



RESCUE PORTLAND

HOLIDAY 2015

Cold rain pelted John as he stared blankly at the endless gray sky. He'd barely slept. Two weeks sleeping on the same patch of sidewalk left his joints stiff and muscles aching. "God, help me," he whispered, rubbing his tired eyes.

Up the street, a line was forming of people hungry for breakfast at the Burnside Shelter. John grabbed what few belongings he still owned and joined them. A cup of coffee and a hot meal would be so welcome right now. "Maybe today," he thought. "Maybe I can get my life together."

CONTINUES INSIDE

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



My oldest son left for college this fall. Though he won't be around our family table during the holidays, it's good to know he'll have Thanksgiving with friends and relatives on the other side of the United States. It's nice to have a sense of home when you're so far away from home.

That's what the Mission is, too. For hundreds of men, women and children far removed from any sense of normalcy, comfort or meaningful connection, the Mission serves as a safe refuge, welcoming all with open arms. People living isolated and ignored are greeted by name, offered good food, and rejuvenated by a hot shower and a safe place to rest. It's nice to know there's a place at the table for anyone hungry and hurting at the Mission.

From Thanksgiving through Christmas, generous support of friends like you will provide 30,000 hot, nutritious meals and 9,000 nights of safe shelter. Each gracious act of compassion speaks God's love to a hurting man or woman in their time of greatest need. It's a chance for us to learn their name, listen to their story and offer help with their most urgent needs. For many, the sense of "welcome home" they feel will be just the encouragement they need to pursue healing and recovery.

We couldn't do this life-restoring work without your partnership. Thank you for creating a sense of home for hurting people this holiday season. Thank you for caring.



Eric Bauer
Executive Director



Portland Rescue Mission

Giving Hope. Restoring Life.®

P.O. Box 3713
Portland, OR 97208-3713
503-MISSION (647-7466)
www.PortlandRescueMission.org

MISSION NEEDS

URGENT NEEDS

- **New undergarments**
- **Socks**
- **Blankets**
- Backpacks
- Deodorant (spray or solid)
- Disposable razors
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Travel-size toiletries
- Jeans
- Life Recovery Bibles (NLT)

For donation drop-off locations and times please visit:
pdxmission.org/donateitems

GIVE CHRISTMAS CARE TO HURTING PEOPLE IN NEED

Your gift of \$40 provides a meaningful Christmas present

Homelessness hurts. Because of their painful past, most of the people we serve haven't had a joyful Christmas in a long, long time. The holidays only deepen their sense of loss and isolation. "There were lots of years where I didn't really have Christmas at all," says Doug, one of the men who sought help in our New Life Ministry for men.

You can give friendship and joy to a child, woman or man this Christmas. Your gift of \$40 provides meaningful gifts they'll open on Christmas morning, helping them feel loved and remembered. Help us reach our goal of providing presents for 160 people in all of our recovery programs.

Give joy this Christmas at www.PortlandRescueMission.org/ChristmasCare



A NEW KIND OF MAN

John Learns To Love And Be Loved



PortlandRescueMission.org/HopeForJohn

To watch John's video story of Hope, visit

John gives back each day as he helps people in need at our Burnside Shelter.

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Hard was the only way John knew to do life. Growing up in a labor camp with an abusive home life and without a father, John looked to the tough migrant men around him as role models. "I thought being a man was to be macho, to cuss, to steal, and to belittle women. You don't care and never show your feelings. And you sure don't ever cry."

Steeling himself against the world held John in a prison of his own making. To prevent himself from feeling, he numbed the pain of his crumbling marriage with alcohol and drugs. "After my divorce, alcohol was the only real companion I had for decades," says John. "It meant more to me than my children and people I loved." But the lonely consolation John sought in drinking threatened to kill him.

"If you keep living like this, you have less than a year to live," a doctor told John. The shock was enough to push him toward help. A friend helped John discover all that Portland Rescue Mission had to offer.

At The Harbor, our yearlong New Life Ministry for men, John discovered a type of manhood he'd never seen before. "You sense something different when you walk in here," says John. "The men here are loving, compassionate and caring. And I want that in my life." That example has opened John's

heart. The callousness he used to protect himself has melted away, freeing him to grow.

