

A Message from Mike

A Life Worth Changing

I'm always in awe when I see a dramatic change in someone's life, like Nathan's. Many of us would have written Nathan off as a lost cause. In fact, Nathan wrote himself off years ago.

But there is no end to what God can do when we partner together and allow him to work!

Nathan had no chance . . . abused, depressed, and addicted by the time he was a young teenager.

So, it's up to us to offer people the chance they never had. To reach out and show them that they are loved, that they have value... and that they can have a life worth living for. And to provide them with the simple life skills they never had a chance to develop.

Your partnership makes all this possible, and I thank you from the deepest part of my heart!

Partners together,

Mike

Mike Johnson
Executive Director

Mike accepting a donation from Columbia Bank CEO, Melanie Dressel - the result of Columbia Bank's Warm Hearts Winter Drive. Thank you to all who contributed!



A hot meal can be the start of a new life.

JUST \$2.02 PROVIDES
A HOT, DELICIOUS MEAL



Help Restore a Broken Life this Winter. YOU can provide a New Life for a struggling neighbor!

Hundreds of people are flocking to us each day during this cold February weather. And we want to help every one of them have an opportunity at a new life. But we can't do that without your help.

Even though it's our hardest program for which to raise funds, our New Life Program is critical to helping addicted people break free and find hope again. That's where you come in!

It only costs \$20.73 to provide a day of recovery for a man or woman struggling with addiction. Your gift today will enable us to continue offering this program to the men and women who so desperately need it.

Hundreds of people just like Jeremy are looking for the hope of a new life.

YOU can make that difference in someone's life! Please make your most generous gift today!

Please go online to www.trm.org and help right now!

Please make your generous donation today!

■ \$ _____ to help as many as possible.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

■ Please send me e-updates on the Mission's work with the homeless community!

Email: _____

ENCLOSED IS
MY GIFT OF: _____

■ In Memory of: _____

■ In Honor of: _____

HELP HOPE HEALING



THE TACOMA RESCUE MISSION NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2017

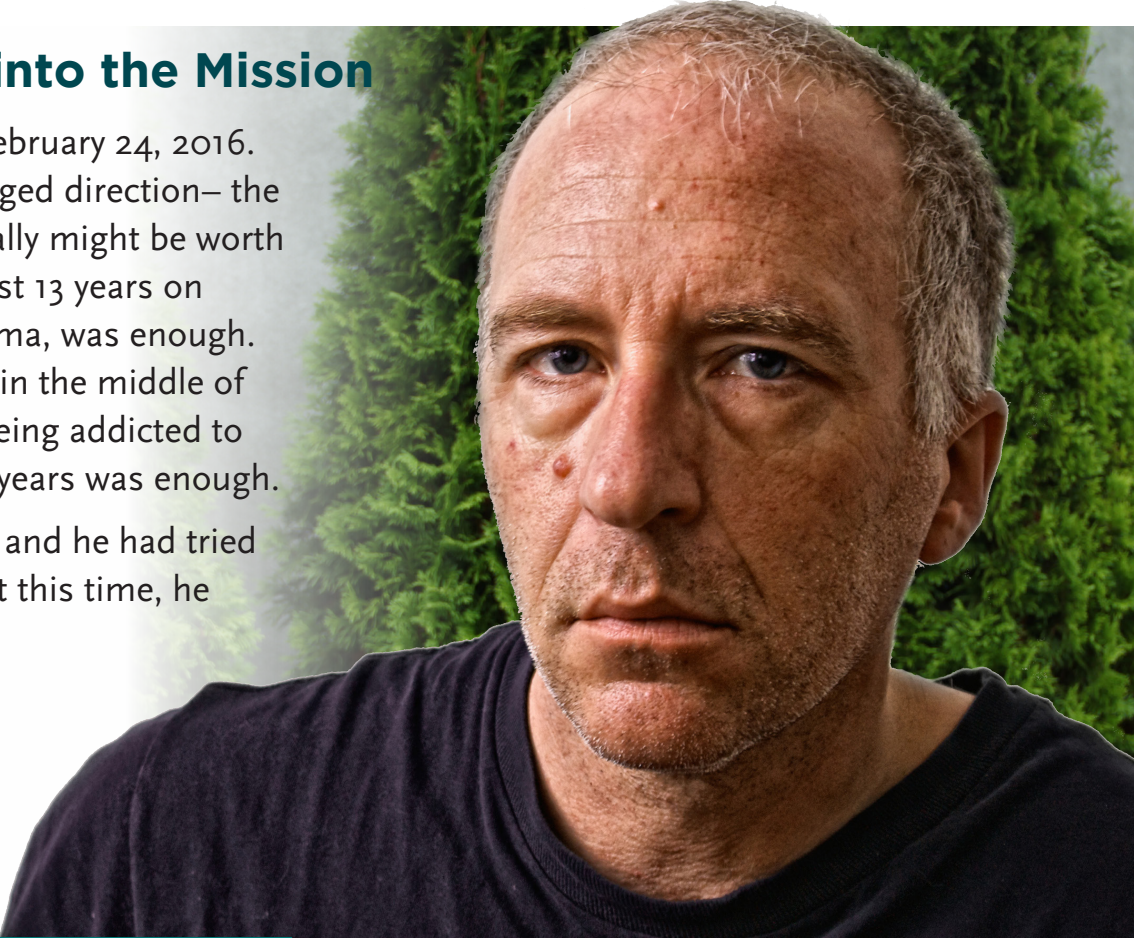
Addicted to drugs for 19 of the last 22 years, and homeless for 13 . . .

