



RESCUE PORTLAND



You Can
Make
Room
at the Inn
This Christmas!



Mommy, why don't we have a home?

▶ Watch Sadie's video story at
www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Sadie

“I just grabbed the kids and took off. Didn't really know where I was going. I didn't have much family or any friends to rely on.”

With nowhere else to turn, Sadie was grateful to find Shepherd's Door, our free, long-term residential recovery program for women and children. She was amazed to find people who genuinely cared for her and knew how to help her rebuild her life.

“This place means everything to me,” she says. “I feel safe here. My kids have beds, blankets and pillows, fresh clothes that are clean, and

showers. I don't have to stress about all of that anymore.”

Recovery classes helped Sadie deal with a tumultuous past. “I never learned forgiveness until I came here,” she says. “I'm even learning to forgive myself, which is a huge deal.”

Today, Sadie knows she doesn't have to make it through life all alone. “Now I have a mentor, I have a sponsor, and I have good friends,” says Sadie. “But the best gift I've received at Shepherd's Door is Jesus.”

“All I ever wanted to be was a mom,” says Sadie. “Now I have what I need to do that. Now my kids can be kids.”

“Get your toothbrush,” Sadie says to her 6-year-old daughter. Sadie unbuckled her infant son from his car seat and bundled him in his coat. Embarrassed, she walked her kids into the Walmart restroom to get them ready for bed. They were sleeping in the car again tonight.

As Sadie tucked the kids in to sleep, winter chill frosted her breath on the window. She'd have to leave the car running all night just to keep them warm—another \$20 in gas she couldn't afford. Sadie would have to skip dinner again tomorrow night to stretch her money, but at least the kids were safe and their bellies full.

“Mommy, why don't we have a home?” Sadie's daughter asked in the darkness. Sadie couldn't bear to tell her the truth. She just turned her face away, tears rolling down her cheeks.

Sadie's mind flashed back to their life before and the relationship that drove them to being homeless. After growing depressed and increasingly violent, “he was trying to kill himself—trying to kill me,” she later shared.



**Your gift today provides “room at the inn”
for desperate moms and their children this Christmas season.**

All I want for Christmas...

We asked men and women struggling with hunger and homelessness what they really wanted for Christmas. Their answers might surprise you...

"Just a friend."

~ *Mark*



"That I could get indoors. I haven't been indoors for 34 years. That's a long time."

~ *Bill*



"This Christmas, it's all about my son. I want it to be special for him. Not necessarily presents and all that, but to see a Christmas tree and be with people who love us."

~ *Ashlee*

"I'd wish to see my daughter. I haven't seen her in years. That would be a good Christmas for me."

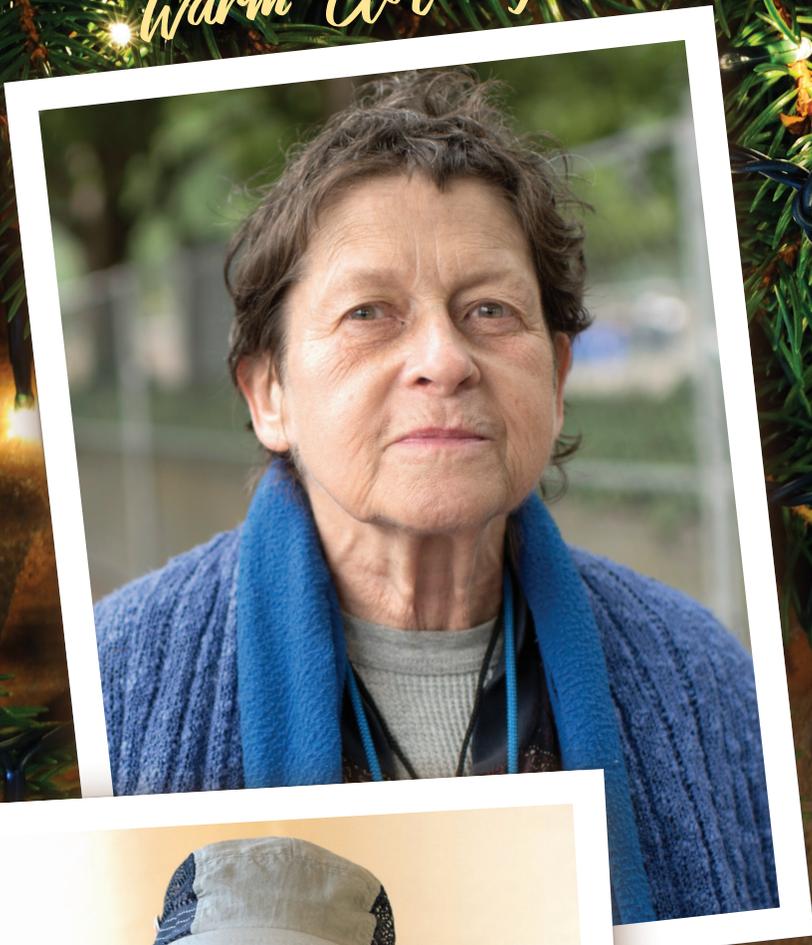
~ *Ajax*



Your support offers a wide variety of short- and long-term recovery programs that restore the lives of people who are hurting. Thank you!



