



RESCUE PORTLAND

WINTER 2016



**“Persimmon cookies,” says Vivian.
“That’s what I remember most.”**

The warm, sweet smell of freshly baked cookies always filled young Vivian’s heart with such comfort. When her mom baked, the house seemed less empty, her mother less sad and distant. “My dad died when I was very young. My mom never remarried,” says Vivian. “I guess he abused her to the point where she had nothing left to give her kids.”

CONTINUES INSIDE

THE GIFT OF INTERRUPTION



After a decade-long fulfilling career as an engineer in technology development, my life was interrupted by God's call to serve people suffering on the margins of society. I never saw this coming nor understood where it would lead. But I knew it was a divine interruption of my chosen career plan and a reordering of my passions. With halting obedience, I eventually surrendered to this call. The result has been a grace-fueled journey that has enlarged my heart and taken me from a self-centered life to a life centered on serving others.

I like to think of the Mission as a similar gift of interruption to us all. For hurting people without a home, caught in a downward-sucking spiral of helplessness, we pray the moment they step inside the Burnside Shelter is one of heavenly interruption – a sudden awareness that they are noticed, seen, welcome and loved. An act of kindness or word of encouragement that ignites hope for a different life.

For the men and women in our wide range of programs, the Mission is a haven of interruption, breaking into a life of despair with 3-12 months to heal, refocus and rebuild for a stronger life.

For our staff and volunteers, the Mission provides a wonderful interruption to the “normal” self-focused life we might otherwise be drawn to. Every day is a chance for God to change our thinking and expectations. If we're actively looking for it, He'll bring opportunities for us to positively interrupt others by taking time to pray with someone or speak truth and love into their lives.

In this New Year, my prayer is that God may bless you too with the gift of interruption. That you'll have the wonderful opportunity to pause, reflect, rethink and grow. That you'll welcome interruptions as a chance for God to do something unusual, challenging and remarkable.

Thank you for being such a vital part of this ministry.



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**
- **Winter clothing**
- **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

MAKE YOUR DONATION GO FURTHER

Help us reduce costs by joining the Circle of Friends.

As a Circle of Friends monthly supporter, you can help the Mission reduce overhead costs by reducing the amount of mail you receive. Rather than receive monthly mailings, you'll hear from us just four times a year with a quarterly statement and our most recent “Rescue Portland” newsletter. You'll have the joy of maximizing your donation, knowing that even more of each gift will go directly to meet the immediate needs of people we serve.

Getting started is easy. Visit our website to start an automatic donation through your credit card, debit card, savings or checking account.

www.PortlandRescueMission.org/COFEnroll



EMPTY NO MORE

Vivian's heart finds love she longed for



“As soon as I walked in the door here, I felt this blanket of God's presence. This sense of warmth. That I was secure and I was safe. I felt like I was home.”

CONTINUED FROM COVER

She loved us – you could see it in her eyes,” Vivian says about her mother. “But she didn’t know how to show it. She had a lot of hurt and pain inside her.” The physical and emotional absence of her parents left Vivian and her siblings unsure of the world, uncertain how to survive and form healthy relationships. Vivian’s sisters were eventually taken to foster care. Her brother left home at an early age.

Vivian escaped to a teenage marriage, only to find herself trapped in abuse just as her mother had been. Through decades of turmoil, and a second marriage, she managed to raise six children of her own. But not without clinging to drugs in order to cope – a decades-long habit that destroyed her health and left her longing for something more.

“I was renting a room in a wet, moldy basement,” Vivian recalls. At age 51, she left her unhealthy marriage to get help. “I wanted to know what life tasted like without drugs. The happiness of it, the sadness, the struggles. All of that.” Vivian’s daughter helped her find Shepherd’s Door, our New Life Ministry for women and children.

“As soon as I walked in the door here, I felt this blanket of God’s presence. This sense of warmth. That I was secure and I was safe. I felt like I was home,” says Vivian, echoing her life-long desire to be embraced with love.

Slowly, Vivian unclenched her grip on her painful past. “It was time to let it go,” she says. “To let all the fears, all the abuse, all the beatings, all the drugs, everything I went through – to give it to God, because He wants it.” Recovery counseling and a new experience of God’s love began to set Vivian free. “God’s always been there, carrying my heart,” Vivian says. “It wasn’t until I gave Him my life that He carried the full weight of it.”

