



Lighthouse

Portland Rescue Mission | Holiday 2022

HOPE *for the* HOLIDAYS

Giving the Gift of Hope
to Neighbors in Need

Giving Hope. Restoring Life.

WHY THE *Holidays* ARE THE HARDEST



Eric Bauer, Executive Director



The 2022 Point in Time Count confirmed what we've been seeing for some time. The number of people struggling with homelessness in Portland and Vancouver has gone up considerably. **In fact, in Multnomah County people who are living unsheltered has risen 50% since the last count in 2019.** While there are likely many who remain uncoun- ted, the number of people who are unsheltered in Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, and Clark Counties has exceeded 4,000.

The total number of people with unstable housing is nearly double that. This includes men, women, and children unable to navigate a 40% increase in housing costs, the loss of a job, mental health and addictions struggles, timing out of foster care, the pandemic, or other life crisis. Tragically, this also includes a good number of women and children fleeing domestic violence.

The fear and the isolation can be crushing, especially during the holiday season.

Because of these dark realities, there is a vital need for the light of compassionate engagement to encourage and guide each person out of the downward spiral of life on the streets and onto an upward path towards a brighter future.

Your ongoing support makes this possible by keeping the lighthouse lit 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Every gift you give is the gift of

hope to our neighbors in need; hope that begins with a nutritious meal, a shower, clean clothes, and safe shelter. But that is just the beginning. **Lives are transformed through wholistic care that addresses physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs.** As you will see with Erica's story on page 6, a restored life can be a miraculous thing.

With your ongoing partnership, we will continue to see people transition out of isolation and addiction and into hope and self-sufficiency. That's a lot to be thankful for!

Gratefully,

Eric Bauer, Executive Director



“Every gift you give is the gift of hope to our neighbors in need”



Please donate today to provide meals, shelter, and life-restoring care to neighbors in need.

www.PortlandRescueMission.org/HolidayNL



Hope for the Holidays

Encouraging updates from New Life Recovery Program Participants

Every day lives are being restored in our New Life Recovery Program. We recently asked some program participants what they were most thankful for this holiday season, and here's what they had to share.



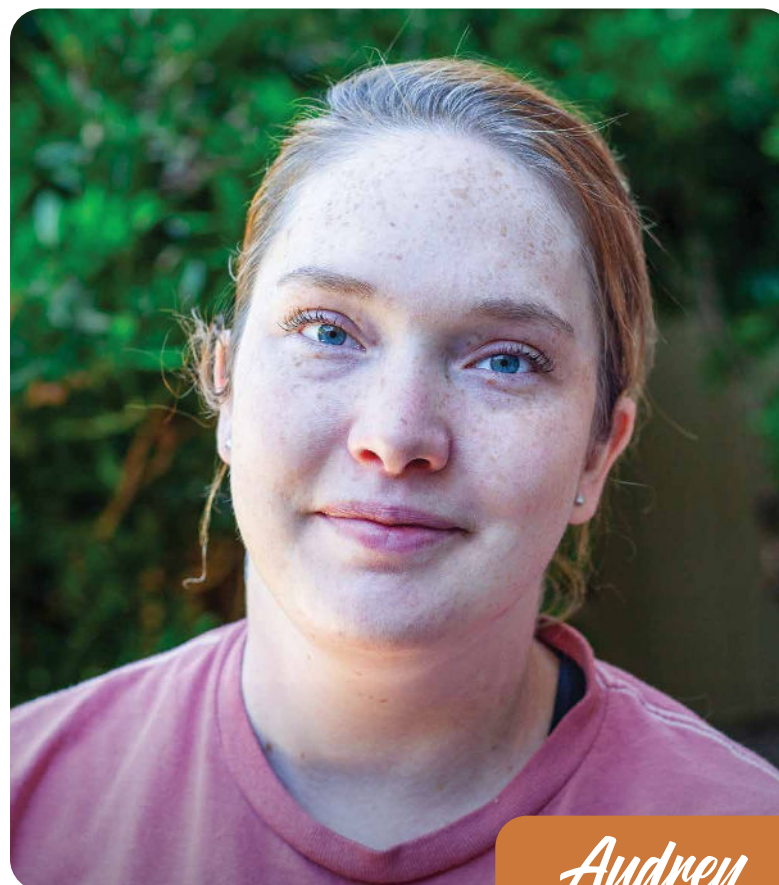
Kevin K.

“What am I thankful for? Where do I start? I'm so thankful to be here, to surrender to God, and to get off the street. I am blessed to be able to give back to people in need because I was out there. It's no fun, I understand.” - Kevin K.



