

## A Message from Mike

Dear friends,

At the Mission, we know relationships lead to life transformation for those we serve.

We believe there is hope - no matter your circumstance. We want neighbors facing homelessness to know there are people who love and care for them.

The men and women we serve have been hurt so badly that a message of hope and love can be hard to trust. Given the unimaginable things they've been through - I understand why going it alone on the streets might seem like the safest option.

This is why the gift of yourself is the greatest thing you can give. When a community member shares their finances and volunteers their time to care for those on the street - it blows them away. They expect Mission staff to show up. They don't expect you to show up.

Thank you for sharing yourself in a way that speaks love to those who are hurting. You are making an eternal impact.

Sincerely,

*Mike*

Mike Johnson  
Executive Director

# An Easter meal opens doors to a new life.

**\$2.02** PROVIDES A MEAL & HOPE



## Easter Meals Hope & a New Perspective

Every meal served at the Mission is an opportunity for connection, with caring volunteers and staff. It's these relationships that allow neighbors facing hunger and homelessness to access resources that lead to a new life.

Relationships lead to lasting change - and it all starts with a meal.

**It's not too late to provide Easter Meals, visit [www.TRM.org/give!](http://www.TRM.org/give!)**



**Yes! I'll offer meals and care to change lives this Easter.**

\$ to \_\_\_\_\_ help as many as possible.

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

FEBRUARY 2016

## Melissa's Story: From river bank, to restoration

Melissa was coming undone. She had lost custody of her two children because of her addiction. Her marriage of ten-years was disintegrating. And then one evening when she went home, she found someone had broken into her apartment. Everything she had to her name was stolen.

It all came to a head on March 31st when her husband went to jail - and Melissa, having burnt all her bridges, found herself homeless.

She ended up living by herself out of a tent on the banks of the Puyallup River - just blocks from Walker High School, where she was once a student.

**"I was scared, being out there. It was wet and cold. I had lost everything."**

Melissa went to a local resource center for coffee, and lunch. When it was time to "feed" her addiction she would crawl through the sticker bushes back to her tent.

**"I felt like I had nobody. I didn't even have a place to go and shower, do my laundry. Those weeks felt like years."**

Last Easter, while other people were enjoying family and a . . .

*Continued inside*

### INSIDE:

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**Rescue Mission**  
HELP · HOPE · HEALING  
[www.TRM.org](http://www.TRM.org)

Steve Hurter (left front) and Mike Hurter (right front) with Mission staff and their sock drive donations.



Continued

... holiday meal, Melissa was in a tent, getting by on diet coke and Pop Rocks. She was dangerously thin.

Growing up, Melissa's family wasn't religious – but neighbors took her to church. Now, homeless and losing hope, she called out to God.

**“How I got to the Mission was I finally said,  
‘God, I can’t do this anymore. Please, help me.’”**

A woman from the resource center drove Melissa to the Mission. After weeks in a tent, the simple luxuries of a warm, safe bed, and a real flushing toilet, were overwhelming to Melissa. “I was just so grateful to have a bed to sleep in, and a toilet to go to the bathroom in. It seemed like a dream.”

In her months in the recovery program at the Mission, Melissa has experienced true life transformation. In June, her 14 year old son came to live with her and she recently regained custody of her 3 year old son, as well.

**“Having a place for my kids  
to be with me, means a lot.”**

Her family has told Melissa that she is full of life again. “I’m not just an empty soul, that they see through.”

This Easter Melissa is looking forward to celebrating Jesus' resurrection. "It's more meaningful than what I was raised to think - that Easter is about eggs."

If it weren't for the Mission Melissa says that she would probably be dead, “I wouldn't have any hope, or respect, left for myself.”

**Because of you, men and women like  
Melissa, and their families, are restored.**

**Thank you for opening the doors to a second  
chance, and true life transformation!**



**You can offer meals and care to transform lives this Easter!  
Visit [www.TRM.org](http://www.TRM.org) to make a difference, today.**

# Hope can be as simple as a bed.

## A Community Partnership

Relief Bed International is partnering with TRM to help raise beds and meals for our neighbors on the streets of Pierce County.

Prior to founding Relief Bed International (RBI), Scott Smalling had created the bedding brand ComforPedic®. He started here in Tacoma and grew it to a national company ultimately selling it to The Simmons Beautyrest Company. Now, he's using his experience to give back!

Scott would like to extend a special offer to Mission supporters. Between now and March 31st you can purchase a luxurious memory foam mattress and sleep products at a wholesale price (half of suggested retail). When you do, Scott will donate a Relief Bed® (pictured at right) and 25 meals to TRM to be distributed to someone in need.

For more information and showroom hours please contact Scott at; [scott@reliefbed.com](mailto:scott@reliefbed.com) or call 253-312-0653.

### You Can Make a Difference

Community partners, like Scott, make a huge impact for those served by the Mission. Do you have a business or skill you'd like to use to give back?

Contact [development@trm.org](mailto:development@trm.org) to discuss opportunities.



Mike Johnson, Executive Director, delivers a Relief Bed while out on Search & Rescue.

**RELIEF BED**

### VERSE OF THE MONTH

**"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him." - Mark 16:6**

### OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

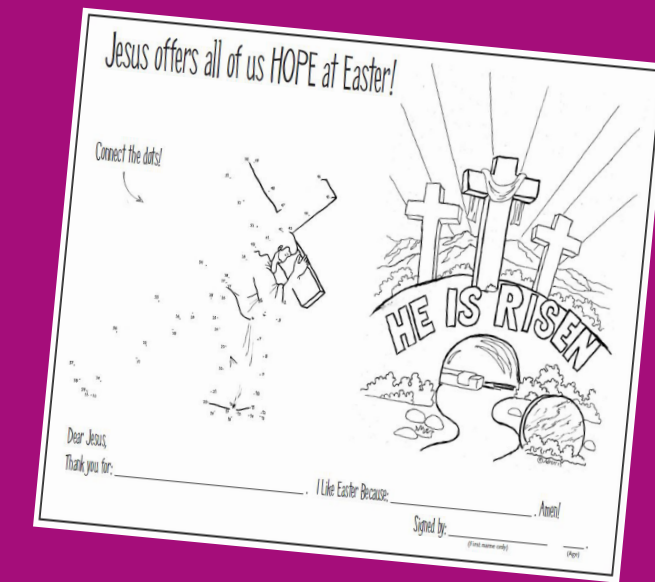
The entire staff of the Tacoma Rescue Mission pledges to do everything possible to help the hurting and homeless. It was our commitment when our work began in 1912, and it continues to drive us.

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](https://www.facebook.com/myrescuemission) [RescueMissionUS](https://www.tumblr.com/rescuemission)

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



Help make Easter festive for our guests by decorating and returning a personalized placemat! Download it at [www.TRM.org/Easter](http://www.TRM.org/Easter).

## Setting the Table

An Easter meal at the Mission is about so much more than a meal - it's about celebrating the love and hope we receive through Jesus's resurrection!

Your support makes an Easter feast possible. Here's what is still needed:

### DONATE

- Hams
- Pumpkin Pies
- Whipped Cream
- Green Beans
- Canned Fruit Cocktail

### DROP OFF HOURS & LOCATION

Food donations are accepted at our kitchen at 425 S. Tacoma Way, from 8 am to 5pm, Mondays through Saturdays.

The kitchen is located at the back of the main building. Drive through the gate, and you will see the red doors on your left.

**Rescue Mission**  
HELP • HOPE • HEALING

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