

LightHouse

Portland Rescue Mission | NEWSLETTER



“God gave
me the
strength
to push
through.”



FROM ADDICTION TO ABUNDANT

LIFE

Jovanna's Story of Redemption

When Jovanna entered Shepherd's Door, she carried with her years of addiction, trauma, and loss. At only 20 years old, Jovanna had endured more than many do in a lifetime—substance-induced psychosis, emotional neglect, and a deep disconnect from herself and others.

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FUELED BY GRACE: One Car, Countless Blessings

At Drive Away Hunger, one donated car can spark a chain of transformation! For example, Caryn and her husband generously donated their Toyota Camry. Before it was even listed, another couple—longtime supporters—walked in, fell in love with the car, and purchased it on the spot.

One single sale provided over \$20,000 worth of holistic, Christ-centered care for men and women in our programs. Drive Away Hunger isn't just a car lot—it's a purpose-driven initiative where every donation and sale supports job training, healing, and hope. **When you give or buy, you fuel futures.** Thank you for driving lasting transformation—one vehicle, one life at a time.

Interested in selling or buying a car? Visit: DriveAwayHunger.org



How Transformation Happens at Portland Rescue Mission

Part IV of PRM's "Did You Know Series?"

People often ask us, "What does real transformation look like?" At PRM, we know it's not a checklist or a quick fix. Transformation is a Christ-centered, whole-person journey—what we call the **PRM Transformation Model: Get Help, Stabilize, Recover, and Give Back.** Here's how this journey unfolds:

GET HELP

We meet the critical needs first—offering meals, hygiene supplies, shelter, and compassionate care with tangible resources. For example, when Jonathon visited our Burnside Shelter, he hadn't eaten in days. A hot meal, a safe place to rest, and a caring conversation gave him the dignity and hope he thought he had lost. He also gained an opportunity to learn about the services we offer.

RECOVER

We provide holistic care for substance abuse disorders, or other life crises, in a supportive environment. In our New Life Recovery Program, Emily and her son found a path to lasting healing through addiction counseling, life skills development, and spiritual mentorship. She addressed the root causes of her addiction, rebuilt trust with her family, and grew spiritually in a Christ-centered community.

STABILIZE

Healing starts with stability. Through short-term offerings, guests find a supportive environment tailored to their unique needs. After finding safety, Mark entered our Connect Program. Through stable shelter, life skills training, and housing support, he built the foundation needed to secure employment and move into independent housing.

GIVE BACK

True transformation continues beyond our programs. Michael, a graduate from our New Life Recovery Program, is thriving. He lives independently, has stable employment, serves in his local church, and mentors others coming out of addiction—proving that true transformation ripples outward to impact entire communities.



We are 100% community funded. Every meal, every conversation, every step forward is possible because of friends like **YOU**. Together, we are restoring hope and transforming lives—one precious story at a time.

Portland Rescue Mission

JOVANNA'S STORY OF REDEMPTION, continued



breaking generational strongholds through faith, grace, and the transforming love of Jesus.

As part of her recovery journey, Jovanna trained for and completed a half marathon—a powerful symbol of perseverance. Each training mile mirrored the steps of healing: slow and intentional. Even after a knee injury, she pushed through to the finish line, saying, “The reward at the end was greater than the pain.”



Though life still brings challenges, Jovanna's perspective has changed. Triggers no longer define her response. “Using drugs used to be my first thought every day,” commented Jovanna.

“What I went through was hard, but the reward at the end was great.”

Jovanna is now a passionate advocate for young people navigating addiction. Her lived experience fuels her mission to intervene early, speak the truth, and bring light to underserved communities.

“Having a personal relationship with Jesus has helped me want to do better for myself... I want to be in His presence.”

Jovanna knows firsthand the power of support and the damage of being overlooked, and today she is giving back in meaningful ways. As a Certified Recovery Mentor, she's walking alongside others in addiction, especially youth and minorities. Through mentorship, church service, and sharing her story, Jovanna is using her transformation to uplift others—**proving that healed people can help heal people.**

Jovanna's journey is more than a story of recovery—it's a testimony of redemption. It reminds us that with love, structure, faith, and community, lives can be restored and futures rewritten.



➡ Continued from the Cover Page:

What began as a reluctant five-week commitment to PRM's Discovery Program blossomed into a year of healing and transformation through our New Life Program.

“I was the biggest advocate for marijuana not being a gateway drug—until it became one for me.”

Jovanna's story is a powerful reflection of the “Recover” pillar in the PRM Transformation Model. Her journey isn't just about overcoming addiction—it is about restoration through Christ. With the support of a structured program, a loving community, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Jovanna has rebuilt her identity as a beloved daughter of God.

Recovery became a process of healing past wounds, renewing her mind, and

Giving Hope. Restoring Life.



SOBER AND THRIVING



share
THE DOUGH

Wagner Planning
ENVISION • PLAN • ACHIEVE

RUNNING WITH A PURPOSE

PRM's "Sober and Thriving" Team Takes on Hood to Coast 2025

Portland Rescue Mission's Sober and Thriving running team hit the pavement for the 2025 Hood to Coast relay, powered by the generous support of **Panera Bread's Share the Dough Foundation**, this year's Premier Sponsor, and **Wagner Planning**, our Title Sponsor. Their generosity fuels our team's journey and helps transform lives far beyond the finish line.

The team—made up of alumni, community members and staff—ran as a testimony to God's healing, redemption, and the joy of a transformed life in Christ.

For many, this race was more than a physical challenge—it was a bold testimony of healing, hope, and purpose. Each step was proof: recovery is real, and giving back brings lasting joy.

We are excited for next year's race. Interested in participating or sponsor our 2026 Hood to Coast team? **Email: info@pdxmission.org**



The Future is BRIGHT!

For 75 years, Portland Rescue Mission (PRM) has been a beacon of compassion, love, and grace to the community suffering from homelessness, addiction, and trauma. PRM's life-transforming service model provides personalized and holistic programs to people in great need on their journey toward a purposeful and self-sufficient life.

The PRM Transformation Model offers individualized, Christ-centered care through four holistic and integrated services—Get Help, Stabilize, Recover,

and Give Back—each designed to deliver personalized support through Christian discipleship, life skills training, and addiction recovery.

At every stage, our highly relational, joy-filled servant team meets neighbors in need where they are, providing individualized care at a sustainable pace to address the physical and relational roots of homelessness, addiction, and trauma.

Portland Rescue Mission is 100% community-funded.

**Donate to
Portland Rescue Mission:**



PortlandRescueMission.org/Sept25