



RESCUE PORTLAND

SUMMER 2014



REASON TO FEAR

Barbara Finds God's Open Arms

“YOU’RE FIRED.”

Two harsh words cut deep into Barbara’s heart, confirming what she instinctively believed about her entire life. She was a failure.

It wasn’t just the job loss. Getting fired opened deep-seated emotional wounds Barbara tried to push down all her life. The middle child of 10 kids, Barbara felt mostly ignored by her parents. Worse, she endured emotional and physical abuse as a kid.

CONTINUES INSIDE

EXTREME HEAT



Weather reports indicate this summer will be the hottest in years. If predictions hold true, the Portland area will see as many as 20 days above 90 degrees. While the warm sun is a relief to the homeless men and women who've fought through the harsh winter, oppressive heat like we may be seeing soon can be just as daunting as the freezing cold.

The extreme heat drives up demand for emergency services like food, water and shelter. We're expecting record numbers of hurting people coming to us for help, and thanks to friends like you, no one will be turned away. And, for the first summer ever, our Community Center will offer people a chance to get off the blistering streets each afternoon and enjoy relational activities and practical care, like haircuts.

We've historically seen a dramatic drop in support during the summer season. Please don't take a vacation from giving this year. Help us keep supplies stocked this summer to fully help each man or woman who walks through our doors.

The support you give provides much more than just a meal, a bed, or a fresh set of clothes – it offers a friendly smile, a conversation, and an invitation to accept God's gift of forgiveness and grace. For many, it's the start of a new life.

Thank you for your compassion,

Eric Bauer, Executive Director

P.S. – More people than ever are experiencing homelessness here in Portland. They're scared, hungry and longing for stability. Thanks for a gift today to help provide safe refuge and their first steps toward a new life.



Portland Rescue Mission

P.O. Box 3713
Portland, OR 97208-3713
503-MISSION (647-7466)

www.PortlandRescueMission.org

MISSION NEEDS

URGENT NEEDS

- **New undergarments**

- **Socks**

- **Blankets**

- Backpacks

- Deodorant (spray or solid)

- Disposable razors

- Toothbrushes

- Toothpaste

- Travel-size toiletries

- Jeans

- Life Recovery Bibles (NLT)

Please bring donations to the Burnside Shelter at **111 W.**

Burnside, Portland, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Short-term street parking is usually available at our front door.

SUMMER SOCK & UNDERWEAR DRIVE

In addition to daily meals, shelter and other care, Portland Rescue Mission provides clothing items to homeless men and women free of charge. Socks and underwear are always some of our most requested items – and are urgently needed as clothing donations go down during summer.

You can help give hope to a hurting people by helping us re-stock our supply of socks and underwear. Drop off your donation at any of the following locations:

Burnside Shelter

111 W. Burnside, Portland, OR 97209
503-906-7690

Shepherd's Door

13207 NE Halsey, Portland, OR 97230
503-906-7650

For drop-off hours, visit www.PortlandRescueMission.org/DonateItems



REASON TO FEAR

Barbara Finds God's Open Arms



www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Barbara

To watch Barbara's video story of Hope, visit

“My family has forgiven me. God has forgiven me. And that’s all that really matters.”

CONTINUED FROM COVER

I feared my dad,” says Barbara. “I never wanted to be around him. He was abusive and perverted, doing things that were really inappropriate.” When she was 13, Barbara’s dad forced her to strip naked in the bathroom while he watched. “I was crying and crying while he just sat there.” An older sister barged in to rescue Barbara, yelling at their father to get out.

It was around that time that Barbara took her first drink.

As an adult, Barbara survived as a functioning alcoholic. “I was just a ‘fun drinker’ at first. Alcohol helped me relax, numb my feelings and be more outgoing.” But through the years and several failed marriages, she slowly became a “closet drinker,” hiding her problem as it grew out of control. “I became a disappointment to everyone who knew me.”

After her job loss and faced with mounting debt, Barbara moved in with a guy to help make ends meet. But the pattern of abuse in her life returned. One morning, Barbara awoke with little memory of the drunken night before. Her bruised arms, bloody and swollen lips proved that her roommate had once again beaten her and demanded sex against her will.

“That’s when I completely gave up,” says Barbara. “I checked into a motel room ready to end my life. For three days, I drank non-stop. I didn’t even eat.”

Somehow in her drunken stupor, Barbara managed to call her daughter for help, though she doesn’t remember it. Her family came with the paramedics, who rushed her to the hospital with severe alcohol poisoning. Without intervention, Barbara’s life would likely have come to a tragic end in her motel room.