"As an alcoholic, macho man, the last thing you want is to allow yourself to be known," says John. "Surrendering to the Lord and allowing other people in has lifted a huge weight of shame, guilt or self-pity. It's made me a better person, shown me what it is to be a true man."

Filled with gratitude, John loves serving men and women at the Burnside Shelter who feel trapped in the despair of homelessness and addiction as he was not long ago. "I see myself in the guests there every day – dirty, unbathed, unshaven, living a life that is hell," says John. He shows them the spot on the sidewalk where he used to sleep. He shares his story of joyful reunion with his children and grandchildren after years of pain and isolation. He invites them to take a brave step toward recovery.

"God can work a miracle in their lives just like he's worked in mine."

Your special holiday gift today will help more men and women like John find hope for a new life. Thank you.

9 QUESTIONS TO ASK A HOMELESS PERSON

PORTLAND RESCUE MISSION

Simple Conversation Starters To Show You Care

The heartbreak of homelessness is more than the loss of a home. It's also the loss of feeling human. Taking time to listen could be just the lifeline a hurting man or woman needs in their time of crisis.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

Treat the person as you would anyone else. Smile and ask to sit with them. Introduce yourself and learn his/her name.

DO YOU HAVE A PLACE TO SLEEP TONIGHT?

Not everyone who panhandles is homeless. Concern for their basic need of shelter shows that you care. Let them know that our staff at the Burnside Shelter can help with referrals to area resources.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

A natural bridge into learning someone's story is to find out where they're from, where they've been, how they got here and how long they've lived in the area. If they are new to the area, you might be able to give them helpful information about resources they could use.

RoseCityResource.org

WHAT DO YOU NEED MOST RIGHT NOW?

The best way to help is to find their point of greatest need. Is it food? Shelter? Sickness? Transportation? Clothing? Prayer? Addiction treatment? Be sure they know about the full range of help available at Portland Rescue Mission.

PortlandRescueMission.org/GetHelp





HOW DID YOU BECOME HOMELESS?

The answers will vary widely. Be prepared to hear some painful stories.

CAN I BUY YOU SOMETHING TO EAT OR DRINK?

Offer to buy a meal or a cup of coffee and eat together. A meal can ease the flow of conversation.

HOW DO YOU SURVIVE?

You might be surprised to find out where people sleep, how they make money and where they get food.

WHAT WOULD YOU WANT OTHER PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

A question like this gives the opportunity to go deeper.

IF YOU COULD HAVE THREE WISHES, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

Homeless men and women are often short on hope. Help them envision a brighter future for themselves.

3 THINGS YOU CAN DO

There are many ways you can help a man or woman facing homelessness this holiday season.

1. Pack care kits with snacks, hygiene items and basic supplies.
2. Start a clothing drive for jeans, socks, blankets and winter clothing.
3. Help provide meals and shelter by joining our Circle of Friends with monthly support.

For more information on these and other ways you can join the Mission in giving hope and restoring life, visit:

www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Join.

STILL STRONG

Twelve Years Later, Darlene Marvels At God's Power



Years ago Darlene's life fell apart. Today she celebrates family and gives back at Shepherd's Door.

It's late at night at Shepherd's Door, our New Life Ministry for women and children in northeast Portland. A woman comes downstairs, anxious and unable to sleep. She has a court date tomorrow to find out if she'll gain custody of her children now that she's in recovery. Darlene, a night-shift staff member, invites her to sit on the couch where they sip hot tea and talk. "I know what you're going through," she says. "Let's pray about it."

Darlene has a good life. She's a suburban mom with three kids, a job she enjoys, a happy marriage and fulfilling life. But there was a much darker time when Darlene walked the streets of Portland – cold, homeless, afraid and completely alone.

A dozen years ago, Darlene's devastating crack addiction burned through all her money, alienated her family, took her children and foreclosed her home. Suddenly homeless, Darlene had no idea how to survive on the streets. "I was too scared to sleep at night, so I slept in a park during the day," Darlene remembers.