Then he walked into the Mission

Nathan will never forget February 24, 2016. That's the day his life changed direction– the day he decided that life really might be worth living. Having spent the last 13 years on and off the streets of Tacoma, was enough. Sleeping under the bridge in the middle of winter was enough. And being addicted to drugs for 19 of the last 22 years was enough.

Nathan became suicidal – and he had tried and failed in the past – but this time, he chose to . . .

Continued inside . . .



PLUS INSIDE:

- Nathan's Transformation
- Did You Know: Winter Homelessness
- A Message from Mike: A Life Worth Changing

“I was addicted to meth and heroin for a long time. I've been addicted to everything.”

Nathan's Transformation.

Nathan's Story Continued

seek help at the Tacoma Rescue Mission.

His downward spiral began years ago, when he was thirteen. Back then, Nathan was a "straight A" student. But to escape abuse and the trauma of being ripped apart between two divorcing parents, Nathan turned to drugs to manage his pain and depression.

Sadly, Nathan became almost instantly addicted. For nineteen of the next twenty two years, he spiraled downward as the drugs took over his whole life. He tried to kill himself several times by overdosing, but miraculously he always pulled through.

Then came that fateful day last February when he felt that terrible urge again. But this time, he decided to try something different:

"Most of the time, I didn't see no reason for life, so it's like, 'Okay, why bother keep going?' But I had enough. It was a big decision from not wanting to deal with any of it to just saying, 'That's enough. I want to come in.' So, I came in for the program."

Nathan jumped into our New Life Program with both feet, taking classes and going to one-on-one counseling – he learned how to better cope with the pain and depression he suffers. And he worked hard; his morning began at 5:00 a.m. working in the kitchen. Then it was off to classes before going back to the kitchen for the afternoon shift.

Over the past year, Nathan's life changed completely. In fact, he got started going out with our Search and Rescue Van – reaching out to people who are where he used to be on those cold streets:

"I enjoy going out because there's people out there I've known for 20 plus years . . . people I went to school with that have family out there. I remember what it was like one day when somebody would just show up offering me a sandwich or something like that. It gives you hope that somebody does care."

It was a simple act of caring that led Nathan to seek help at the Tacoma Rescue Mission.

Will you reach out and help someone find a new life?

"I remember what it was like when someday would just show up offering me a sandwich or something. It gives you hope."

(Right) Search & Rescue volunteers offer hope on Tacoma streets.

**You can offer hope and a new life to men and women like Nathan!
Visit www.trm.org to make a difference, today.**

Did you know?

Wintertime Homelessness in Pierce County February is no time to be homeless in Tacoma!

Statistics don't put a human face on what it's like to be homeless in the winter. But they can help us better appreciate the crisis. Here are a few facts about winter homelessness in our community:

- Hypothermia can begin setting in at 50 degrees and below
- Tacoma's average low temperature for February is 38 degrees
- Over half the days in February include either rain or snow
- There are over **1,700** people who are homeless in Pierce County
- In our last Fiscal Year, the Mission sheltered **2,290** unduplicated guests

A Fresh Start: Our New Life Program

Nathan graduated our very successful New Life Program. This is an intensive eight to twelve month live-in program for people suffering from the devastation of substance abuse. It's a unique program that addresses the deep roots of each person's addictions, not simply focusing on destructive behaviors.

We provide nurturing support with disciplined structure and accountability. We address all areas of life: physical, emotional, social, educational, spiritual and more. It's how we offer Help, Hope and Healing.

Just a few of the critical initiatives of this program include:

- The Genesis Process Recovery and Relapse Prevention curriculum
- Adult Basic Education (including courses in reading, writing and math)
- High School Completion Program (High School 21+ or GED)
- Job-skills Training and Career Coaching
- One on One Mentoring and Spiritual Counseling

Please help us reach more struggling people today!

VERSE OF THE MONTH:
"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." – Romans 15:13

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

We pledge to offer help, hope, and healing to as many people as possible through food, shelter, clothing, education, career coaching, work opportunities, transitional housing, and more.

P.O. Box 1912 | Tacoma, Washington 98401-1912 | 253.383.4493 | www.trm.org
Connect with the Tacoma Rescue Mission: [f myrescuemission](#) [t RescueMissionUS](#)

In 2015 86¢ of every dollar went directly to services and facilities to help those in need.

It's Cold Out There!

Critical Needs for February:

- Warm, waterproof coats of all sizes
- Gloves& stocking caps of all sizes
- Warm, water-proof shoes
- New men's and women's underwear
- Thermals
- Men's clothing size XL, XXL, XXXL
- Razors & shaving cream
- Backpacks for adults

Call 253.383.4493 or visit trm.org/in-kind for more information.

Please Pray

Our programs – and the wonderful people who are our clients – depend on your prayers to make it through! Please join us in prayer for the following:

- Pray for strength for everyone who has joined our New Life Recovery Program.
- Pray that more people will be open to the Gospel this winter.
- Pray that our Search and Rescue Van will encourage even more people.
- Pray for an outpouring of support for our recovery programs.

To join our Prayer Team, email info@trm.org!

Rescue Mission
HELP • HOPE • HEALING
www.trm.org