A counselor recommended Shepherd’s Door, the Mission’s 12-month addiction recovery program for women and children. “I knew this place could change my life because it was centered on God,” says Barbara. “I was always afraid of God. I never reached out to Him. But now He has set me free from my past.”

On Mother’s Day this year, Barbara’s daughter gave her a precious gift of encouragement: “Mom, I’m very proud of you. You’re an amazing woman.” Barbara says with a smile, “My family has forgiven me. God has forgiven me. And that’s all that really matters.”

Many women like Barbara are still in desperate need of freedom from addiction. Your gift today provides a safe, healing place for them to start a new life. Thanks.

PORTLAND'S HOMELESS BY THE NUMBERS

15,917 HOMELESS

The estimated number of people homeless in Portland, including those on the street, in shelters, transitional housing and “couch surfing” due to loss of housing or economic hardship.

48% NEWLY HOMELESS

Almost half of the unsheltered population living only on the streets has been homeless for a year or less.

+27% CHRONIC

Chronic homelessness increased 27% since 2011.

+22% WOMEN

The number of homeless women sleeping on the streets, buildings, vehicles or shelter continues to rise – up 22% since 2011. Women make up 38% of people experiencing homelessness by this definition.

346 YOUTH

Estimated number of youth and young adults unsheltered or in emergency shelter.

+18% FAMILIES

The number of homeless persons in families with children increased by 18% since 2011.

50% DISABLED

More than half, or 2,352, of the street homeless population has a disabling condition such as mental illness, addiction, physical disability or chronic health problem.

413 VETERANS

413 veterans make up 11% of the adult homeless population, and one-third of homeless veterans are chronically homeless.

41% ABUSE

Estimates say 19% of the homeless population and 41% of homeless females are affected by domestic violence. The true number is likely much higher.

+16% MINORITIES

People of color are over-represented by 16% in the homeless population compared to the general population of Multnomah County.

*2013 Point in Time Count Report of Homelessness in Multnomah County



HOW YOU HELP

283,837 MEALS

The number of hot, nutritious meals you helped provide to hungry people last year – for just \$1.60 a meal.

61,696 SHELTER

The number of nights of safe shelter for men, women and children in need of care and compassion.

\$15.00 STABILITY

The cost of one day of meals, shelter, advocacy and relational care to help a man or woman in our Link and Connect programs. Program participants transition to stable housing, employment or further care in just 3-4 months.

\$62.00 RECOVERY

The cost of one day of meals, shelter, advocacy, recovery and relational care for a man or woman in our 12-month New Life Ministry. Addiction counseling, spiritual guidance and life skills training give hope and a way back home – a total life recovery.

3,000 VOLUNTEERS

The number of passionate, loving volunteers each year who smile, listen, serve meals, mentor, tutor and help in so many more ways.

ON THE RUN

Sean Finds God's Path For His Life



To watch Sean's video story of Hope, visit

www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Sean

“Now I know I’m a child of God, that he’s set a path before me. When I felt like he wasn’t there, he was. I just needed to open my eyes.”

Sean felt like a nobody, sitting awkwardly as the “cool kids” talked sports and music. When someone started passing marijuana around, Sean didn’t even hesitate when it came to him. He’d grown up in a solid family and had always been a good kid, but he struggled to fit in at his Illinois high school.

Sean felt relaxed and confident using drugs with his peers, but felt dirty inside around his family. Full of shame, he hid his addiction. Sean’s secret grew, expanding to more dangerous drugs and slowly tearing a hole inside him.

“What seemed like freedom ultimately put me in bondage. It took everything away from me.”

When Sean’s parents discovered his drug habit, they gave him a challenging choice they hoped would help him: go to rehab or get out of the house. He decided to leave.

Sean stayed with friends, but soon doors began to shut. His insatiable drug cravings drove him to steal, and no one wanted a thief for a houseguest. Alone on the streets, Sean couldn’t believe how low his existence had become.

“I was using toilet water to cook up my drugs. I stared at my arms, at the destruction I was doing to my body. It was as if God was asking me, ‘What are you doing?’ I knew then something had to change.”

Sean went to the chaplain at his local rescue mission in Peoria, Illinois, and told him his plans to move to a new city to start over. He bought a bus ticket to Portland.

“I needed to run away from everything I’d done. All my shame and guilt.”

Sean arrived downtown and began looking for food and somewhere to sleep. He found Portland Rescue Mission and introduced himself, forgetting the chaplain in Illinois had called ahead to let us know he may show up.

