

RESCUE PORTLAND

**“AT LEAST
I’LL NEVER BE
HOMELESS.”**

**BRADLEY’S HEARTBREAKING
NIGHTMARE CAME TRUE**



**Portland
Rescue Mission**

SUMMER 2016



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BRADLEY’S HEARTBREAKING NIGHTMARE CAME TRUE

Bradley laughed at the dark irony. For the last thirty years, he justified his growing addiction with the shallow, comforting thought. “I might be an alcoholic. But no matter how bad it gets, I won’t be living in a tent or under a bridge.” But he was wrong.

Walking out of the hotel with just a few dollars to his name, Bradley tried to push aside the shock of what had happened. After years of barely holding it together, he’d just lost his job, his last hold on a normal life. He walked out into the cold, feeling broken and alone, with nothing but a coat. He was homeless.

Immediately, Bradley’s military training kicked in. Years in the Marine Corps reserve trained him for survival. “Shut out the physical pain,” he thought. “Shut down the emotions. Get it together and you can make it through this.”

CRYING OUT TO GOD

For decades, he’d slowly pushed everyone away. He lost two marriages, three daughters and a couple of great jobs. The more failures he accumulated, the greater his sense of worthlessness and shame, and the more he drowned his feelings in alcohol.

Bradley cried out to God, not knowing how to put his life back together. “God, be with me. You know what I need.”

After months of enduring harsh weather, nagging hunger, sleeplessness and exhaustion, Bradley found his way to Portland Rescue Mission. His father, a long-time volunteer, and his daughter convinced Bradley to enroll in the New Life Ministry for men at The Harbor in northeast Portland.

“It’s not just about getting a certificate or remaining sober. It’s about developing healthy habits spiritually and emotionally. It’s about dealing with the past in a safe environment where you can talk about it.”

THE DIFFERENCE

Bradley had tried treatment before, but The Harbor was different. “I noticed the first day here that the focus is on life recovery, life restoration, not just drug and alcohol recovery,” he says. “It’s not just about getting a certificate or remaining sober. It’s about developing healthy habits spiritually and emotionally. It’s about dealing with the past in a safe environment where you can talk about it.”

Slowly, Bradley emerged from survival mode, as God tore down the walls around his heart. “Then the counselors and mentors teach you, help you sort it all out and put you back together to find healing and purpose in life.”

A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Nine months into his recovery, Bradley celebrates the longest period of sobriety he’s had in 30 years. To him, hope means staying in close relationships, no longer isolating himself from people or his own heart. He treasures time spent with his adult daughters and his parents. And he’s committed to keeping his priorities straight. “I’m seeking God in my decisions and His will for my life. Then everything else falls in line.”

Homelessness is shame and fear. Your gift today offers freedom and safety to people like Bradley.

ART HELPED STEWART FIND A NEW LIFE

Six months ago, Stewart was homeless, lost and hurting. He came to our Burnside Shelter for meals and was grateful for everything the Mission provided – restrooms, shelter, socks, toiletries and mail service.

But he didn't expect an art class.

Every Thursday afternoon, our Guest Care Center offers an open workshop with free art supplies to anyone who would like to join in. It's just one example of the intentional programming offered at the Burnside Shelter to provide men and women refuge from life on the street. It's a safe place to engage in positive relationships and regain a sense of normalcy in their otherwise difficult and chaotic lives.

For Stewart, the art class became a foundation to start a new life. He learned about our 3-month Connect program that helps men and women without a home transition to stable housing and employment. The friendships he developed with our staff at the art class helped Stewart trust that the Mission could help him move forward in life.

