

## A Message From Mike

Dear friends,

As a vital part of our work to end homelessness for families and single adults, the Mission supports the education of everyone we serve.

Around 100 children are on our two family campuses at any time, and these kids need back to school supplies just like your kids or grandkids. But so do the adults we help!

Our Challenge Learning Center is busy educating about 55 adults in our recovery programs, as well as men from our shelter. Many are preparing to earn a GED.

Will you join us in making sure men, women and children overcoming homelessness have the best chance at getting their education? Nutritious meals, school supplies, and tutors all help students do their best.

Sharing God's help, hope and healing with the poor is our mission. And supporting the education of the kids and adults we serve is one of the most important things we do. Without it, how can these homeless neighbours get out of poverty?

Your gift is life-changing. It really is! By joining us in transforming the future for kids and adults in homelessness, you are making a permanent investment in hope!

Sincerely,

*Mike*

Mike Johnson  
Executive Director

# A meal and safe shelter = hope for families.

**\$2.02 PROVIDES HOPE**  
for children living on the streets.

## Your gift offers hope.

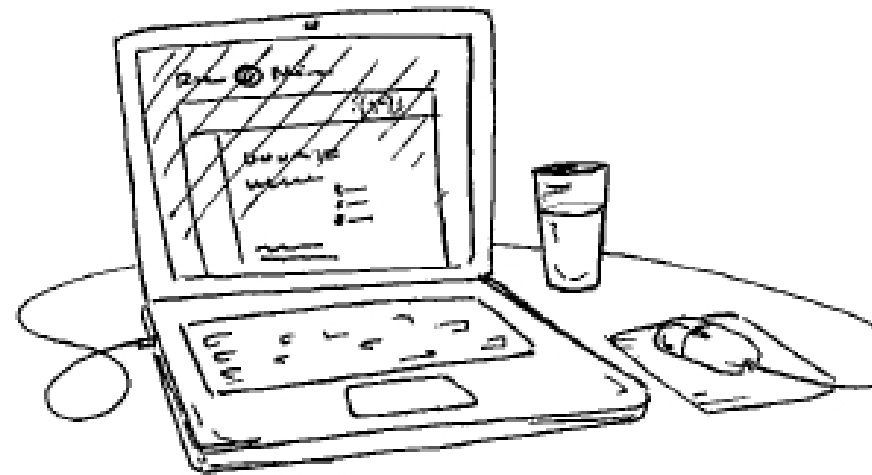
Imagine being homeless as a child. The uncertainty of where you will lay your head each night, and the gnawing hunger when your family can't afford food. No child should experience this – yet many are experiencing it now in Pierce County.

Because of you, these children can have hope. The Mission is serving more meals to families this summer, and our family shelter is full to overflowing.

Food Service Manager Andrew McGruder shares, "We're seeing more homeless families now than ever before... So we're feeding them breakfast, lunch, and dinner to help them have food."

Your gift is making a lasting difference. Thank you.

## Check out the Mission's new look online



To help children in need faster, **donate online at [www.TRM.org](http://www.TRM.org).**

**Yes! I would like to offer meals and shelter to families.**

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

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

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me updates on the Mission's work with men and women in recovery.

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

# HELP HOPE HEALING



THE TACOMA RESCUE MISSION NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2015

## When home is spelled S-U-V: One family's struggle to stay together

Many families in Pierce County are living just one step away from homelessness.

For the Garcia's, losing their housing in a fire pushed them over the edge. They couch surfed, but soon their options ran out.

Eventually, they had to send their four oldest children to live with an aunt, while Victoria, Raul, and their three younger children lived out of their SUV in the summer heat. It was brutal.

Continued inside...

**"It was so uncomfortable with everyone piled on top of each other. The kids would say, 'We're hungry!' It's hard not being able to give them an answer."**

**- Victoria Garcia"**



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- Education leads to Renewed Hope
- School Supply Needs
- A Message from Mike

[www.TRM.org](http://www.TRM.org)

Mike (L) on Mt. Rainier for Climb out of Homelessness 2015.





# When home is spelled S-U-V

Continued

Breaking up the family was devastating for Victoria and Jose – but they knew it was the right choice.

“That’s where they needed to be. We had to be separate from them, for them to have a safe place.”

The Garcia’s pursued many options for housing. Though it is rare to find a shelter or affordable housing that can accommodate a family of nine, the Mission, aims to keep families together whenever possible.

**“When we found out it could work for us to come here... we were just so happy to all be together again! We can spend time with the kids without worrying about where they’re going to sleep, or where they’re going to get their next meal.”**

Today, the Garcia’s are reunited at the Mission’s Tyler St. Family Campus. Victoria has completed a job training program through the Goodwill, regained her driver’s license, and is working. The kids are receiving counselling to help them with what they’ve been through. They are happy, healthy, and looking forward to starting school in a few weeks.

**“It’s been a long journey – emotional and stressful – but through all of it, the Mission has helped us a lot. This is the only place that’s given us hope.”**

Thanks to you, the Garcia’s are on a new path. But there are many more families that are still homeless in our community; living in their cars, doubled up with friends, or in motels.

Your gift offers them meals, shelter – and much needed hope. Thank you for making a difference.



**Go to [www.TRM.org/give](http://www.TRM.org/give) to offer life changing meals and shelter to families facing homelessness today!**

# Education Leads to Renewed Hope

A common barrier for those seeking to overcome homelessness and poverty is a lack of education. To address this, our Challenge Learning Center (CLC) offers no-cost GED classes and Adult Basic Education to men and women in our recovery programs and from the community at large.

This service is possible because of your partnership with the Mission. Donations of funds, school supplies, and many volunteer tutoring and instructor hours have led to a great success rate.

You can support the Challenge Learning Center by giving gifts of time, or talent. It makes all the difference for men like Jimmie.

**“I never did well in math. But for the first time, I’m thriving in it! Before, I’d always turned to crime. Now I’m able to use math to open my mind. I want to be able to do something with my life!”**

**- Jimmie, CLC Student**

## In July of 2015:

- **49 men and women in recovery received 1,522 instruction hours.**
- **16 community GED students received 211 instruction hours.**
- **6 Volunteers provided 199 hours of tutoring.**



## VERSE OF THE MONTH

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” – Matt. 11:28-29

## OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

The entire staff of the Tacoma Rescue Mission pledges to do everything possible to help the hurting and homeless. It was our commitment when our work began in 1912, and it continues to drive us.

We pledge to bring help, hope, and healing to as many people as possible by providing food, shelter, clothing, education, job training, work opportunities, transitional housing, and other programs.

P.O. Box 1912 | Tacoma, Washington 98401-1912 | 253.383.4493 | [www.TRM.org](http://www.TRM.org)

Connect with the Tacoma Rescue Mission: [myrescuemission](#) [RescueMissionUS](#)

**In 2014 89¢ of every dollar went directly to services and facilities to help those in need.**



## School Supplies

When you donate school supplies and uniforms, you offer hope and a brighter future by supporting education, a vital tool to overcome poverty.

### Elementary & High School

- Backpacks
- Composition Notebooks
- Graph Paper
- USB Thumb Drives
- Graphing Calculators
- Polo Shirts
- Khaki Pants

### Adult Students

- Spiral Notebooks, College Rule
- Flash Drives
- Note Cards

Supplies can be delivered to our Donation Center at 425 S. Tacoma Way from 9am to 4pm, Monday through Saturday, or 9am to 11am Sunday.

[www.TRM.org](http://www.TRM.org)