

# Rescue Portland

July 2012



[PDXMission.org/Email](mailto:PDXMission.org/Email)



[Twitter.com/PDXMission](https://twitter.com/PDXMission)



[Facebook.com/PortlandRescueMission](https://facebook.com/PortlandRescueMission)

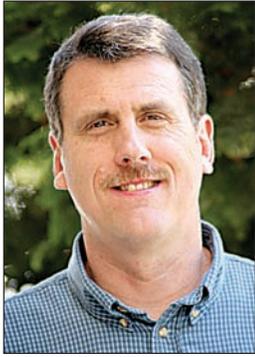
## Abandoned

### Allen's Family Wanted Nothing To Do With Him

She'd had enough! For 18 years, Allen's mother fought to provide the structure and community her son needed to become a respectable, strong man, but it was a losing battle. Allen never knew his father, and that made him desperate for someone—or something—to fill that void.

*CONTINUES INSIDE*

# Like a Garden, Recovery Produces Fruit



Earlier this year, some volunteers and donors offered to fund and install vegetable garden beds, and this ambitious project is now a reality.

Today, the Mission boasts 12 large beds, planted with seeds and nurturing rich fruits, vegetables and herbs that will be used to provide healthy food for our recovery residents. These gardens also afford recovery residents the opportunity to get their hands in the dirt, tending fragile seedlings so that others may benefit. What a beautiful gift!

For me, the garden illustrates what happens at the Mission every day. God moves in the hearts of generous, compassionate people. Many hands come to graciously serve. Seeds are planted. Relationships are cultivated. Miracles happen and life-giving fruit is produced.

Those miracles take place deep in the hearts of broken people, hidden from the world. Each is a personal, intimate experience, as unique to each homeless guest and recovery resident as one seed is to the next. The warmth of God's love and refreshment of His grace are poured upon the planted seeds of hope. New life bursts forth, transforming them into who they were intended to be all along.

As you read about Allen and Jill, you'll see how seeds in their lives grew, carefully planted by their loving Father. Through the rains, through the droughts, He healed their wounds and nurtured their souls. Today, Allen and Jill are being transformed into the people God originally created them to be, blooming with faith and joy.

Thank you for your support of the Mission. You provide much more than food and shelter—you offer hope that miracles can happen, and Jesus brings those miracles to life.

Praising Him for His provision,

Eric Bauer,  
Executive Director

P.S. Summer takes its toll on Mission resources. Please continue your support with another gift. It is always a season when our financial needs are greatest.



P.O. Box 3713  
Portland, OR 97208-3713  
503-MISSION (647-7466)  
[www.PortlandRescueMission.org](http://www.PortlandRescueMission.org)



## Mission Needs

Socks are a constant need for men and women on the streets.

### We also need:

- New undergarments
- Blankets
- Backpacks
- Deodorant (spray or solid)
- Disposable razors
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Travel-size toiletries
- Jeans
- Life Recovery Bibles (NLT)
- Yard equipment: mowers, weed-eaters, leaf blowers, garden soil and pea gravel
- Office furniture: conference table (8' x 4') with 10 chairs
- Recliners, couch/chair set

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.



## The Mission Gardens

Grateful residents, volunteers and staff gathered at the new vegetable garden beds this summer. We thank God for His provision through this generous act of service, and we pray He will bring a great harvest throughout the year!

# Abandoned

CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

Allen's mother tried to foster positive fatherly influences through involvement in church, but ultimately, the allure of addiction and crime overshadowed all her efforts. His behavior became uncontrollable.



*Greeting and serving homeless guests at the Mission showed Allen how much he had healed in recovery.*

So as soon as Allen turned 18, his mom moved out of their apartment and left the state. No note. No warning. But her message to Allen was loud and clear—she couldn't trust him. He felt worthless and alone, with nothing to turn to but his addiction.

Over the years, Allen tried to do better. He kept a steady job, got married and had three daughters. But the poor choices of his early years trapped him in addiction he couldn't escape, though he hated it. He stopped paying bills and squandered every paycheck on drugs.

Ashamed and broken, Allen quit his job. Like his father, he left his family and moved away. He called his daughters

occasionally, but the unanswered phone confirmed that they wanted nothing to do with him.

Once again, Allen had failed the people who truly loved him. He was alone.

On the streets of Portland, Allen hit bottom. "It was awful," he says.

**"I was scared, paranoid. I'd sit in alleys, hiding from the police."**

"It was raining every day. I couldn't find a bathroom. People would look at me and try to get away. I just stayed high so I wouldn't have to face reality."

But hope wasn't far away. A kind stranger approached Allen. "Do you really want help? If you're serious, you need to go down to Portland Rescue Mission."

Days later, Allen's new life began. In recovery at the Mission, he found people who actually wanted to hear about the inner turmoil he kept buried. "Since no one trusted me through my whole life, I was used to bottling up my problems, not bothering anyone else with them." Counseling helped him heal from the lies, anger and shame behind his addiction.

Today, 23 years after she moved away, Allen's mother is now in touch with him, encouraging his recovery. They write and talk on the phone every week. His daughters email photos of his grandchildren and let him know they love him.

These restored relationships mean the most to Allen. His father left. His mother left. He left his own family. But now he's leaving a new legacy of trust, honesty and healing.

**Men like Allen have meals, shelter and hope thanks to your compassionate support. Thank you.**



Scan with RedLaser app or other QR code reader to watch video.

 Allen wandered the streets of Portland alone. Watch the whole story. [www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Allen](http://www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Allen)

# Car Crash Saves Her Life

Jill took more Xanax than her prescription called for that morning. Driving in the car with her two boys, she rummaged around for her phone, distracted.



*Jill didn't believe that God loved her. Today, she feels embraced by His healing and care.*

Suddenly, the airbags exploded. The seatbelt gripped her body. The car slammed to a stop.

In the aftermath of shock and confusion, Jill's heart broke at the sound of her children's cries. Miraculously, no one was seriously hurt. But her addiction could have killed someone.

It was a wake up call Jill desperately needed.

Jill had abused pills for six months, self-diagnosing her depression. For years before that, her primary addiction was to alcohol. She'd been rushed to the hospital from passing out too many times to count. Before that, she

was addicted to a dangerous relationship that left her with two sons and an ex-boyfriend in prison for a brutal murder.

As she left the hospital, Jill considered her options. She reluctantly called Shepherd's Door, the women and children's ministry of Portland Rescue Mission. She'd been exposed to Christianity as a child, but the course of her life seemed evidence of a God who didn't care.

**"I felt punished and abandoned by God my whole life, not loved."**

This feeling of neglect, coupled with her tangible pain from real relationships, made Jill hesitant to live in a Christian environment. But she was desperate to put her life back together—she took the risk and committed.

In New Life Recovery, Jill saw how the trauma she'd endured shaped her idea of who God was. Her own father had been an alcoholic with unpredictable bouts of anger. She feared him.

Jill realized she was only repeating the cycle of fear, anger and addiction in her own family. By facing her pain, rather than burying it, she now had the power to break that cycle. She could pass on healing and wholeness to her own children.

Today, Jill's hesitation about a religion has transformed into a reliance on God, her loving father. "Today, I know God is my close friend. He knows me, accepts me, loves me." She also has a new relationship with her dad, now sober himself for 17 years.

Thanks to the support of friends like you, Jill has hope—for herself, her sons and their healthy new life together.

**Your gift today will help more women like Jill break the cycle of addiction, giving a bright future for their children.**



Scan with RedLaser app or other QR code reader to watch video.

See Jill's children as they start a healthy life together.  
[www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Jill](http://www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Jill)