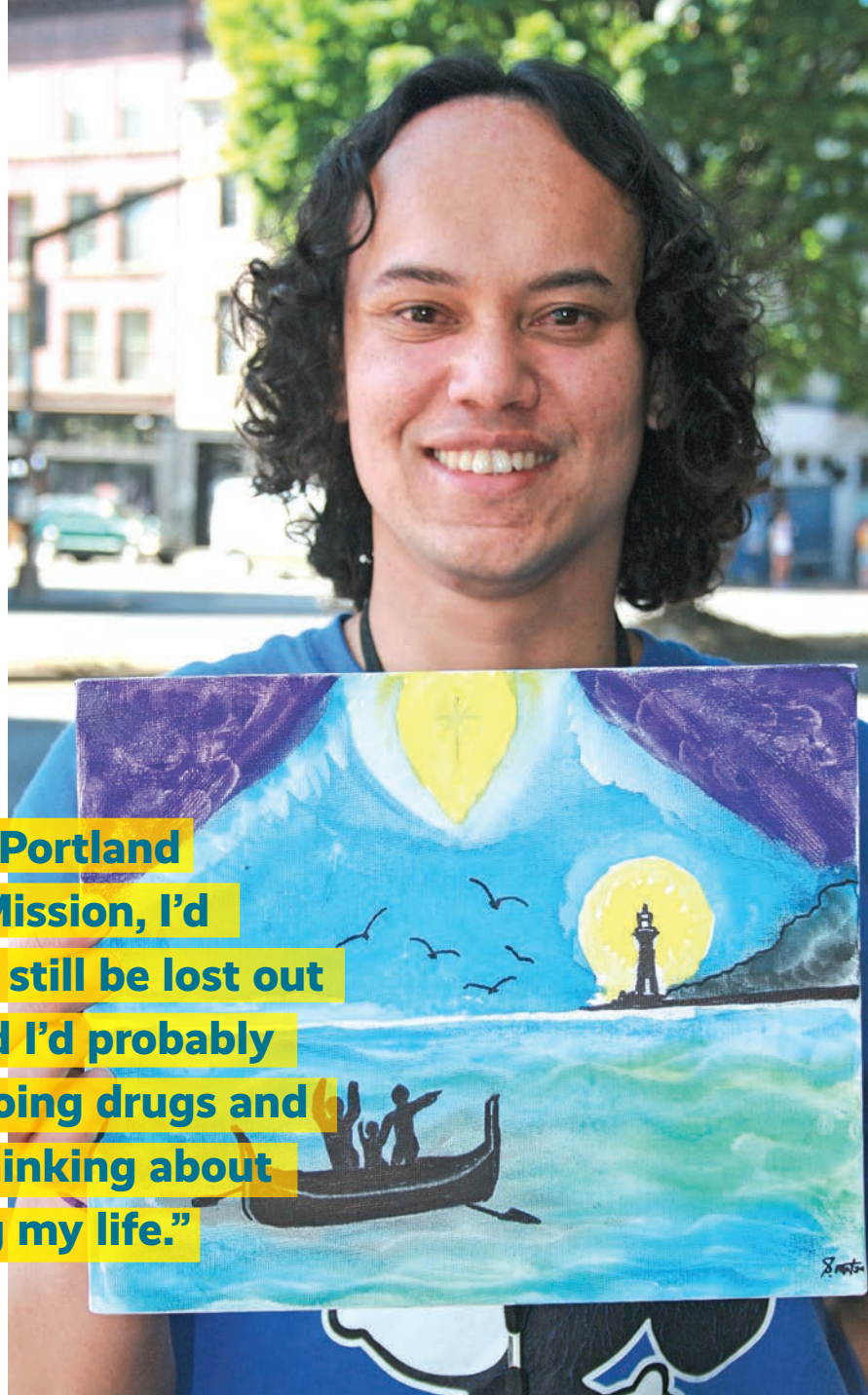
Today, Stewart is using his time in Connect to search for a job, reconnect with his son and, of course, attend the art workshop each week. "I really want to have an art studio one day ... have people look at my story and see where I came from," he says.

He points to a recent painting of his and says,

"The lighthouse, it resembles here, actually. Without Portland Rescue Mission, I'd probably still be lost out there and I'd probably still be doing drugs and not be thinking about changing my life."



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Your gift today will help men and women like Stewart feel welcome, and offer them a variety of ways to start their journey toward a life free from homelessness and addiction.

"Hope to me means it's not over," says Stewart.

"You can always start new."

Have a passion for building relationships through art? Volunteer at:

www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Volunteer

DRIVE AWAY HUNGER

Through Portland Rescue Mission's Drive Away Hunger Program, you can donate an aging vehicle or purchase a safety-checked used vehicle while providing meals and care to the men, women and children we serve at Portland Rescue Mission. Your donation will not only shift our meal ministry into high gear, it will also provide vocational training to participants in our recovery programs.

Here's how you can turn wheels into meals in 5 easy steps.

1. LOCATE YOUR TITLE.

2. CALL DRIVE AWAY HUNGER AT 503-906-7673.

(No scary Craigslist "meetings," no bartering, no problem!)

3. PROVIDE TITLE AND KEYS TO TOW TRUCK DRIVER.

(10 minutes or so and we're done!)



