



# RESCUE PORTLAND

## Hope for the Holidays

What hurting people really  
want for Christmas

# “Daddy, It’s Christmas Eve.”

More than anything, Sherri wanted to be loved.



**“It was like having a family here. They saw me at my very best and at my very worst. It was sloppy. It was loving. It was hard and it was kind.”**

“I found myself unable to get out of bed, unable to drive a car, unable to do anything but just stand up, drink and pass out again,” says Sherri. She burned through every supportive relationship. Homeless, Sherri checked in to a cheap motel, downed all her medications with alcohol and waited to die.

In the hospital, a doctor recommended Shepherd’s Door, our free year-long addiction recovery program for women and children. “Coming here was like coming home,” says Sherri. “It was like a warm wind welcoming me, saying, ‘God is here. We’re going to rebuild your life better than it ever was before.’”

Recovery didn’t come easily, though. Sherri had to work through deep-seated hurts that warped how she interacted with people. She had to

break the lies telling her that she had to be perfect, that she was too far gone for anyone to bother with. The journey was painful, but the forgiveness she experienced set her free.

Finally, Sherri could accept the love she always longed for, the perfect love that only God can give, that would never abuse her, use her, or push her away.

“Relationships were not something I wanted at all, because every relationship in the past had been hurtful.” Sherri treasures the supportive friendships that drew her out of isolation. “It was like having a family here. They saw me at my very best and at my very worst. It was sloppy. It was loving. It was hard and it was kind.”

Now living on her own with a job, Sherri stays strong with her renewed faith and daily connection with God. She’s rebuilding relationships with friends and family. And she makes time to help other people. “Before, I just wanted to live,” she says. “Now I want to give!”

You wouldn’t expect Sherri to end up homeless. Neither did she.

Married for 26 years. Mother to six children. Attended church regularly. Involved in the community. Sherri lived a normal life and made responsible choices. But her shiny, perfect life was nothing more than fragile façade held together by forced smiles and fear.

As a child, Sherri reached out for love, only to be pushed away. When her father wasn’t preoccupied with work, he kept stress at bay by drinking every night until he passed out. Sherri tried to hold the family together, pleading with him, “Daddy, it’s Christmas Eve. If you don’t go to the bar tonight, we could all be together as a family.” It didn’t work.

Sherri’s hunger to be embraced remained unmet in adulthood. She left a decades-long abusive marriage so she could get back in touch with her estranged adult children. Though exhilarated at her newfound freedom, she floundered to find happiness.

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Women and children are the fastest-growing segment of homelessness. Yet most go unseen as they sleep on couches, in cars and motels. Your gift today sets them free to find healing and life-changing support. Thank you.

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# NO ONE SHOULD GO HUNGRY AT THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS!

Every meal you provide at the Mission gives hope for a better life

**V**ery few of us are in the kitchen at 4:00 AM fixing breakfast. But for 5 years, Terry has volunteered in the wee hours every Thursday morning to fix a hearty meal at our Burnside Shelter that has become legendary for hungry, hurting people in need.

“Today is biscuits and gravy day,” says Alan, a guest who stayed in on our overflow shelter mats last night. “The food here is really great. When you can get a good night’s rest and a nice breakfast, it really makes a huge difference to your day. You can think straight and maybe get to some appointments to get your life going again.”

**Hot meals and a sense of welcome mean a lot to hungry people at Thanksgiving and Christmas. For many, it can be the start of a new life.**



**“EVERYBODY SHOULD HAVE A GOOD BREAKFAST.”**

-TERRI



**“GETTING A MEAL, I FELT FULL, BUT I ALSO FELT LOVED.”**

**“JUST A SIMPLE PLATE OF FOOD DOES A LOT MORE FOR A PERSON THAN YOU’D THINK.”**

-CORNELL, RESIDENT IN OUR CONNECT PROGRAM

More than just a holiday outreach for 365 days a year, meals are a core part of the Mission’s efforts to restore the lives of men and women caught in despair. Those meals – more than 330,000 a year – are very often how people hear about our wide range of life-restoration programs that provide short- and long-term options. Job and housing assistance, relational support, addiction counseling, life skills training and Christian spiritual guidance provide vital steps to help people overcome homelessness.

Every meal you provide, for just \$1.60, helps a hurting person feel cared for. Donate today to start a man or woman on the road to a new life.

# "ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS..!"

WHAT DO PEOPLE STRUGGLING IN HOMELESSNESS AND ADDICTION WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?  
THEIR ANSWERS MIGHT SURPRISE YOU...



I'd like to see my daughter who I haven't seen in years. That'd be a good Christmas for me. I'd like to go on a fishing trip with my uncle and brother, Ronnie. I haven't seen them in years either. And I'd like to get off the street.



*-Ajax* GUEST AT OUR BURNSIDE SHELTER



I would wish for everyone to have a warm place to be on Christmas. I would wish that I could get a brand new coat. And I would like to have my own place to live where my kids could come and stay with me.



*-Debra*

RESIDENT IN OUR WOMEN'S CONNECT PROGRAM



I want my children to be happy, to get their needs met, and for me to be back with them.



*-Brandon*

RESIDENT IN OUR MEN'S CONNECT PROGRAM



“ My wish for Christmas this year is to spend some time with my family, because last year I wasn't with them. I wish that I will be closer with God and still be sober. I would like to understand the meaning of Christmas and know more about God. ”

*-Marianne*

RESIDENT IN OUR NEW LIFE MINISTRY AT SHEPHERD'S DOOR



“ I would wish to spend Christmas day with my son. I'd wish that he gets everything he wants since I'm not able to give him anything right now, besides myself. And I'd like to see my mom for Christmas. ”

*-Gordon*

PARTICIPANT IN OUR NEW LIFE MINISTRY AT THE HARBOR



## Make Their Christmas Wish Come True

More than anything else, people struggling with homelessness and addiction long to reconnect with family. Your support provides healing and a way back home. Please donate today to break their painful cycle and help them start a new life.