Adam

“Thanksgiving at The Harbor is really joyful. I'm super thankful to have a roof over my head, and to be with friends who care about me. I am most thankful for my sobriety and being alive. Just having a relationship with the Lord, I feel more hopeful about the future.” - Adam



Audrey

“I felt safe and loved when I saw a clean room, a clean bed, and I could see my son with clean blankets and new pajamas. I am thankful for the security, the food, and for the people here. I'm grateful for the opportunity to grow. It's saved my life.” - Audrey



Kevin S.

“I was a line cook and I got laid off because of the outbreak. I've worked hard and losing everything was a wakeup call. But Portland Rescue Mission took a chance with me. So, this Thanksgiving I'm thankful for this community. It's preparing me for what's next. It's a blessing.” - Kevin S.

A life *Restored!*

Erica’s Story of Hope

The tragic loss of her children’s father began a two-year struggle for Erica. But there was no time to grieve. She was too busy looking out for her two youngest children. **“Not knowing where we’re going to rest our head and having to lie and tell them that we’re just camping, that was rock bottom,”** she said. **“I felt hopeless.”**

That changed when Erica learned about Shepherd’s Door from watching a “Story of Hope” video on YouTube. **“Once they showed us our room, I was like, “Okay, it’s getting real.”** And real it was because that’s when her healing began.

“I broke down with staff, and I was able to release all that hurt and anger little by little.”

While Erica was healing, so were her boys. **“Seeing them eat three meals a day made me emotional. I had to thank God for where He had brought us.”**

Since graduating the program, Erica has her own “Story of Hope” video. And she has a lot to share. **“Now I have all four kids together, reunited. I work as a caregiver, and I love my job. I just keep moving forward and I’m grateful for another chance at life.”**



Watch Erica share her powerful testimony at www.PortlandRescueMission.org/HolidayNL



A SPECIAL GUEST SHARES THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS!

There are so many different opportunities to volunteer at Portland Rescue Mission. You can serve a meal, mentor program participants, or ... if you are Rick and Tami Caffal, you can make a very special appearance in our Children’s Center. Last year “Santa Rick” came to share a book about the birth of Jesus and the very first Christmas with our kids. That was followed by photos, cookies, and so many smiles. **Thank you for blessing our kids!**



❄️ ❄️ Christmas in our Children’s Center! ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️

Put your gift to work right away when you donate online:
www.PortlandRescueMission.org/HolidayNL

\$ _____ ☐ One-Time ☐ Monthly: _____
Gift Amount End Date

Donor Name (as it appears on credit card or bank account) Donor Signature

Address:

Phone: _____ Email: _____

☐ I prefer to send my gift of \$ _____ each month and have enclosed my check. (We will send you gift envelopes)

Donations to Portland Rescue 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 people in need throughout the year. You will receive a receipt for your gift.

☐ I authorize Portland Rescue Mission to charge my credit card or banking account when this form is received at the mission. This payment authorization is valid and to remain in effect until written end date or upon sending notice to Portland Rescue Mission at donations@pdxmission.org or **PO Box 3713 Portland, OR 97208** five days prior to the scheduled payment date.

Credit Card Gift:
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Credit Card # Exp. Date

3- or 4- Digit Security Code Billing ZIP Code

Checking/Savings Account Gift:
☐ Checking ☐ Business Checking ☐ Savings

Bank Name

Bank Routing Number

Bank Account Number

The gift of **HOPE**



COULD YOU ADD JUST ONE MORE GIFT TO YOUR LIST?

It feels good to know that your act of kindness will touch the lives of people in need this Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please add just one more gift to your shopping list, the gift of hope that comes in the form of nutritious meals, safe shelter, and access to life-restoring care.

www.PortlandRescueMission.org/HolidayNL

MY GIFT OF **HOPE**

☒ **Yes**, I want to help hurting men, women, and children struggling with homelessness, addiction, and hunger. Here is my gift of:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ \$24/mo to help 24 people a year | ☐ \$_____ a month |
| ☐ \$48/mo to help 48 people a year | ☐ \$_____ one time gift |
| ☐ \$96/mo to help 96 people a year | |

Every \$12 provides a hot meal, safe night of shelter, a shower, clean clothes, and access to life-restoring programs.

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**Portland
Rescue Mission**

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503.MISSION (647.7466)

To donate online, visit:
PortlandRescueMission.org/HolidayNL

*Thank you for
your support!*