



# THE LIGHTHOUSE

Giving Hope. Restoring Life.®

**COLD DAYS**  
*Warm Hearts*

Portland Rescue Mission

WINTER 2019

# Out OF THE Cold

Kyle shuffled through the food line with his head down. He knew he smelled awful, his clothes soaked in filth. "Don't make eye contact," he thought. "Just get what you need and get out."

It was Kyle's first time visiting our Burnside Shelter in downtown Portland, so he didn't know what to expect. He'd been homeless for just a little while now and was still figuring out how to survive.

Most days were spent on a TriMet bus trying to stay warm and get a little rest. Nights dragged on in fitful sleep, covered in cardboard, or hours of walking just to stop the shivering. Kyle lost track of the last time he'd had a decent meal. Nearly a week, probably. The last thing he wanted was to endure the judgmental stares of other people. But unrelenting hunger pangs drove him to swallow his pride and step inside the Mission for a meal.

"You hungry?" a volunteer smiled. "Absolutely," Kyle said, surprised at the friendliness. His eyes widened at the hot plate piled high with spaghetti, garlic bread and green beans. He dove right in. "And then soon someone's giving me another plate!" Kyle recalls.

**Your gift today provides hearty meals, hot showers and safe shelter this winter — first steps to a second chance for people like Kyle.**

"They wanted to make sure I was full. They didn't care what I looked like, or what I smelled like. It was an amazing experience to have somebody care that much. That kept me coming back."

More than anything, relationships were what rescued Kyle from the streets. To have someone greet him by name and say hello each time he came to the Mission made him feel human again. "They really saw me. They treated me with respect and a kind heart," he remembers. "I really needed somebody to show me that I did matter."

Encouraged by such compassion, Kyle found motivation to piece his life back together. At The Harbor, our free recovery program for men, Kyle is breaking the chains of his addictions through counseling. He's finding forgiveness and healing as he draws closer to God. "I knew of God, but I didn't have a relationship with Him. Now I see how he was working in my life. Now I put Him first."

Kyle can't believe how much his life has changed from this time last year. "Life. I have life today. I'm grateful for the air that I'm breathing right now. I feel a lot of hope."

▶ Watch Kyle's video story at [www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Kyle](http://www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Kyle)



## What I Wish People Knew

**If you've never been homeless, it might be hard to understand what it's like.**



"You really get a lonely feeling out here. It's cold and lonely. And even though you're surrounded by people, you start thinking that nobody cares whether you live or die, so what difference does it make."

*-Bill*

"The most difficult part is finding a place to do your laundry, a place to use the restroom, or a place to take a shower. Finding a place to be that isn't involved with doing drugs. It really makes you feel hopeless."

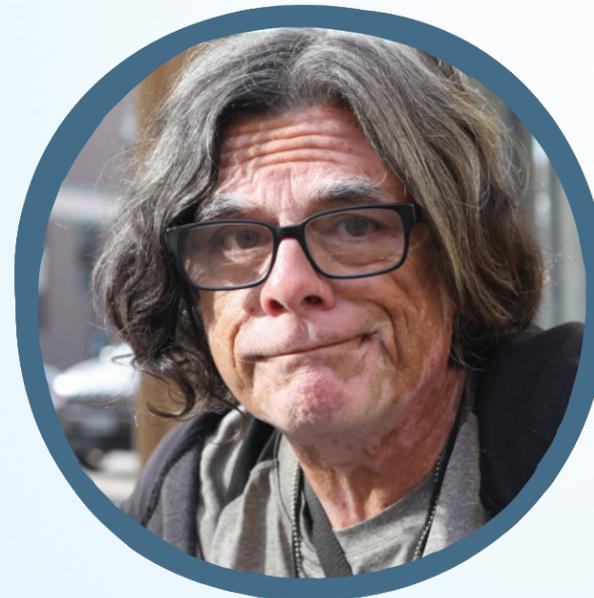
*-Don*



"The bad choices I used to make, they don't define who I am today."

*-Michael*

**Homelessness hurts. But thanks to you, there's hope for all who come to Portland Rescue Mission for help. Thank you!**



# COLD DAYS

Cold, wet winter weather is dangerous to people without shelter.

## HUNGER

Many people go days without food.

## SICKNESS

Exhaustion and wet weather take a toll.

## EXPOSURE

Without shelter, some die on the streets.

## DESPAIR

Many wonder if their life is worth living.

# Warm Hearts

Your support offers a warm welcome, safety, and the first steps toward a new life.

## MEALS

Breakfast and dinner served daily, up to 900 meals a day.

## CLOTHING

Winter clothing and blankets given out daily.

## SHELTER

Safe refuge for up to 300 people a night.

## HOPE

Wide variety of programs meet people at their point of need, establish meaningful relationships, and walk with them on their journey home.



Every \$9 provides for urgent needs this winter.

Start your 2019 monthly support at: [PortlandRescueMission.org/COF](https://PortlandRescueMission.org/COF)

# YOU GAVE THESE GRADUATES *New Lives!*



Before Glenn came to the Harbor, he had nothing. "I felt like God had abandoned me. I felt completely empty."

**"What I received here is a new purpose in life.** A purpose of service to people who are where I've been; the unfortunate, the struggling and people who have lost hope. Hope that can be restored with a little kindness from a stranger who is expecting nothing in return."