“They said, ‘Hold up. You’re Sean. We’ve been waiting for you!’ I never imagined somebody would be looking for me or waiting for me.”

The one thing Sean was afraid of – being known – actually set him at ease.

Sean learned the Mission could do more than just provide a meal and a bed. He entered our New Life addiction recovery program and met men struggling with similar issues. Not just drugs and alcohol, but deep hurts, rejection, shame, and broken relationships.

Now a year into the program, Sean’s life has been transformed. His relationship with God – and his parents – is stronger than ever before.

“I used to believe my life held no value,” says Sean. “Now I know I’m a child of God, that he’s set a path before me. I strayed away from that, but ultimately when I felt like he wasn’t there, he was. I just needed to open my eyes.”

Your gift today will help us welcome more men like Sean into recovery and the first steps toward a new life. Thanks.

BIRTHDAY WISHES COME TRUE!

Many homeless men and women watch their birthday come and go uncelebrated. But thanks to the generosity of Fred Meyer and your thoughtfulness, our homeless guests were loved at our Annual Birthday Party!

On Wednesday, May 28, we threw a celebration at our Burnside Shelter complete with gifts, cake, cards, games and colorful decorations. A letter writing booth provided paper, pens, envelopes and stamps for guests to write to their loved ones.

Thank you to everyone who sent birthday cards and donated to help these men and women feel special.

See more photos of the birthday party at www.PortlandRescueMission.org/BirthdayPhotos



COMMUNITY CENTER SHOWS LOVE

Changes to our Burnside Shelter last year opened up a great new opportunity for us to reach out to people experiencing homelessness. For the last eight months, our Community Center has provided fun, daily activities and care as a service to men and women on the street.

So far, we've provided over 2,000 showers for people in need, helping them maintain dignity and feel refreshed. Over 400 guests have joined our weekly AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) meeting. And activities like karaoke, games, group discussions and live music have added fun and relaxation to everyone's day.

The greatest success of the Community Center is the relational opportunities it provides – a chance for us to learn someone's name, listen to their story, pray with them, meet their immediate needs, and help them take their first steps toward a new life.

You can help! Bring donations of hygiene items, new Bibles, socks and underwear. Volunteer hairdressers and musicians are also needed.

Contact Chris Kingston at chris.kingston@pdxmission.org, 503-980-4998.



See the back page to hear what visitors love about the Community Center!

Donate via credit card:

Circle One:     Expiration Date: _____

Card Number: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____



Donate via mobile: Scan this code with RedLaser app or other QR code reader

Donate securely online: www.PortlandRescueMission.org/SummerNL

Keep me updated with news and stories through email:

Email: _____

Please pray for: _____

I would like to know more about:

- Monthly giving through checks, auto-pay, or electronic transfer
- Donating my car
- Planning my estate, annuity, or trust
- Volunteering at the Mission

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.

WHY DO YOU LOVE THE COMMUNITY CENTER?



“ People feel accepted here. Part of the group. There’s people to talk to and they listen. I’m so humbled by the people that serve me here.” —Jean

“Coming to the Community Center helps me keep busy with healthy activities. A lot of people on the streets just need something to do on a very limited budget.” —Michelle



“ The Community Center gives me a time out from the streets. Out there, you have to be on your toes. Guards up. This place gives me a chance to relax and rethink my situation.” —Ricky

“ The Community Center is a great place to relax, stay warm when it’s cold, and cool off when it’s hot. I’ve also made some great friends here.” —Kelli



WAYS YOU CAN HELP

GIVE

- Help provide meals, shelter and recovery care to men, women and children in need. See the donation form below.

VOLUNTEER

- Opportunities listed at www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Volunteer

DONATE A CAR

- Your car donation could provide over 500 meals. Learn more at www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Car

PLANNED GIVING

- Leave a legacy of hope through your will, annuity or trust. www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Legacy

STAY IN TOUCH

- [Facebook.com/PDXMission](https://www.facebook.com/PDXMission)
- [Twitter.com/PDXMission](https://twitter.com/PDXMission)
- PortlandRescueMission.org/Blog
- PortlandRescueMission.org/Email
- [Instagram.com/PDXMission](https://www.instagram.com/PDXMission)

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 feed 60 people a year
- \$16 a month** to feed 120 people a year
- \$24 a month** to feed 180 people a year
- \$ _____ **a month** to help give hope
- \$ _____ **one time** gift

Enclose your check or complete your credit card information on back.



**Portland
Rescue Mission**

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To donate online, visit
PortlandRescueMission.org/SummerNL

*Thank you
for your support!*