Warm Clothing



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A Nutritious Meal



Every
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A Safe Place To Sleep



A Hot Shower



A Path To A New Life

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\$9.00
is Christmas
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Thank you
for changing lives
this Christmas!



“Last Christmas, I was homeless, sleeping in a van fighting to stay warm. I was so hungry and lonely, and could smell Christmas dinners being cooked all over the neighborhood, but had nowhere to go.

“**This Christmas I am celebrating seven months sobriety on Christmas Day**, warm and surrounded by all of my sisters here at Shepherd’s Door. I have so much to be grateful for!”

~ *Maria**

*Name / photo changed for privacy.

“I was very depressed, very lonely, isolated from the real world. I would find little places to sleep, wrapping myself up in cardboard boxes to get warm.

“Last Christmas, I was just walking down the street thinking of all those memories with my family. That’s when I tried to throw myself in front of traffic that day.

“I found hope when I walked into The Harbor. **Life. I have life today.** I have a purpose. I’m grateful for this air that I’m breathing right now.”

~ *Kyle*





“Before I came here, nobody took time to love me—to love me more than my mistakes, more than my failure.

“I was 80 pounds. I didn’t have my kids. I didn’t care if I lived or died.

“But today, I feel healthy and I’m growing. I feel more rooted. I feel like I’m able to keep my feet on the ground when hard times come. **I feel peace. More now than I ever have before.**”

~ *Brittany*

“I lived in my van for two and a half years. It was not an easy life. It really makes you feel like there’s no hope. I felt worthless, without value.

“There’s nowhere that I’ve ever been like Portland Rescue Mission. They saved me. They’re transforming me, genuinely, and authentically.

“**For the first time, I have hope to be able to live, to love and to be loved.** That is an amazing thing to me. I’m forever grateful.”

~ *Don*



Donate via credit card:

Circle One:     Expiration Date: _____

Card Number: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Donate securely online: 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.



Christmas Like Never Before

Often, especially as children, we gauge the quality of our Christmas experience by the quality of the gifts we receive. And at Shepherd's Door, our recovery center for women and children, we'll definitely hear joyful squeals of delight from the children on Christmas morning as they open their presents provided by caring community partners.

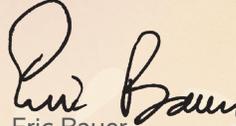
This Christmas, the men, women and children in our New Life programs are enjoying their best gift ever – they're safe and starting a new life.

Nearly all our program participants have had very hard Christmases like Sadie (see page 2). Before coming to Shepherd's Door, she and her two children were living out of their car. There was no way she could provide a typical merry Christmas for her son and daughter. About this Christmas, she says, "With or without presents, we don't even care. It's enough that we're together and happy."

Sadie shared that the gifts she has received since arriving at Shepherd's Door include: her kids can be kids; they have a safe place to live and clean clothes; she has genuine friends and a loving mentor; she has experienced the freedom of forgiveness; and, most importantly, she has begun a relationship with Jesus. Now she truly knows the heart of Christmas.

The joy of seeing such gracious, life-changing gifts received by so many hurting people is what makes this partnership with you so rewarding! So, thank you, dear friend, for your generous partnership in helping Sadie, her children and so many others start a brand-new life. Thank you for helping us make "room in the inn" for as many people as we can this Christmas.

Celebrating God's love with you this Christmas,


Eric Bauer
Executive Director



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:

- \$9/mo to help 12 people a year
- \$18/mo to help 24 people a year
- \$36/mo to help 48 people a year
- \$ _____ a month
- \$ _____ one time gift

Every \$9 provides a hot meal, safe night of shelter, a shower, clean clothes and access to life-restoring programs.

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



**Portland
Rescue Mission**

Giving Hope. Restoring Life.®

P.O. Box 3713
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503.MISSION (647.7466)

To donate online, visit
PortlandRescueMission.org/HolidayNL

*Thank you
for your support!*