



# RESCUE PORTLAND

WINTER 2015



## A PHONE CALL AWAY

### Rachelle Points The Path To Hope

Rachelle sits by the phone, eagerly waiting for it to ring. The next call could mean the difference between life and despair for the person on the other end. "Hello," she says kindly. "This is Rachelle, Intake Assistant at Shepherd's Door. I understand you're interested in our New Life recovery ministry?"

CONTINUES INSIDE

# 2014 - AN OUTSTANDING YEAR



Dear Friends,

No doubt, many of us are still recovering from a full holiday season of Christmas gatherings and New Year's celebrations. Which is why I love January – a chance to breathe deep and reflect on God's goodness over the last year.

2014 brought incredible growth here at the Mission. For the first time in our history, we now offer vital assistance to homeless women on the street through

Connect. This short-term program provides safe refuge, meals and advocacy to help women transition to housing, employment and stability in just 3-4 months. Link, our similar program for men, has seen a 64% success rate!

The need for meals and shelter continues to climb. We served over 325,000 meals last year, up almost 20% from the previous year. And over 80,000 safe shelter nights, over 40%. We receive no government funding. So I'm very grateful to friends like you who help us rise to meet emergency needs of people hungry and clinging to hope.

All of our ministries programs peaked at full capacity at various times last year, clear evidence of the rising tide of people in our community longing to overcome addiction and heal from the deep woundedness that lies beneath.

2015 will bring even more opportunities to help. With your support, we will share the transformative love of Christ with more people on the brink of despair like Rachelle. And thanks to dedicated volunteers like Steve and Dottie, there will always be a smiling friend to embrace all who come to us.

Thank you for being a vital partner with Portland Rescue Mission.

God bless you this year,

Eric Bauer  
Executive Director

P.S. Rachelle's story highlights the plight of women and children as the fastest-growing segment of homelessness. Please take a moment to be encouraged by her video story at [www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Rachelle](http://www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Rachelle).



## Portland Rescue Mission

Giving Hope. Restoring Life.

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

## WINTER ITEMS NEEDED

### Donate Warm Clothing To Care For Hurting People

Frigid weather makes life on the streets miserable and even dangerous. You can help by donating coats, hats, gloves, scarves, blankets, socks, jeans and sweatshirts.

Drop off donations at our Burnside Shelter or Shepherd's Door. See addresses, days and times at [www.PortlandRescueMission.org/DonateItems](http://www.PortlandRescueMission.org/DonateItems). Or call **503-MISSION (647-7466)**.





# A PHONE CALL AWAY

## Rachelle Points The Path To Hope

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Over the next half hour, Rachelle listens intently as a desperate woman pours out her story through tears. She's 29, with three young kids she's about to lose due to her addiction. "Please," the caller says, "I'll do anything to get my life together. I can't lose my children. I can't do this on my own. I'm ready. Just tell me what to do."

Rachelle explains the details of joining Shepherd's Door and shares some encouragement. They pray together, then hang up. Rachelle sighs. It's a heavy conversation – and just the first of many she'll have this week – but it's also filled with hope. "She did a brave thing by calling," says Rachelle.

Two years ago, Rachelle sat by a different phone – in jail. This time, she was the one in desperation. Her most recent arrest for drugs meant she'd likely lose her three little girls.

"I can't do this," Rachelle said when she called Shepherd's Door for help. "Even on a good day, I can't stay sober. I've tried to do it on my own. Please, help me."

At just 8 years old, Rachelle would get drunk and steal marijuana from her mom's stash. She survived a few years of high school strung out on meth before dropping out.

"I've always been one to run to alcohol, sex, drugs – anything that will numb my emotions," says Rachelle. "Any time I expressed feelings as a kid, I was told that I was wrong. That I needed to just get over it. So I stuffed all my feelings."

Years of childhood sexual abuse left deep scars of distrust in Rachelle. Life taught her that no one would help her. When Rachelle was just 19, her mom committed suicide, "I carried the guilt of her death for over 10 years." She believed she was on her own and survived as best as she could, always hiding the anger and hurt.

"I've learned a lot about forgiveness," says Rachelle. People Rachelle loved sometimes weren't able to give her what she needed. "They were hurting, too," she says. "That doesn't make it all okay, but forgiving people was a huge turning point in my recovery because I'm released from all that resentment and anger."

Rachelle's emotional freedom has helped her reconnect with her three daughters who live with her at Shepherd's Door as they embrace recovery together. "I wasn't really present with them before. They were angry and couldn't open up to me," she says. "Now we can talk about things. I try to help them see where their feelings are coming from and process them."

Once buried by shame, Rachelle's heart has sprouted with a joy that sees her through still challenging days. Forgiving



Joy for Rachelle is spending time with Hannah (8), Audrey (7) and Alicia (4) and seeing them smile.

