SAFE AT LAST

Safety, Community, and Hope for women and children in need

Giving Hope. Restoring Life.
Homelessness is isolating. Isolation creates vulnerability which is particularly dangerous if you are a woman on the street. All too often the tyranny of the urgent - finding food, safe shelter and hygiene - leaves no time for relational development. And the relationships that do develop can often be toxic, only adding to the danger.

That is why the doors of Portland Rescue Mission remain open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Here all services that we offer, from the daily meals, safe shelter, clean clothes, hygiene products and referral services are delivered in a manner to develop relationships and create community.

In community we can meet someone where they’re at, assess their needs and walk with them at a pace that they can sustain.

This happens in our short-term Connect Program where women have the opportunity to stabilize from street life and form supportive relationships as they receive job training and assistance with housing and employment. It’s also seen in our long-term Shepherd’s Door Program where women and children can stay in a retreat-like setting receiving holistic, highly relational care in overcoming substance use disorders, vocational training, parenting classes, and spiritual mentorship.

The opposite of isolation is community. Community is where a woman can heal and grow towards self-sufficiency (like our friend Amanda who you will meet on page 4.) Thank you for being a vital part of this community.

Thank you for providing safety, community, and hope,

Eric Bauer, Executive Director

Portland Rescue Mission is now delivering life-sustaining meals and supplies to people who are sheltering in place. Our outreach van is equipped with meals, water, blankets, socks, and hygiene products. The van makes frequent stops at makeshift shelters across the city.

“Although it is more effective to provide emergency and recovery support from a safe central location, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused us to stretch to support our neighbors in crisis.” -Eric Bauer, Executive Director

The mobile outreach effort is led by Bradley Thatcher, a former member of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, who previously survived months on the street before finding and eventually graduating from our New Life Recovery Program. “Surviving on the street is much tougher than most realize,” Bradley recently told a reporter. “Our intention is to build relationships that instill hope by providing for critical needs.”

This is one more opportunity for Bradley and a team of caring volunteers to build relationships with people unable to make their way to our Burnside Shelter. And, as Bradley put it, “Building relations is essential to helping people find pathways toward stability.”

Loading essentials into the mobile outreach van

Building relationships and providing meals

One of the many stops around the city

Bradley and volunteer offering help

A nutritious meal costs just $2.09! Please donate today to provide as many meals as you’re able for hungry neighbors in need. www.PortlandRescueMission.org/FallNL

These are the words that Amanda used to describe her life before February of 2019. She had been struggling with homelessness for the better part of ten years. “You are not safe. You have nothing. If you slow down for one minute, someone could hurt you or take advantage of you.” After learning that she was pregnant she knew something had to change, and it did with the click of the remote. “I remember seeing Portland Rescue Mission doing a Christmas special on TV and I saw the beautiful rooms that you had.”

Amanda found more than shelter when she joined the Shepherd’s Door Program for women and children. Amanda found safety, community, and hope. Now that Amanda has graduated the New Life Program, there is no stopping her. “I literally feel like all things are possible through God because this was a hard year, especially with COVID. I never graduated high school, but I was able to graduate this program with the Lord’s strength. I can move forward and conquer even more things in life!”

Now, when Amanda describes life for her and her son, the words she uses are completely different. “Worthy. Loved. Blessed. Healed. Faithful.”

You can be a bright light in a dark place! Donate today: www.PortlandRescueMission.org/FallNL
Joshua Returns to The Harbor to Give Back

A lot has changed for Joshua since he graced the cover of our Summer 2019 Newsletter. There, Joshua described the years spent struggling with hunger, homelessness, and addiction. He also shared the story of the time, while watching a sunrise, he felt as though God told him that his life could be greater than he ever imagined. Now, two years later, it’s clear that God (as always) has made good on his promise.

Since graduating the New Life Program for Men at The Harbor, Joshua remains active in his church while working in construction.

This month he will be starting a five-year program at Multnomah University which will equip him with a master’s degree in Church Leadership.

As if that wasn’t “great” enough, Joshua and his bride recently welcomed the birth of their son! When Joshua came back to speak to the men at The Harbor he said, “I wanted to encourage them to stick with it because the life that God has for them is greater than they ever thought possible. My life is a testimony of that.”

Of all the lessons learned in the garden, the greatest lesson is that of “companion planting.”

In agriculture, companion planting happens when you plant different crops in close proximity because, together, they will help each other grow. But in our garden, we’re not just talking about a raised box full of corn, green beans, and squash. We’re talking about program participants, volunteers, churches, and staff all learning, healing, and growing together in community.

As the garden thrives, so do the women in community at Shepherd’s Door.

Picking fresh produce
Daily salad bar!
HOMELINESS HURTS

With the holiday season on the horizon, help us stock our shelves so that nutritious meals, safe shelter, and access to life-restoring care can be offered free of charge to anyone in need, any time they need it.

Start your automatic monthly donation today at:
www.PortlandRescueMission.org/FallNL

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
☐ $48/mo to help 48 people a year
☐ $96/mo to help 96 people a year
☐ $___________ a month
☐ $___________ one time gift

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

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To donate online, visit: PortlandRescueMission.org/FallNL

Thank you for your support!