

Rescue Portland

November 2013



IN THIS ISSUE

Not Alone This Thanksgiving

For hurting, homeless people, the holidays are a painful reminder of their loneliness. But with your support, we welcome lonely people to a hot meal and kind community, and reunite families through our recovery program. Read Hunter and Joann's stories to learn more about their renewed relationships with their beautiful kids.



Part Of A Family



As Thanksgiving approaches, I think back on all the warm memories I have surrounding the holiday. Longtime friends. Delicious food. Enduring traditions. But the one thing about Thanksgiving that's always been most meaningful to me – and I'm sure that you echo my feelings – is the special time with my family.

For homeless men and women, Thanksgiving is just another reminder that they are alone. They don't get to see their family – or they don't have one at all. I see this holiday season as a huge opportunity to restore them back into a family relationship.

For some – like Hunter and JoAnn – this happens literally. Through counseling and addiction recovery, we're able to help bring them back into healthy relationship with their children.

For many others, our staff and volunteers at the Mission become their family. I'm sure you would agree that Thanksgiving at your home is much more than just a meal – it's a time of laughter, love, and conversation. It's the same at the Mission.

Ultimately, we hope our relationships at the Mission point to an even more important relationship. By welcoming homeless men, women and children into our family, we open the door just wide enough for them to see that there is a Thanksgiving meal – and a special seat just for them – at God's table. Thanks for your support in being a family for people who don't have one this season.

Grateful for you,

Eric Bauer
Executive Director

P.S. – Remember that your special gift today will provide more than just a meal this holiday season. It will bring a smile, a conversation, a loving interaction. It will bring hope. Thanks.



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.

35,000 MEALS GIVE HOPE

Thanksgiving is coming quickly. Many homeless people look to the Mission as their home and family, especially during the holidays.

Between now and Thanksgiving, we'll feed over 35,000 meals to hungry men, women and children in need.

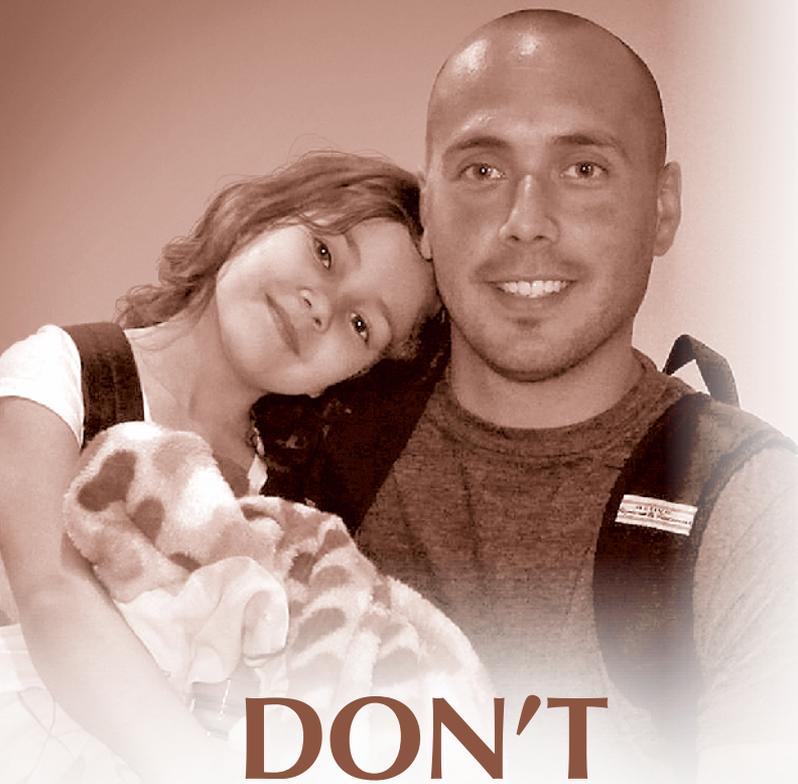
Each meal is an opportunity to learn a name, offer a smile, listen to someone's story – and give HOPE.

Your gift today will be a tremendous help – and could be just the encouragement a hurting person needs. Thank you.

GIVE SOMETHING MORE

More than a meal. More than a bed. GIVE HOPE.





DON'T LEAVE ME

Hunter Becomes The Father He Never Had

When he was a little boy, Hunter loved camping with his family. Hiking through the woods and helping his dad build campfires are by far his fondest memories. But when he was 10, Hunter's parents divorced. The family camping trips came to an end. Hunter waited every day for a call from his dad to tell him they were going to go camping together – father and son.