[WWW.PORTLANDRESCUEMISSION.ORG/WISHES](http://WWW.PORTLANDRESCUEMISSION.ORG/WISHES)

# THANK YOU, CARING PARTNERS!

Our generous community is changing lives



## VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH

Provided school supplies for children at Shepherd's Door.



## HARRY'S FRESH FOODS

Cooked a meal for women and children at Shepherd's Door, provided gifts and shared job information about their company.



## NEW SEASON'S MARKET

Shoppers continue to "Add A Meal" at the register, providing thousands of meals for hungry people every month!



## PROVIDENCE HEALTH

Hosts a monthly birthday party for guests at the Burnside Shelter, with birthday cards, decorations, and dessert.

## **Fred Meyer** GIVES HOPE!

Hundreds will go hungry this Thanksgiving, unless we help. Fred Meyer is challenging our community to do their part. Donate to our upcoming telethon / radiothon events and you could receive a \$25 gift card to Fred Meyer to start your holiday shopping! Proceeds provide hot meals and safe shelter for hurting people at Portland Rescue Mission.



### KPTV FOX 12 TELETHON

Thursday, November 10, 2016



### KATU CHANNEL 2 TELETHON

Thursday, December 8, 2016



### KFIS 104.1 FM "THE FISH" RADIOTHON

Thursday, November 17, 2016

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Gather a group to answer phones at our upcoming events. See shift times at:  
[www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Phone](http://www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Phone)



# CHRISTMAS MEANS SHOWING UP

**C**hristmas just feels good. Great food, joyful music, lights and decorations, presents, hanging out with friends and family. Even if it isn't all picture perfect, the holidays are still something special.

But strip all that away, and **the meaning of Christmas comes down to just one thing. It's the day Jesus showed up.** "Immanuel", a biblical name for Jesus, means "God with us".

I love that, don't you? The feeling of awareness, the sense of assurance when I stop to let it sink in — that God is with me. Suddenly, I feel surrounded by Him. I am accepted, loved and embraced. What a gift of peace!

**That same gift of presence is what we hope every person who comes through our doors for help will experience.** Most have felt ignored, alone and abandoned most of their lives. Many have been beaten, pushed away, and abused in unthinkable ways. Few have felt like anyone has been "with" them, alongside them, present with them in a very long time, if ever.

Your support changes all of that! **Your giving breaks the walls of their isolation with a loving embrace.** Hot meals, clean clothes, a good night's rest — what a sense of welcome! Volunteers and staff who call people by name, take time to listen, and speak words of encouragement — being present with each person. Offering resources, counseling and guiding people toward recovery — walking alongside people on their journey toward wholeness.

The ministry of presence — it's the best present any of us can give. Thank you for your partnership. **Thank you for showing up, and Merry Christmas.**

Serving with you,

Eric Bauer  
Executive Director

**The meaning of Christmas comes down to just one thing. It's the day Jesus showed up.**



**Donate via credit card:**

Circle One: Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Donate securely online:** [www.PortlandRescueMission.org/HolidayNL](http://www.PortlandRescueMission.org/HolidayNL)

**Keep me updated with news and stories through email:**

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please pray for:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Tell me more about:**

- Monthly giving through checks, auto-pay, or electronic transfer
- Donating my car
- Planning my estate, annuity, or trust
- Volunteering at the Mission (Please complete contact information at left)

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.

GIVE PORTLAND'S HOMELESS

# Hope for the Holidays

## SHARE OUR "12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS" GIFT GUIDE!

Thousands of people in Portland will struggle this Christmas. Hunger, homelessness, addiction and abuse weigh heavy on their hearts. Without help, they'll spend the holidays alone and in despair, wondering if there's any hope for a better tomorrow.

You can make a brighter holiday for these men, women and families in need!

Help us spread the word about our "Hope for the Holidays" Christmas gift catalog to your church, business, organization, neighbors, family and friends! The catalog highlights 12 great gifts for people who are homeless and hurting. Choose practical items like meals, shelter, socks, towels, jeans and coats. Or give someone a fresh start in life in our variety of programs that help with employment, housing, addiction recovery, life skills and connection with God.

VISIT [WWW.PORTLANDRESCUEMISSION.ORG/GIFTGUIDE](http://WWW.PORTLANDRESCUEMISSION.ORG/GIFTGUIDE)



## 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 provide 60 meals a year
- \$16 a month to provide 120 meals a year
- \$24 a month to provide 180 meals a year
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ a month to help give hope
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ one time gift

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

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## WAYS TO GIVE

### DONATE FUNDS

- Join our Circle of Friends with your monthly donation
- Cater an event with Mission Bar-B-Que
- Leave a lasting legacy through your will, annuity or trust

### DONATE GOODS

- Receive a maximum tax deduction by donating your car
- Drop off blankets, socks or jeans

### DONATE TIME

- Volunteer to serve a meal, teach a class or work with kids
- Spread the word by joining us on social media:



See these and many other ways you join us in giving hope and restoring life at:  
[PortlandRescueMission.org/Join](http://PortlandRescueMission.org/Join)



**Portland  
Rescue Mission**

Giving Hope. Restoring Life.®

P.O. Box 3713  
Portland, OR 97208-3713  
503.MISSION (647.7466)

To donate online, visit  
[PortlandRescueMission.org/HolidayNL](http://PortlandRescueMission.org/HolidayNL)

*Thank you  
for your support!*