



RESCUE PORTLAND

"God, if you're
out there...."

BRIAN'S HEARTFELT PRAYER HELPED SET HIM FREE

It's 3:00 a.m. and he's wide awake. The cold, misty light of a street lamp casts a long shadow over a lonely park bench and Brian's slumped silhouette. The city is sleeping, but there's no way he can rest. Fear pierces his heart like the icy winter wind chilling his tense body. Regrets echo endlessly in his head. Maybe this is what Brian deserved, to be homeless and alone.

"How did I get here?" Brian thinks. His tired eyes peer out from the scarf wrapped around his face, longing for the first light of dawn to break his misery. "How am I ever going to get my life together?"

Sobriety was a fleeting achievement for Brian. The fun of drinking and partying in his 20s had long worn off. Like a prisoner with the cell door thrown open, he was ready to move forward in life, but the chains of his addiction still held him down. After getting sober for several months, Brian joined our 3-month Connect program to help him transition to independent housing and employment. But he wasn't ready for it.

"I had hopes of getting back to work," says Brian. "but I just couldn't stay off alcohol. I wasn't strong enough in my recovery." In desperation, Brian called out for help. "I got on my knees and prayed to God deeper than I've prayed in my whole life. In tears, I said, 'God, if you're out there, help me. I can't stay sober without you. I certainly can't do it without other people in my life. I'm done with me. I need to seek You, because without You, I don't have a chance.'"

Portland Rescue Mission's programs are thoughtfully

integrated to help people just like Brian. If short-term recovery isn't enough, our New Life Ministries for men and women provide in-depth, year-long recovery in peaceful residential settings. The thought of spending an entire year in recovery was daunting for Brian, but he decided to join our program for men at The Harbor in northeast Portland.

"The moment I walked through the door here, I was home," says Brian. "I felt like I had gotten off this nightmare roller coaster and suddenly it's quiet and calm."

More than just sobriety, Brian's recovery has been about surrender and selflessness. He finds himself waking up every morning with a humble prayer of yielding, "God, I need Your help. I can't do this without You."

The awareness of his own frailty brings him to a sense of centeredness he'd longed for.

"I was chasing after peace, serenity, calmness and comfort in alcohol. I was looking for God in that bottle. God provides me all of those things. My parents and friends tried to tell me, but I was just too self-absorbed to listen."

As Brian has let go of his selfishness, he's found freedom. "A year ago, I was angry, lonely, sad, hopeless, helpless, arrogant, prideful and ashamed," he says. "I still have a lot of work to do, but I want to stay in a place of humility. I believe God wants to do work in everyone's life. We just have to let Him in. I've seen it happen multiple times here. The miraculous happens when we let God work on us."



Recovery is hard, but people like Brian are finding help through your support. Please give a generous gift today.

SEE BRIAN'S VIDEO AT:
PortlandRescueMission.org/Brian



Gifts That Keep On Giving

TAMI WANTED A SPECIAL WAY TO HONOR HER MOTHER

Tracey, Tami and Matthew honored their mother Patricia Strohm with a loving memorial gift.

Like many supporters of Portland Rescue Mission, Patricia Strohm gave faithfully and quietly for many years. It wasn't until she passed away last spring that her adult children discovered her compassionate generosity to share God's love with men and women who struggle with hunger, addiction and homelessness.

"It was important to me to honor my mother somehow," says Tami King, Patricia's daughter, who decided to make a substantial memorial gift to commemorate her mother. "I believe quite strongly in God's mission that we love everybody and take care of the less fortunate. This was a blessing for me to honor both God and my mom at the same time."

We're deeply grateful for people like Patricia and Tami, who care about helping our neighbors in need. You, too, can give gifts that keep on giving.

4 Great Ways To Give

HONOR A LOVED ONE WITH A MEMORIAL GIFT.

Complete the "Honor / Memorial" information when you donate online:
www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Donate

PLAN YOUR OWN LEGACY GIFT.

Get free resources at **www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Legacy**

SPONSOR A ROOM AT ONE OF OUR LOCATIONS AS A CARE PARTNER.

Call **Rob Anderson** at **503.746.9672** to learn more.

START AN AUTOMATIC MONTHLY DONATION THROUGH OUR CIRCLE OF FRIENDS.

Learn more at: **www.PortlandRescueMission.org/COF**

WHAT WAS YOUR BEST MOMENT IN 2016?

We asked the men and women we serve to reflect on the hope you gave them in 2016. Thank you for giving them hope for a new life!

*Celebrating my one-year
sobriety with my mom
and son! Thank you,
Shepherd's Door!*



*All four of my kids and me
together holding hands and
praying together.*



*Moving to
Portland and
having a great
community.*



*TODAY - FOR IT
IS THE FIRST DAY
OF THE REST OF
MY LIFE.*



I'm not homeless anymore
and that I'm not dead as a
result of it.



Waking up sober, safe and
free to pursue a deep,
satisfying relationship with
God and being fully alive.



Getting baptized in
the Pacific ocean
at Cannon Beach.



GRADUATES SHARE

Men and women share some of the most significant memories in their journey out of addiction and homelessness.