*To watch Rachelle's video story of Hope, visit*



[PortlandRescueMission.org/Rachelle](https://PortlandRescueMission.org/Rachelle)

others has helped her accepted her own forgiveness from God. "I have hope now, even on a bad day." She relies on support from her mentor, her AA group, the staff at Shepherd's Door, and favorite passages from the Bible, like Isaiah 43:1-2, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you... When you pass through the waters, I will be with you."

Now graduated from the yearlong New Life recovery ministry, Rachelle has entered Service, an additional year of learning job skills at the Mission. As Intake Assistant at Shepherd's Door, she answers calls from women struggling with homelessness and addiction like she once was.

Each time the phone rings, Rachelle expects God to work a miracle in a hurting woman's life. "I sometimes share a bit of my own story with people looking for recovery," she says. "And I pray with them. They need to know that a better life is possible."

**Hundreds of women like Rachelle need a safe place to heal and start a new life. Your gift today can give them hope.**



## PEOPLE IN NEED

*Giving Hope.  
Restoring Life.*

**W**hen a hurting man or woman comes to Portland Rescue Mission for help, there's more to them than homelessness or addiction. There's often a heartbreaking backstory of trauma that has left them unable to cope with everyday life.

With your help, our life-giving ministries work together to bring a hurting person out of brokenness and despair into healing, truth and purpose. And a new life, powered by a deep experience of God's love.

Your partnership is a key part of this vital process. Volunteers, financial supporters, prayer partners, donors of food and clothing – all work together to help us give hope and restore life to people in need.

Thank you for helping us make a new reality for hundreds of hurting men, women and children here in the Portland area.

### HOMELESS. ADDICTED. HURTING.

**ADDICTION:** 68% of U.S. cities report that addiction is their single largest cause of homelessness.

**TRAUMA:** Domestic violence, post-traumatic stress and grief from devastating life circumstances leave people feeling hopeless.

**MENTAL ILLNESS:** 20-25% of the homeless population suffers from chronic mental illness.

**POVERTY:** Job loss, underemployment and foreclosure have significantly increased homelessness in recent years.

**RELATIONAL BROKENNESS:** By the time hurting men and women come to the Mission for help, they have no supportive relationships left. Most struggle with isolation, loneliness and despair.







## GIVE HOPE

### MEALS. REST. SAFETY.

**MEALS:** Breakfast and dinner served to the public free of charge, 365 days a year. We also serve lunch on weekends.

**SHELTER:** Portland's largest provider of overnight shelter for men. Up to 352 men, women and children have safe refuge with us on any given night.

**RESTROOMS:** One of the only public restrooms available in the downtown area, open 24/7. Private access for both men and women gives dignity for basic needs.

**MAIL SERVICE:** Around 1,000 homeless men and women receive their mail at our address, helping them stay in touch with family and gain employment.

**SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE:** Evening chapel and Sunday church services open to the public.

**REFERRALS:** We work closely with area agencies to get men and women medical, legal, housing and other assistance.

## RESTORE LIFE

### RECOVERY. TRAINING. COMMUNITY.

#### **SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS:**

Our 3-4 month residential ministries at our Burnside Shelter help men and women transition quickly from homelessness to employment and housing.

Link is our ministry for men. Connect is our ministry for women.

#### **LONG-TERM PROGRAMS:**

Our 12-month New Life recovery ministry is offered free of charge and is open to anyone committed to starting a new life. This ministry aims to restore life in every aspect of a hurting person -- addiction recovery, life skills training and spiritual renewal. Up to 42 women and their children pursue recovery at Shepherd's Door in northeast Portland. Up to 46 men journey toward recovery at The Harbor in northeast Portland.



## PEOPLE THRIVING IN COMMUNITY



## ROOM FULL OF GRACE

### Dinnertime At The Mission

**C**hicken sizzles on the stove, the smell of mouth-watering spices wafting in the air. Half a dozen men and women bustle around the kitchen, laughing as they work. Every couple minutes, someone new arrives through the back door, carrying a steaming crockpot of chili or a tray of homemade cookies. They're hailed with hearty hellos.

It's Saturday night and dinnertime at The Harbor, our men's New Life recovery ministry in northeast Portland.

It's a typical Portland winter night outside – wet, dark and cold. But inside the dining room, the mood is light, like a festive family reunion. Volunteers and men from the recovery ministry greet each other with rambunctious hugs. They're genuinely glad to see each other, share a meal and play a 40-person game of "Pictionary" afterward.

Two volunteers, Steve and Dottie Grace, stand out in the gregarious crowd – always the first to shout a greeting and embrace newcomers. Ever humble, they strongly emphasize, "It's not about us. We're just here to let people know that God loves them. It's about serving people in need. It's about being Jesus to them."

Nearby, someone is setting up an extra table to hold the huge spread of dishes. It's smorgasbord of delicious meatballs, pasta, salads, bread, chili, cornbread, cake, cookies and

muffins – an outpouring of love making sure no one goes away hungry tonight.