*-Glenn*

When Mark came to the Harbor, he was lost. "I spent a lifetime just wanting to do the right thing, but never having the right tools to do so."

**"Today I don't fear what's in front of me.** I'm blessed with being at the Portland Rescue Mission, in this place where the men and women pour their hearts out to the broken."

*-Mark*



"When I found out about Shepherd's Door, I was actually sitting in a jail cell. I was just so full of shame and regret. I just felt worthless."

**"This program does give hope, and does restore lives,** and the truth is I don't even know the words to express how grateful I am for what Jesus has done in my life. There's not a beautiful enough word to say how grateful, and how lucky, and how blessed I am."

*-Becca*

When Joni's life fell apart she turned to alcohol to numb the pain. "It numbed my physical pain, emotional pain, spiritual pain. And it worked, it worked really well until it didn't work."

**"When I got to Shepherd's Door, I felt so welcome. But more than anything, I felt loved."**

*-Joni*



Last July, as she lay in bed knowing that she was dying, Lois Minson wasn't afraid. Her heart was much too full of love for that.

"She would tell everyone that came into the room, the doctors, nurses and caregivers, 'I love you,'" says Lois' son, Doug. "She had a big heart."

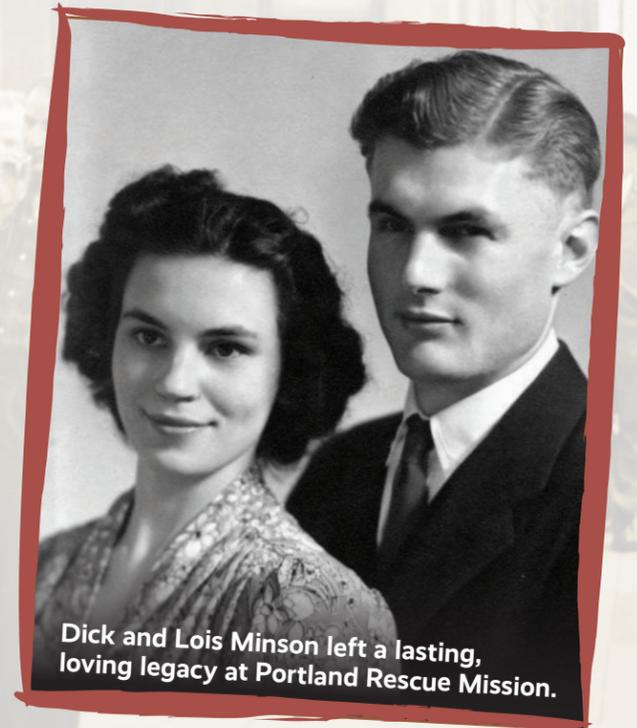
Lois and her husband, Dick, were in their 20's when they first moved to Portland in 1950. They were no strangers to hardship. With two small kids, Dick attending Multnomah Bible School, and then a child born extremely premature and blind, their lives were as busy and stressful as anyone's. But they still made time to help others.

"I have memories of driving down to the John 3:16 Mission (as Portland Rescue Mission was known at the time) in our old Dodge," says Doug. "My sister and I would sit on the stage while dad preached. Dad would tell people how God could change their lives."

For the rest of their lives, the Minsons were generous financial supporters of Portland Rescue Mission. Dick passed away 13 years ago. When Lois realized she was dying last year, she made sure Doug knew to leave a portion of her estate as one last legacy gift to help people in need.

"Their heritage is a real beckoning toward helping those less privileged," says Doug. Asked what message his parents would want people to know, Doug says, "There is hope found in God."

## Legacy OF Hope



Dick and Lois Minson left a lasting, loving legacy at Portland Rescue Mission.

Learn how to give through your will, trust or estate: [www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Legacy](http://www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Legacy)



### Donate via credit card:

Circle One:  VISA  MasterCard  Discover  American Express Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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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.

# Beacon IN THE Storm

Before the days of GPS and satellite navigation, sailors depended on lighthouses to guide them safely home. Through threatening waves and treacherous storms, they strained their eyes to see a glimmer of light from the shore. If they followed the light, they'd find safe passage through rocky reefs. Safe in the harbor, they'd be surrounded by friends and loved ones welcoming them home.

What perfect imagery that is for the work you empower here at Portland Rescue Mission!

Kyle (see story on page 2) was terribly afraid in the months he endured living homeless in Portland's winter rain and ice. His personal storm was drowning him in addiction. He often longed for death to end his suffering.

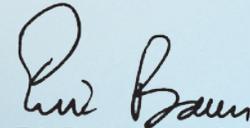
In Kyle's terrible darkness, love broke through as a beacon of hope. It took time, but as our volunteers and staff regularly greeted Kyle by name, asked about his life, and met his urgent needs, Kyle believed his life was worth saving. He followed a glimmer of hope and reached out for help — and he's finding his way safely home, surrounded by people who care.

This year, Portland Rescue Mission celebrates 70 years shining as a beacon of hope to people like Kyle, cast adrift in the storms of life.

**To commemorate this long legacy of life-saving ministry, we're renaming our newsletter to "The Lighthouse".**

And we celebrate you, dear friends! Your support has built this beacon of hope. Your giving keeps our doors open 24/7 for anyone in need to find safety, warmth and the redeeming power of God's love — just as Kyle has.

Thank you for transforming lives with us,



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.®

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503.MISSION (647.7466)

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

*Thank you  
for your support!*