A portrait of a man with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a light blue button-down shirt. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a solid purple color.

BRADLEY

“Bottom line: I am blessed. Every day that I wake up and meet [people] wherever I go - I have an opportunity to share with them the joy that I know. The future for me looks good. Hope is huge.”

A portrait of a woman with shoulder-length reddish-brown hair, wearing a white top and a necklace. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a solid blue color.

LISA

“I tried to commit suicide. I didn’t succeed. I heard God tell me, ‘I still love you.’ And here I am today. I’m so grateful for everyone at Shepherd’s Door. They gave me confidence in myself when I didn’t have it. They made me feel like I belong.”

A portrait of a woman with dark curly hair, wearing a red patterned top and a necklace. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a solid blue color.

MICHAL

“I was able to get to the traumas that I had never healed from. I could move on, and I could trust people. Now I give back by working with people who are homeless. I can share my experience about being homeless and I can pray with them.”

A portrait of a man with a beard and short brown hair, wearing a blue and white plaid shirt. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a solid purple color.

JESSE

“Love is what brought me here. All I knew is I needed somewhere to come and rest and look at myself in the mirror and figure some things out. This place has done that for me. If God is love, then I see Him everywhere.”

A background image showing a group of people sitting at a long table, participating in a telethon. They are talking on phones and looking at papers. A sign in the background says "GIVE HOPE TELETHON".

THANK YOU TO OUR RADIOTHON AND TELETHON SPONSORS

Our generous community is changing lives

- **Fred Meyer** provided gift cards for anyone that signed up to be a monthly donor.
- **AKA Direct** sponsored all three of our events. They also provided our Christmas eve meal at the Burnside Shelter.
- **Gresham Ford** joined us as an in-kind sponsor.
- **Dannon, CenturyLink and Standard TV and Appliance** joined us as partner sponsors.



DEFINING MOMENTS

Last fall, America held its breath as the Chicago Cubs battled the Cleveland Indians in the World Series. After a 107-year drought, the Cubs emerged with a hard-won victory, breaking a century-old “curse” of loss.

Even people who weren’t die-hard Cubs fans had to smile at their dramatic turn. It was a Disney movie feel-good experience, the defining moment where the relentless underdog grabs victory from certain defeat. The crowd goes wild. The winning team rushes the field in a leaping pile of hugs and high fives. The struggle was worth it all.

People like Brian, Bradley, Lisa, Jesse, and Michal have their defining moments too. I love our graduation events where men and women mark an important milestone in their recovery. It’s a World Series celebration of heartfelt hugs as we cheer courageous underdogs claiming victory over addiction, homelessness and all the pain of the past.

The Cubs were known as the team you knew would let you down. Like the Cubs, victory can seem unlikely for the people in our programs. The odds are stacked against them. They’ve tried and failed countless times before. But with God, there’s always hope.

In baseball and in recovery, victory takes daily dogged determination. It’s not just one defining moment, but countless thousands. The Cubs had to win 103 games before even getting to the World Series. People like Brian hammer out daily victories — sometimes moment-by-moment — to stay sober, face hard truths, accept help, surrender to God, ask for and receive forgiveness. It’s grueling work that can’t be done alone.

Recovery, like baseball, is a team sport. Brian knew he needed the help of people who had been there before, counselors to guide and train him, friends to cheer him on, mentors to remind him of the basics, and a real relationship with God to give him calm, centered courage to do whatever it takes to win.

You are part of the team, my friend. Your unwavering support fuels daily wins for men and women in our programs. Thank you for volunteering, praying and giving. Thank you for breaking the seemingly unending curse of addiction and homelessness in their lives. Thank you for giving them their defining moments of victory.

Celebrating with you,

Eric Bauer, Executive Director

They’ve tried and failed countless times before.
But with God, there’s *always hope*.

☐ 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.

THANK YOU, COMMUNITY PARTNERS!



- **Chick-Fil-A** at Clackamas Promenade brought 37 volunteers to serve dinner at our Burnside Shelter.



- **Providence Medical Center** throws a monthly birthday party for our homeless guests. They bring dessert, sing "Happy Birthday," and pass out handwritten birthday cards to each person.



- **Harry's Fresh Foods** made our "Serving Hope" meal a delight for people in need. They brought and served a delicious meal for 450 guests, and decorated the dining room and Guest Care Center.



- **Care Oregon** assists men and women with health care needs each Thursday at the Burnside Shelter.



- **Burgerville** donated 10% of sales to Portland Rescue Mission and allowed customers to donate when they purchase a meal.



- **ASML** engineers served a meal at our Burnside Shelter and brought hundreds of pounds of clothes and hygiene items.



- **Michigan State University** alumni served dinner and brought 300 "snocks" (socks filled with snacks) for our men and women in need.



- **Clark College** donated 400 pairs of shoes from their shoe and sock drive.

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.

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**Portland
Rescue Mission**

Giving Hope. Restoring Life.®

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503.MISSION (647.7466)

To donate online, visit
PortlandRescueMission.org/WinterNL

*Thank you
for your support!*