After waiting five years, Hunter finally received the phone call. But it wasn't the call he was expecting.

He was told his dad had passed away from a heroin overdose.

"That was the moment that hurt and abandonment became real in my life," says Hunter. "I knew I'd never see my father again. I became hopeless."

Five days later, Hunter used drugs and alcohol for the very first time. He used them to soothe his grief and fill the hole of abandonment left by his father.

A couple years later, Hunter got into a relationship and had a baby daughter. Life was good for a while. Hunter had a family he loved and he began to feel whole again. Before long, however, the relationship began to falter. One day, Hunter's girlfriend told him that she was leaving with their daughter.

The wound that had started to heal inside Hunter was ripped open again. Once more, the people he loved most were walking out on him. Overcome with emotional pain, Hunter turned back to drugs, heroin this time. Just like dad.

"It devastated me. I never even knew that I had an addiction problem. But that's when it went full-blown."

Soon, Hunter's entire life revolved around how he was going to get his next high. He woke up in the morning sick from the drugs. But he'd feel even sicker without them.

"I'd lost just about everything, and it was all about getting high. Nothing mattered: family, a job, nothing. I couldn't go any further, and in my mind I kept thinking, 'How can I get out of this?'"

Hunter began searching for help. A friend recommended Portland Rescue Mission.

In our New Life Ministry, Hunter met counselors and men in recovery who were open, honest, and ready to help him work through his feelings of pain and abandonment.

"You're probably thinking, 'Why would a guy use heroin when his dad passed away from heroin?' My father was never there and I stepped into the same role that he played, doing the same thing to my daughter that was done to me."

Through the Mission, Hunter has learned that the pain caused by his father doesn't need to keep hurting him. His dad left. But Hunter has a Heavenly Father who loves him deeply. This newfound relationship with God gives Hunter strength to be the best daddy in the world to his six-year old daughter.

“From this point forward I want to be a father to my daughter. I want to love her and give her the love that was never given to me.”

Your gift today helps men like Hunter find healing from brokenness and addiction, giving them hope and a future. Thank you.

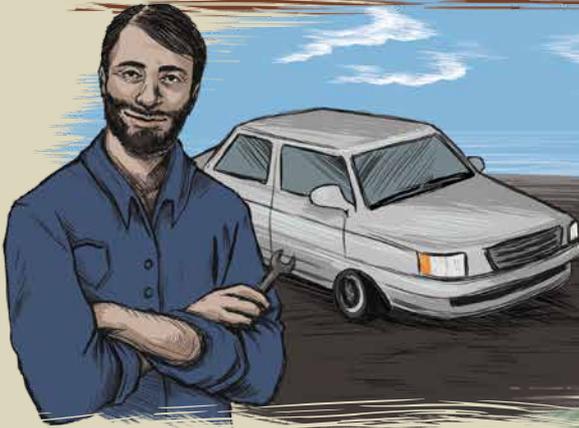


Scan with
RedLaser app
or other
QR code reader
to watch video.

Watch Hunter's video story to hear his story of hope.
See more at www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Hunter

10 THINGS YOU CAN DONATE

PORTLAND RESCUE MISSION



YOUR CAR

Our Drive Away Hunger car sales and donations program includes job training in automotive repair for men in recovery. Donate your old car, receive tax deduction benefits and enjoy knowing that you're helping people in need.

www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Car

YOUR TIME

Volunteer to help serve meals, answer phones, prepare mailings, teach job skills, tutor in math or writing, clean facilities or sort donated food / clothing.

www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Volunteer



FRESH MEAT AND PRODUCE

Portland Rescue Mission serves as many as 262,000 meals a year. We are constantly in need of fresh meat, produce and dairy products to feed hungry men, women and children.



NON-PERISHABLE FOOD

Non-perishable food items are great for their ability to be stored until needed. We can especially use bulk quantities and larger (#10) size cans of fruits and vegetables.



CLOTHES

Chances are, your closet could use a good cleaning. Donate clothes that are still in good condition at our Burnside Shelter (111 W Burnside, Portland). New socks and undergarments are usually greatly needed too.

