

LightHouse

Portland Rescue Mission | NEWSLETTER



FROM GIVING UP TO GIVING BACK

Samantha's Story of Transformation

Samantha's life was plagued by addiction and abuse. Desperate, broken, and on the verge of losing her children, Samantha felt her life wasn't worth living anymore. In her darkest hour, she cried out to God...

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SAMANTHA'S STORY OF TRANSFORMATION, continued



Samantha's childhood was marked by deep trauma. "I come from a long line of addiction, incest, and abuse," she recalls. By adulthood, she found herself trapped in an abusive relationship, her addiction at its peak, and on the verge of losing both her children.

"I was about to lose my daughter... CPS was involved, and they were going to take my son, too. I was terrified."

In despair, Samantha dropped to her knees and prayed for God to find someone safe to take her kids, because she was planning to end her life. **"I told God they deserved better... and I heard this voice say, 'if they deserve better, then let's get better.'"** That was her turning point. She searched for treatment programs that allowed children, and that search led her to Shepherd's Door.

During her first days at the Mission, Samantha fought to overcome feelings of unworthiness. "I was deep in my shame, uncomfortable in my own skin. But everybody here was glowing. I thought, 'I want to be like that.'" Slowly, she began to understand that the love she felt was real.

"The community here pours into you, they speak truth and God's love over you. I've never had a love like that."

Over time, Samantha noticed a profound shift: "I was in survival mode before. Now there's so much peace about me. I'm becoming a better mom, and I'm a woman I can be proud of." She's also grown spiritually: **"My identity is in God now. I'm not my past or my mistakes."**

This Christmas, Samantha is experiencing the gifts of peace and hope and celebrating the chance to give back by helping other women heal and grow. Thank you for giving generously to help support people like Samantha on their journey to transformation!

"So many lives have been changed here – including mine and my children's. I'm so thankful."



Partnering to Nourish the Body & Soul

This Thanksgiving, Christian Culinary Academy is once again helping lay the table for transformation here at Portland Rescue Mission!

As they did last year, students and faculty from the Academy will join us at the Burnside Shelter to help serve over 500 meals to hungry members of our community.

A warm, filling meal is the first step toward helping a struggling neighbor escape survival mode. And once they're safe, they can begin working toward a new, transformed future.

You help make that journey possible, and we are so thankful for your ongoing commitment to blessing our community!



Hear From Our Guests



"I finally feel like I can improve lives in small day-to-day interactions – just by being there, being a friend, being a brother."
– Wyatt



"I was isolated in my addiction. I felt alone. And now I have a community inside and outside that lifts me up."
– Cassie

Transformation through Giving Back



Samantha's life has been transformed (*read her story on pg. 2*) – and giving back is a key part of that transformation! She's now a peer mentor for women seeking safety and support at Shepherd's Door. Her newly developed leadership skills help other women on their journey of transformation. "I don't have to be perfect to inspire women," she says. "We can all grow together."



"This place works. You have to give up yourself to make it work. But once I did, everything started falling into place."
– Mike



You Create Cherished Memories for Families

Through your kindness and contribution to our Amazon Wishlist for Parents, the men and women in our programs can select, wrap, and share Christmas gifts with their children. It's a special opportunity to bless their kids and build cherished memories.

This could not happen without the wonderful support of caring community members like you.

Thank you for making this Christmas one to remember for the men and women in our recovery programs and their children!

Eat Well, Do Good!

Our Fresh Start Catering offers both delicious food AND the chance to support the work of Portland Rescue Mission! All proceeds help provide life-restoring programs to people in our community.

Check out our menus or order now:

🌐 www.FreshStart.Catering

✉ FreshStartCatering@pdxmission.org

☎ (503) 746-9685



Christmas Happenings

What are your favorite holiday traditions? Here at the Mission, our traditions bring joy, foster connection, and help give our participants hope.

Festive Decorations:

Volunteers create a warm, welcoming and uplifting environment.



Children's Christmas Party:

Kids enjoy games, art projects, and a visit from Santa for family photos, while Mrs. Claus reads to them and shares the story of Jesus' birth.



Give Back. Give HOPE.



**Portland
Rescue Mission**

Thanks to the generous support of faithful friends like you, Portland Rescue Mission can uplift weary neighbors this Christmas and give the gift of life-transforming care.

We are 100% community funded. Give back this season to help more of our neighbors experiencing homelessness, trauma, and addiction. Your generosity will give them HOPE!

**Scan here to
give today:**