Now a graduate of the yearlong program, Vivian loves teaching other women from her own life experience. “We come in here with such shame and guilt, with our heads hanging down,” she says. “When we leave, we leave that all behind. We find a sense of God’s love and His forgiveness. With that, there comes hope and peace.”

Not long ago, a stranger asked Vivian a challenging question: “If you were to plant your heart, what would it grow back as?” Now she finally has an answer. “My heart would grow back as love and forgiveness,” she says. “I came here empty. But I’m leaving full.”

Please send a gift today to help more women like Vivian end the generational cycle of abuse and start new lives of hope. Thank you.

HELP A HURTING PERSON FIND HOPE

PORTLAND RESCUE MISSION

Refer People In Need To The Mission's Wide Range Of Integrated Services

Thousands of people in Portland experience homelessness each year. The causes are many – addiction, domestic violence, mental illness, poverty, job loss or other trauma. Our wide range of integrated services are designed to meet a hurting person at their point of need and walk with them on their journey to a restored life. Thanks to generous public support, all services are provided free of charge.

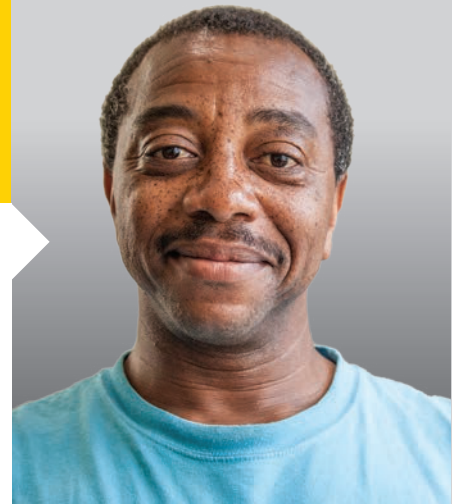
REFER A HURTING PERSON: www.PortlandRescueMission.org/GetHelp

HOPE MINISTRIES



“The best thing Connect has offered me is support, guidance and structure.”
— GINA

“When I’m out looking for a job, it helps knowing there’s a meal waiting for me at the Mission.”
— DERRECK



- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Lunch on weekends
- 24/7 restrooms
- Showers
- Mail service
- Referrals to area resources
- Overnight shelter for men.
- Extended shelter (1-6 weeks) for men or women in transition.
- Connect program (3 months) for men or women in need of stability and support while finding employment and/or housing.



BURNSIDE SHELTER 111 W. Burnside St., Portland 503-906-7690

CONNECT PROGRAM FOR WOMEN

Deanne Gillock 503-828-3187

Orientation:

11:00 AM, Monday & Thursday

CONNECT PROGRAM FOR MEN

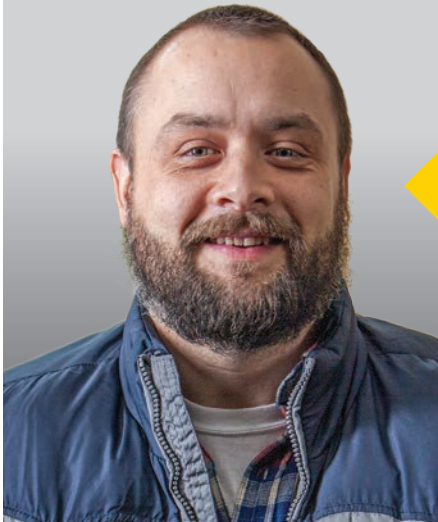
Dominic Abaria 503-746-9648

Orientation:

11:00 AM, Tuesday & Thursday

NEW LIFE MINISTRIES

Residential program in a safe, healing environment with 12-months of addiction recovery, life skills training and spiritual renewal.



**“ I’m clean, I’m sober,
I feel like my life has
purpose again.” —KELCEY**

**“ Through the Mission, I
was able to get custody
of all three of my kids.”**

—RACHELLE



THE HARBOR FOR MEN

10336 NE Wygant St., Portland

Main Phone: 503-980-3307

Intake Line: 503-746-9664



SHEPHERD'S DOOR FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN

13207 NE Halsey St., Portland

Main Phone: 503-906-7690

Intake Line: 503-746-9743

HOW YOU CAN HELP

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

For more ways you can join the Mission in giving hope and restoring life, visit: www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Join

A TEEN TAKES UP THE CHALLENGE

Delana's courageous step sets an example for us all



LEFT: Christine Ourada (Director of New Life Ministries for women and children) welcomes Delana's sacrificial gift of clothing and money to help women and children in need.