YOUR ESTATE

Provide for your loved ones and leave a legacy gift to help people in need. The Mission can help you with professional independent advice for your private estate planning. You can protect your loved ones and leave a legacy of hope. **Contact George at 503-746-9685, george.vaughan@pdxmission.org**

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The cost of a hot, nutritious meal at the Mission is just \$1.60 — that's 15% less than in previous years. Thanks to food donations, dedicated volunteers, increased services and reduced overhead, your dollars are being used more efficiently, giving hope to even more people in need. Consider becoming a monthly supporter to provide ongoing meals, shelter and recovery care all year long. www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Give

YOUR BIRTHDAY OR SPECIAL OCCASION

In lieu of gifts, ask friends and family to give to the Mission. First Giving allows you to easily set up an online donation page at www.FirstGiving.com/PortlandRescueMission

YOUR PARTNERSHIP

If you work for a business or organization, there's a multitude of ways you can support the Mission. Set aside space for us to display materials. Donate room in your print publications as free ad space. Offer a matching challenge to your employees who will donate money to provide meals and care. Allow employees a few hours to volunteer while on the job.

YOUR INFLUENCE

If you believe in the work of Portland Rescue Mission, spread the word to your friends. Share a link on Facebook, Twitter or our blog. Talk about why you volunteer or donate. Rally friends and family to volunteer or participate in an event.

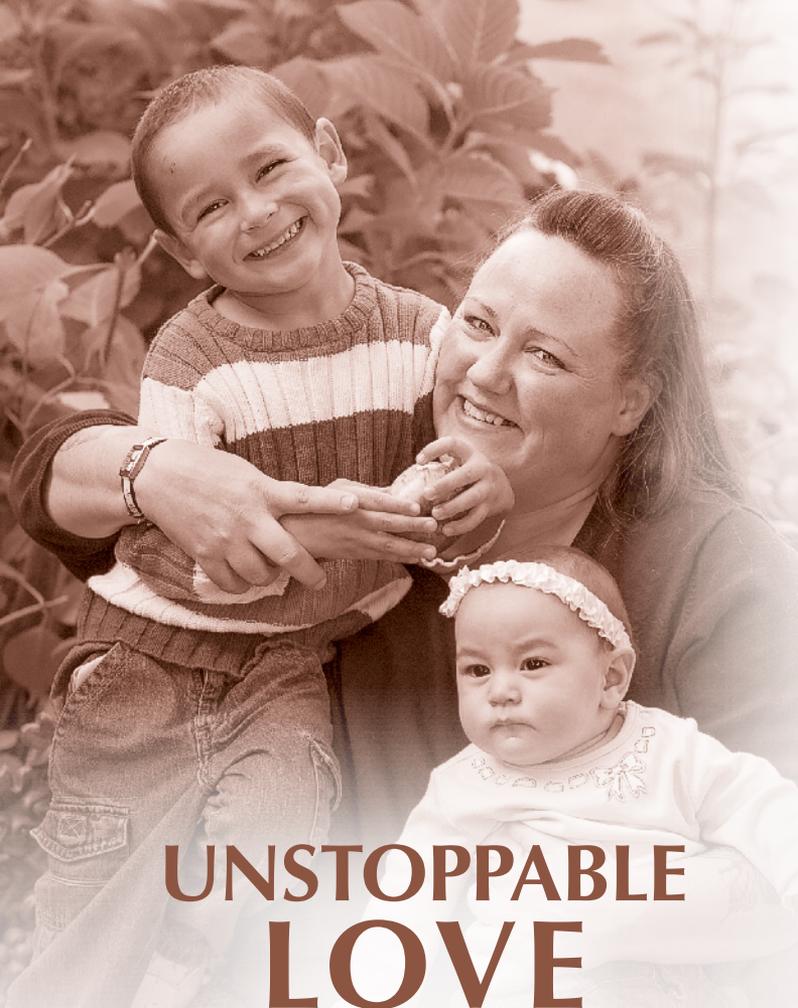
www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Follow

Like · Comment · Share · 11 · 4 hours ago ·

Compassionate support from friends like you helps us offer hope to thousands of hurting men, women and children in our community. Meals, shelter and recovery care restore them to life and offer a way back home. Thank you.

WWW.PORTLANDRESCUEMISSION.ORG





UNSTOPPABLE LOVE

JoAnn Finds Strength To Restore Her Family

JoAnn sits on the bench in the sunlit garden, cradling her peaceful baby girl, Emilia. Her energetic 4-year-old, Nate, can't sit still. He jumps up at a low-hanging branch and yanks off an apple, taking a bite. JoAnn breaks into a big smile. She's glad to be at Shepherd's Door with her happy, healthy kids – a million miles away from the hell she'd come from.

