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**FROM THE STREETS TO HOME, NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR HOMELESS WOMEN
Portland Rescue Mission Helps Homeless Women Get New Start**

PORTLAND, Ore. (Mar. 10, 2014) – In only two years, the population of homeless women rose 22 percent in our community. This equates to at least one new woman experiencing homelessness every week since 2011. Today, Portland Rescue Mission offers one solution to this growing problem: Connect, a three-month residential program and fast-track initiative to move homeless women from the street into housing, employment or addiction recovery programs.

“Unfortunately, women’s services are lacking in our community, yet there are more women who are homeless today than we have ever seen before,” says Eric Bauer, executive director of Portland Rescue Mission. “The Connect program is our response to this heartbreaking problem. Homeless women will be cared for in a safe, nurturing environment as they are connected to a brighter future off the streets.”



Connect is modeled after Link, Portland Rescue Mission's men's short-term residential program which opened in 2012. In two years, more than 140 men successfully entered into stable housing, employment or addiction recovery programs.

The expansions of Portland Rescue Mission's outreach services were made possible due to renovations on the second floor of the Mission's Burnside Shelter, located at 111 W. Burnside St. The renovations include a dayroom and dormitory for women in the Connect program. Up to 16 women can participate in Connect at one time. All of the Mission's services are provided free of charge, thanks to the compassionate support of the community.

To learn more about how you can join the Mission and end homelessness, visit www.portlandrescuemission.org/join.

About Portland Rescue Mission

Since 1949, Portland Rescue Mission has provided hope to homeless men, women and children throughout our community. The Mission provides for the most basic needs of homeless people and also addresses the root causes of homelessness through highly relational ministry. We serve up to 950 meals a day, 365 days a year, shelter, mail services and 24/7 safe, clean restrooms. Our New Life Programs provide total life recovery, including addictions recovery, spiritual renewal, and life skills for men and women. Up to 42 women and their children live together and journey through recovery at Shepherd's Door, and up to 42 men live in The Harbor throughout the 12-month residential program.

Portland Rescue Mission is completely supported by the goodwill of the community and has more than 3,000 volunteers through which operations are possible. To learn more, visit www.PortlandRescueMission.org.

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