NGER

4. SAVE YOUR RECEIPT FOR TAX PURPOSES.

(We'll help you write off the sale price,
not just the minimum donation.)

5. FEEL GREAT! YOUR AGING VEHICLE WILL BE RESTORED OR RECYCLED.

You'll receive the maximum tax
deduction and provide meals and care
for people in need.

WWW.DRIVEAWAYHUNGER.ORG

503.906.7673



Giving hope and restoring life...

it's what you do through Portland Rescue Mission.

Be encouraged by the hope that some of our most recent graduates have shared.



MELISSA

“It’s been pretty amazing. I’ve found a lot of freedom and let go of a lot of bondage. It’s been scary, but so good.

I no longer find my identity in anybody but Christ. I am a child of God. And today I have a lot to look forward to, and I have a life that I’m absolutely excited about and can’t wait to move forward in.”

“I don’t have to put up barriers anymore. I don’t mind allowing myself to be known, and I’m not ashamed or afraid to let people know who I was, where I come from or the path that I’m on.

People see me as a human being, and not as something else. It’s opened doors and conversation in all kinds of areas. I can be real now.”

JOHN



LAZARA

“Before I even knew Jesus I wanted to be a whole person.

Now, I not only realize who I am in God, but I am a whole person ... and my hope has been restored. Shepherd’s Door has shown me what family is supposed to be like. It’s shown me what unconditional love and the love of Christ looks like and how He’s working through everyone here. I’m living a new life. It’s awesome Thank you.”

“I’m free today. I came in desperate after looking at my past and seeing that I was about to repeat the same destructive things I always did. And I knew I couldn’t do that again ... I had done so much stuff, and I’ve made so many mistakes, that I had to feel and experience what it felt like to really be forgiven. I’ve got that now. God has forgiven me for all that stuff in the past and I don’t ever have to walk through that again. It’s in the past, and I’m moving forward.”

XAVIER





MORE THAN SOBRIETY

We don't always know what we need. But we usually know what we want. Men and women like Bradley, our featured story in this newsletter, want more than anything to end their agony. Usually, long before people become homeless, they experience loss and trauma. In a desperate attempt to deal with the pain, they turn to the fastest and easiest relief they can think of – drugs, alcohol or shallow relationships, but nothing satisfies.

It can seem irrational to risk addiction when your life is already falling apart. But that is the only way many people know to cope. Deep down, they know they want something more. A life that has meaning. Relationships that are caring and wholesome. A sense of well-being, even if life isn't perfect. But they have no idea how to get there.

Bradley came to our New Life Ministry a bit angry. He didn't like his life, but it was all he knew. Letting go of addiction made him anxious, but he knew without sobriety there was no chance for change. After his first month, his mind began to clear. For the first time in 30 years, he could dare to imagine a better life.

But it wasn't until later in the program that Bradley's heart shifted from what he wanted to what he needed. Something much more than food, shelter or even sobriety.

Bradley needed connection. That's what makes Portland Rescue Mission different. As men and women experience true, caring relationships with volunteers and staff, they realize there's much more to life than survival. Protective walls begin to crumble. Hearts soften. Souls open to embrace God and experience forgiveness most of them scarcely believed was possible.

That's how lives are changed at Portland Rescue Mission. Your support gives people more than what they want – more than just recovery. You give them what they need – a rebirth, a meaningful restorative connection with God, with friends and family, and with themselves.

Thank you for caring,

Eric Bauer, Executive Director

What hurting people lost in homelessness and addiction
want more than anything is an end to their agony.

P.S. Summertime is when our giving drops to its lowest. Please help us through this summer slump with a gift today to restore the lives of more hurting people who come to us daily for help and hope.

☐ Donate via credit card:

Circle One:     Expiration Date: _____

Card Number: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Donate securely online: www.PortlandRescueMission.org/NLSummer

☐ 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.

THANK YOU COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Local Businesses Join Us in Giving Hope!

- Fred Meyer, Melody's Angels and Shari's Café and Pies provided supplies, gift bags and LOTS of delicious pies for hundreds of guests during our 8th Annual Birthday Party for the Homeless in May.



- Shoes.com worked with a number of local vendors to provide 300 pairs of new and gently used shoes for the guests at our Burnside Shelter. Gap joined the festivities with hundreds of pairs of new socks.

There are always opportunities for your business, church or school to join us at the Mission. Learn more and sign up 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/NLSummer

Thank you for your support!