Just before Christmas, with snow falling in Portland, Darlene found Shepherd's Door. She barely dared to hope that there would be room for her and her baby son, but she was invited in that same day. "I just started crying," she says, "because I didn't think my life could change so fast."

More than a decade later, Darlene joyfully shares with other women how God has transformed her life. Shepherd's Door helped her heal from deep wounds in her past that

drove her addictive behavior. She reconnected with God and learned tools to support her sobriety. After graduating, she found employment working for an advertising agency, thanks to an old co-worker who happened to be visiting the Mission. Darlene later remarried and was reunited with all of her children. "Everything I lost has been regained and more."

When women still in the recovery program talk with Darlene, she listens for what God wants her to tell them. "A lot of them are going through the same things that I went through," she says. "It took me seven years to get my children back. Just being able to share that with people when it seems hopeless – you just have to do the next right thing and listen to God and do what He wants you to do next. He'll make it happen if it's supposed to."

Giving back to help the women at Shepherd's Door strengthens Darlene's own recovery. "Sometimes women in the program think that recovery stops when you graduate. Like you're done. You just go out there and live your life. But you've got to keep it fresh and current. You can never forget where you came from," she says.

Help more women and children find safety and the first steps toward a new life with a holiday donation. Thank you for caring.



Obi, Steve and Mike (above), along with (not pictured) Nathan, Terry and Sean have newfound freedom through their recovery at The Harbor.

HOMELESSNESS AND ADDICTION END!

6 Men Celebrate New Life at The Harbor

“I’ve got my family back. I have a relationship with my wife again. I have friends now. I’m making good decisions. I’m employed. And most of all, I have a relationship with God and Jesus Christ and I have a bright future ahead of me.” —Terry

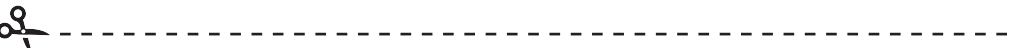
“After being broken and beaten down, God found me in an unlikely place and brought me to The Harbor. I learned to be the person that God created me to be and care for people in a way that I haven’t before.” —Sean

“I know I don’t know what’s in store for me, ... But I know God will lead me and take me where I need to be. He’s got me here, and he’s restored my mind and blessed me with a new way of thinking.” —Mike





“The Harbor gave me peace. They gave me time to be peaceful in myself, start thinking about making amends and building relationships and they’ve reintroduced me to scripture and to Jesus Christ.” —Obi

“I came to Portland looking for guidance—looking for somebody that could teach me what I couldn’t learn myself. I learned how to start recovery and stay off drugs. I never expected for my time to make any sort of a spiritual difference in my life until now.” —Steve

Know someone who needs life-restoring care?
Visit www.PortlandRescueMission.org/GetHelp



☐ **Donate via credit card:**

Circle One:    

Expiration Date: _____

Card Number: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Donate securely online: www.PortlandRescueMission.org/HolidayNL

☐ **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.

HOW HAS CONNECT GIVEN YOU HOPE?

Connect is our 3-month program to help men and women transition from homelessness to independent housing and employment.



“When you become homeless, it’s overwhelming. You feel like a dirty piece of garbage because people distance themselves from you. It’s hard to get a job without an address, even if you don’t have a criminal record. But when I came to the Mission, I felt like I’m a human being. I’ve been helped greatly. You underestimate how much a safe place to stay and a warm meal to eat really stabilizes you. I’m safe now.” —JOANNA

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

GIVE

- Help provide meals, shelter and recovery care to men, women and children in need. See the donation form below.

VOLUNTEER

- Opportunities listed at www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Volunteer

DONATE A CAR

- Your car donation could provide over 500 meals. Learn more at www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Car

PLANNED GIVING

- Leave a legacy of hope through your will, annuity or trust. www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Legacy

STAY IN TOUCH



[Facebook.com/PDXMission](https://www.facebook.com/PDXMission)



[Twitter.com/PDXMission](https://twitter.com/PDXMission)



PortlandRescueMission.org/Blog



PortlandRescueMission.org/Email



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.

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Rescue Mission**

Giving Hope. Restoring Life.®

P.O. Box 3713
Portland, OR 97208-3713
503-MISSION (647-7466)

To donate online, visit
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*Thank you
for your support!*