery, to put in the time to make myself better." -JOHN



RECOVERY PROGRAMS
CHANGE LIVES

"Friendship in the recovery programs was like a miracle. I went from nothing at all to suddenly belonging. Something just clicked spiritually in me and I felt connected to God again. The healing process takes a very long time, but the Mission showed me that healing was possible." -PATRICK

Every \$1.60 you donate is one more meal, one more chance ... one more life that can be changed. Join us as we Give Hope and Restore Life this holiday season.
Give today at www.PortlandRescueMission.org/FallINL

"I don't know who donated that \$1.60 for my meal, but that person started God's work in my life, allowing me to see hope instead of utter despair." -JEFF

THREE WOMEN START NEW LIVES

Your giving provides healing and hope

Thanks to generous support from caring donors and volunteers, three women recently graduated from our New Life Ministry at Shepherd's Door.



SHERRI

“I was a very sad woman, lost in addiction. Every relationship I'd ever had was broken. I was dying in a cheap motel room absolutely filled with fear, without a friend in the world.

Today I know who I am. I have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I love myself and am comfortable with other people. I have my own apartment and am free of my addiction. That old person is gone and a new Sherri has arrived!”



SARAH

“The day I walked into Shepherd's Door, I knew everything would be different. I knew that God was in this place.

I really struggled my whole life with codependency. I lived in fear all the time, trying to make other people happy. Now my identity is in who Christ says I am. It's like stepping into the rest of my life, like I'm a new creation.”



MARCI

“I've learned that forgiveness is a choice. That puts my heart in the right place.

Now that I've graduated, I'm looking forward to staying another year to focus on job and life skills at our Drive Away Hunger car donations and sales program. It's a great opportunity to work alongside people who are walking strong in their faith.”



WHY DON'T THEY HELP THEMSELVES?

Drive by the west end of the Burnside Bridge any morning and evening, and you'll likely see hundreds of men and women lined up to get a good hot meal at the Mission.

For me, that sight is full of heartbreak and hope. I grieve to see so many people suffering in desperate situations. Yet I'm so grateful for thousands of caring partners whose donations provide hospitality, warmth and relentless compassion to the hurting people we serve.

This crossroad of pain and provision is where God shows up to work miracles.

It's easy to look at that long line of hungry people and think, "Why don't they get help? Do they want to be homeless? Why don't they just get a job?" I confess, it's what I would have thought many years ago before I started rescue mission work.

People like Don, whose story is featured in this newsletter, long for a way out. It's not just the lack of a mailing address, phone, shower, clean clothing or good references that hold them back. It's also the exhaustion, mental fog, debilitating addiction, and crushing heartache of humiliation, isolation, shame, guilt and grief. Don had fallen so far, he scarcely believed he could get another chance at life. Don needed compassionate engagement by caring people to get him to life-transforming care.

That compassion came in the form of a meal. A hot plate of delicious food became the crossroads where the course of Don's life changed. Then a smile from a volunteer. A focused conversation with a staff member offering recovery. A counselor and mentor to listen well and speak truth with love. An encounter with God to experience forgiveness and restoration.

When broken people feel too overcome to help themselves, your compassionate gift provides meals, shelter, dignity, care – and hope for a better life.

Thank you for caring,

Eric Bauer, Executive Director

P.S. Thanksgiving is coming soon! Help us stock our shelves to serve more than 30,000 meals next month to hungry men, women and children. The meal you provide could begin the transformation of someone's life.

☐ **Donate via credit card:**

Circle One:     Expiration Date: _____

Card Number: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Donate securely online: www.PortlandRescueMission.org/FallNL

☐ **Keep me updated with news and stories through email:**

Email: _____

☐ **Please pray for:** _____

Tell me more about:

- ☐ Monthly giving through checks, auto-pay, or electronic transfer
- ☐ Donating my car
- ☐ Planning my estate, annuity, or trust
- ☐ Volunteering at the Mission (Please complete contact information at left)

Donations to the Mission are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Any gifts received above our current need will be used to help care for hurting people throughout the year.

WE APPRECIATE OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Where kids Drive!



- Kids and moms in our Shepherd's Door program were able to attend the recent Dozer Day event thanks to a generous donation of tickets from the Nutter Family Foundation.
- MyBella Workshops has been donating \$15 from each ticket to their Sunday workshops at Bethany Public House in Beaverton.
- Our friends at Dannon Portland donated 3,000 pounds of Care Kit items that will be handed out at our Burnside Shelter.

Become a Community Partner today at:
www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Volunteer

MISSION NEEDS

URGENT

- New undergarments
- Socks
- Deodorant (spray or solid)
- Disposable razors
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Toiletries (Soap/Shampoo) - Travel and Regular Size
- Jeans
- Towels (any size)
- Life Recovery Bibles (NLT)



For donation drop-off locations and times please visit:
PortlandRescueMission.org/DonateItems

WAYS TO GIVE

DONATE FUNDS

- Join our Circle of Friends with your monthly donation
- Cater an event with Mission Bar-B-Que
- Leave a lasting legacy through your will, annuity or trust

DONATE GOODS

- Receive a maximum tax deduction by donating your car
- Drop off blankets, socks or jeans

DONATE TIME

- Volunteer to serve a meal, teach a class or work with kids
- Spread the word by joining us on social media:



See these and many other ways you join us in giving hope and restoring life at:
PortlandRescueMission.org/Join



MY GIFT OF HOPE

☒ **Yes**, I want to help end homelessness, addiction, hunger and abuse. To help hurting men, women and children, here is my gift of:

- ☐ **\$8 a month** to provide 60 meals a year
- ☐ **\$16 a month** to provide 120 meals a year
- ☐ **\$24 a month** to provide 180 meals a year
- ☐ **\$_____ a month** to help give hope
- ☐ **\$_____ one time** gift

Enclose your check or complete your credit card information on back.



**Portland
Rescue Mission**

Giving Hope. Restoring Life.®

P.O. Box 3713
Portland, OR 97208-3713
503.MISSION (647.7466)

To donate online, visit
PortlandRescueMission.org/FallNL

*Thank you
for your support!*