Life was rough for JoAnn growing up. Both parents were addicts, and her father had extreme anger issues – JoAnn has vivid memories of him yelling and breaking things in their house. He was also a sex offender. When the family split up, JoAnn and her mother were often on the move, running from her abusive dad.

For JoAnn, turmoil and fear seemed like a normal part of life. Surrounded by addiction and abuse, she began to copy the life her parents lived. By age 16, she left home and lost herself in meth addiction. Several broken relationships with men over the years left JoAnn with two kids, hurting, lonely, trying to survive.

JoAnn's heart shattered the day she was arrested for drug possession. Her kids – the one bright hope in her life – were taken from her. "When I lost them, I lost my life."

After jail, JoAnn tried her hardest to break the hold that drugs had on her. "I went to treatment so many times. Nothing worked." For the next 10 years, JoAnn cycled through temporary recovery followed by dangerous relapse, struggling to find the peace she longed for. Something remained broken deep inside her.

JoAnn gave birth to her third child, a bright-eyed boy she named Nate. A few years later, she was pregnant with a fourth child. Years before, JoAnn had lost custody of her first two children. She determined to do anything to keep that from happening again.

JoAnn searched for a recovery center that would help her break her addiction and become the mother she wanted to be. At Shepherd's Door, our ministry for women and children, she found answers to her deep-seated addiction.

Other treatment programs focused on changing JoAnn from the outside – the physical part of her addiction. In our New Life Ministry, JoAnn focused on healing from the inside – dealing with the abuse, fears and lies that drove her to addiction in the first place.

Through Bible study and prayer, JoAnn drew close to God as her source of strength.

“I'd always tried to get my physical and mental life together before I'd go back to the Lord. I was missing the big picture. My spiritual life needed to come first. I'd been doing it backwards... no wonder I couldn't make it.”

Today, JoAnn is giving her kids the stability and love that she never had. She's breaking the cycle of addiction and abuse. She has hope, not just for herself, but for her kids, Nate and Emilia. "Through the grace of God and through this program, I know we're going to make it."

Help more women like JoAnn heal from the root causes of addiction and build healthy relationships with their families.



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

Watch JoAnn's video story to learn about her new life. See more at www.PortlandRescueMission.org/JoAnn



HOME FREE Ron Moves From Homelessness to Housing

Several months ago, Ron came to the Mission for a meal. While interacting with our staff, he learned about Link, our ministry to help homeless men transition out of homelessness and get back on their feet in just three to six months.

“The Link ministry is the best thing that ever happened to me,” he says. Ron was given a bed, three meals a day, and access to the resources he needed to arrange his independent housing. In exchange, Ron worked part-time at the Mission.

A few weeks ago, Ron moved into an apartment, joining the 120+ Link members who have successfully transitioned into work and/or housing in the last 18 months. Ron is now excited to give back and volunteer at the Mission. “They’ve been so good to me. I’m going to go back and continue doing work here.”

OUT OF THE COLD Making Room For Warmth And Friendship

Life on the streets is never easy, but it’s especially hard during the cold, rainy months of the Portland fall and winter. A hot meal and warm place to sleep is often the difference between life and death. In fact, 56 men and women died on the streets of Portland during last year alone. We want to change that.

Our emergency shelter opened on the first of this month, creating space for up to 170 men to sleep each night. We have opened a new dayroom for women to get off the streets and spend quality time in conversations and activities. And brand new this year is our Community Center, a full schedule of activities for homeless guests: haircuts, karaoke, movies, showers, AA Meetings, and more!

Thank you for your generous support that gives warmth and friendship this winter.



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/NovNL

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.

What Are You Thankful For?



“I’m thankful I have food and a safe place to sleep. My gratitude for those two things is so great that the next thing on the list doesn’t even register.” —KASEY



“I’m thankful I have a safe place and people who appreciate what I do, which is cook. They care – it’s a camaraderie thing, and I’m grateful for that. There’s no doubt in my mind that God wants me here. I’ll tell anybody that.” —ALLEN



“I’m thankful for the Link program – letting me stay here and get on my feet. The Mission means the future to me.” —LEROY



“I’m thankful for everything the Mission has to offer. A place over my head, food, and a lot of programs that are helping me get back on track. So thankful to have something when you have nothing.”

—CLINTON



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/PortlandRescueMission](https://www.facebook.com/PortlandRescueMission)

 [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.



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

To donate online, visit
www.PortlandRescueMission.org/NovNL

Thank you for your support!