Six years ago, Steve and Dottie learned about Portland Rescue Mission through A Jesus Church (formerly called Solid Rock). They started serving dinner with a volunteer group once month at our Burnside Shelter. "It's not as scary as people think," says Steve. "We just jump in and start talking to people, making them feel welcome."

Now serving as many as five times a month, Steve and Dottie bring an enthusiastic hospitality every time. "At Burnside, we greet homeless guests at the door. Everybody gets a, 'Howdy! How are ya doin' tonight?' We serve them restaurant style so they feel taken care of. They sit down, we bring them food and say, 'Enjoy your dinner! It's good to see you.'"

When Hunter, a graduate of The Harbor, first met Steve and Dottie's volunteer group, he was new to the Mission. "Coming from my addiction, I didn't have relationships with anyone. I was isolated," Hunter says. "This group of people were always so glad to see us. They're so open. They showed such compassion and love for everyone – didn't matter who it was."

Recently, as Steve and Dottie were serving dinner at the Burnside Shelter, a mother with two little girls came in for a meal – a sight that burdens their hearts. A kind volunteer gladly stopped what he was doing and sat with them for an hour to learn their names and listen to their story, helping the girls feel at ease. "When there's kids, we always try to bring them a special treat," says Steve. "There's a lot more women in need than there used to be. And they bring their babies."

"These are God's children," says Dottie. "They're His first love. They're feeling lost. We try to be angels with God's heart. They feel unseen, but we want them to know that we see them. They're human beings. They need to feel a sense of home and family."

"Serving is never about us," Steve emphasizes again. "We're here to serve Jesus. We can't give them everything they need, but we can give them a big smile and some love."

**Over 3,000 volunteers a year bring light and life to hurting people at Portland Rescue Mission. Learn how you can help at: [PortlandRescueMission.org/Volunteer](https://PortlandRescueMission.org/Volunteer)**

# MONTHLY DONORS HELP SAVE MONEY

## Join our "Circle of Friends" to help your donation go further!

**Want less mail from the Mission?** When you enroll as a monthly donor in our "Circle of Friends" program, you'll hear from us just four times a year with a quarterly statement and our latest newsletter.

Your donation can be automatically deducted from your credit, debit or bank account each month on the date that you choose. Or we can send you pre-addressed envelopes and giving slips so you can mail a check at your convenience.

Joining the "Circle of Friends" is wise stewardship and feels great, knowing that your faithful support provides ongoing care to give hope and restore life to hurting people in need.

Learn more and join the Circle of Friends at: [www.PortlandRescueMission.org/COFEnroll](http://www.PortlandRescueMission.org/COFEnroll)



# LEAVE A LEGACY OF HOPE

## Get free advice on planning your estate

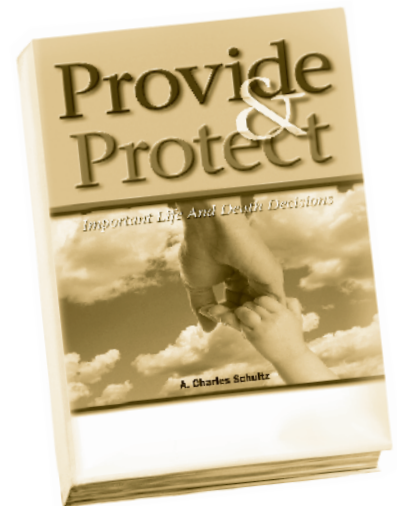
Planning your estate can be overwhelming. Get your free book "Provide & Protect", written by estate planning expert A. Charles Schultz. This 276-page guide walks readers through topics like:

**Should I have a will or a trust?**

**How can I preserve assets for my loved ones?**

Along with Provide & Protect, we'll send a complimentary Wills Planner Guide, useful for preparing your will or trust.

Request your free resources at: [www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Plan](http://www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Plan)



### Donate via credit card:

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

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

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

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

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

### 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.



## WHAT DO YOU HOPE FOR IN 2015?



“ I want to find my own place and rebuild my life since it came crashing down last year. I have hope for the future. A big part of that is forming a relationship with God. I'm so thankful I was able to come to the Mission. I've learned so much.” —Johanna

“ I'm looking forward to getting my own place to stay and a vehicle. And I want to grow closer to my daughter. I'm grateful to have the Mission so I can get my life stable again, and give back to the community.” —Gary



“ I hope to have my children back and to have a nice, stable home with them. It's been great to have the support of other women here at the Mission.” —Sabrina

## 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](http://www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Volunteer)

### DONATE A CAR

- Your car donation could provide over 500 meals. Learn more at [www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Car](http://www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Car)

### PLANNED GIVING

- Leave a legacy of hope through your will, annuity or trust. [www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Legacy](http://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](http://PortlandRescueMission.org/Blog)

 [PortlandRescueMission.org/Email](mailto: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.



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

*Thank you  
for your support!*