At only 15 years old, Delana's life took a surprise detour recently at a youth conference with Village Baptist Church. As her fellow students each pulled a card that challenged them to do something "out-of-the-box" for God, Delana's card took it to the next level. She was to simplify her life by selling all but 10 outfits in her closet, donate the money to a women and children's shelter, and then go volunteer there.

Undaunted, Delana took on the challenge, choosing Shepherd's Door to bless with her time and a \$100 donation.

"At the beginning, both my mom and I were nervous. We don't have a lot of money, and so this seemed like a really big deal," she explained. As a single mom, Kathy, along with Delana, knows what it's like to live on a tight budget. With a growing teenager in the house, and a host of other bills to keep up with, Kathy knew following through with this challenge would be tough. But she also knew she had to get out of God's way, and let Delana hold true to her commitment.

"With great sacrifice comes great reward," Kathy said. "At no point was Delana looking at the card and trying to cheat her way around it, or earn recognition. She just knew she needed to obey and do it regardless of the difficulty."

Like so many other teenage girls, prior to receiving her challenge, clothes were an important part of Delana's identity. "I had a clothes chart, and I would plan out what I was going

to wear for at least two weeks in advance," she explained. "I didn't want to have to wear the same thing so often that people would take notice."

Fast-forward to now, and Delana's perspective has completely changed. She has enough outfits for just over a week... and she couldn't be happier. "I may not have as many clothes now, but I still know that God thinks I'm beautiful, even if I have to wear the same outfit every 10 days," she said. "How you feel inside, and how you act, radiates a lot more than how you look."

Delana's selfless example of sacrificial giving served as a great encouragement to Christine Ourada, Director of New Life Ministry for women and children at Shepherd's Door. "In this society, teenagers are so often caught up in how the world tells them how they should look. Yet, here's this young lady that put all of that aside," Christine explained. "She sacrificed her comfort to help others, and set an example that we can all do something to help others in need."

Discover 10 ways you can help people in need including volunteering, donating clothes and more at:
www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Join

WINTER CLOTHING NEEDED

Donate coats, hats, gloves, socks and more.

Our supplies of blankets and winter clothing to help people in need are running low. Will you help stock our closets at Shepherd's Door, The Harbor and the Burnside Shelter?

This winter, the Mission will provide warm clothing to countless people, easing their suffering and protecting their health. For people sleeping outside, we provide daily clean blanket exchange to help with hygiene and extend the life of donated blankets. For the men, women and children who take refuge at Portland Rescue Mission, one of the best things we can do is ease their burden of how they'll provide for themselves or their family, especially during the frigid winter months.

When Raquel and her two boys (ages six and seven) came to Shepherd's Door from Texas with virtually nothing, the ability to clothe her family was invaluable. "Women like me come here with nothing," she says. Many are escaping abuse or other life crisis. "You have to leave everything behind, and yet, God still provides."

Your generous gifts of gently used coats, hats, gloves, sweatshirts, jeans, socks, underwear and blankets provide care and encouragement when hurting people need it most. Thank you.



Raquel (resident at Shepherd's Door) and Mike Deckon (staff member at Portland Rescue Mission) show the few remaining coats available for children.

Visit www.PortlandRescueMission.org/DonateItems for drop off locations and hours.



☐ Donate via credit card:

Circle One:



Expiration Date: _____

Card Number: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Donate securely online: www.PortlandRescueMission.org/WinterNL

☐ 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.



At 57 years old, with a lifetime of working hard and owning a home, Patty never expected to become homeless. Desperately frightened by the sudden collapse of her life, Patty attempted suicide. "I put myself in front of a truck. I figured it was better to be dead than to be homeless," she says. Thankfully, she survived.

Your support provides women like Patty a lifeline to keep them from falling into chronic homelessness and despair. "Connect has turned my life around. It has restored me to the person that I was once was. I used to be productive, happy, motivated, shining all the time. I lost that person, but now I have her back." —PATTY

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.



**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/WinterNL

*Thank you
for your support!*