

A Message From Mike

They Deserve Better

Because I was an Army Ranger myself, I feel a special connection to our homeless veterans. They have served our country well . . . and yet for so many, the transition to civilian life doesn't end well.

The numbers you'll read about in this newsletter paint just a small picture of the issue.

Certainly, the homeless people we help who are not veterans are also struggling with pain and trauma – they just happened through different life events. We must help both.

We have excellent staff and professional services to help vets and non-vets alike.

But like Luis says, it really takes the healing power of Jesus to fix the deepest wounds.

As you remember those who have fallen this Memorial Day, please also remember those vets who have died on the inside – and pray that we can help them come home again.

May God bless you,

Mike

Mike Johnson
Executive Director

Help Serve Those Who Served us!



They deserve better, and you can help. Help us Provide Critical Shelter and Care.

Tacoma Rescue Mission is the only place in Tacoma that offers dedicated shelter to homeless veterans. And whether it's one of the hundreds of homeless veterans here in Tacoma, or another one of the 1,700 homeless people here in Tacoma, you can provide shelter, food and a new start for just \$18.71!

We can accommodate up to 30 veterans in our special veterans dorm. And hundreds of other homeless men are coming to us each day. They all need more than simple shelter. They need someone to come alongside them and give them hope. Someone to help them heal from the trauma they've experienced.

It only costs \$18.71 to provide meals, a night of shelter and other loving care for one person.

Will you please make your most generous gift today?

YOUR gift can make a lasting difference in someone's life!

*Go online to TRM.org
to give right now!*

HELP • HOPE • HEALING
THE TACOMA RESCUE MISSION NEWSLETTER

Connect with The Rescue Mission: [myrescuemission](#) [f](#) RescueMissionUS [t](#)

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 105 years ago, in 1912, and it continues to drive us today.

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](#)

In 2016 84¢ of every dollar went directly to services and facilities for the homeless.



THE TACOMA RESCUE MISSION NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017

Twenty-six years as a combat vet . . . Prepared him for his toughest role yet!

Luis understands. Afghanistan, Iraq, Nepal, and a whole lot of places he can't share. For more than twenty years as a combat medic and Intelligence Collector with Special Operations, Luis has seen and done it all.

And it wasn't pretty, especially the time he witnessed a nineteen-year-old soldier lose his life the same day his own son turned 19 back home. Following a particularly bloody deployment in Iraq, Luis returned home angry, emotionally gutted, and to a marriage that was on the rocks. But God wasn't finished with him.

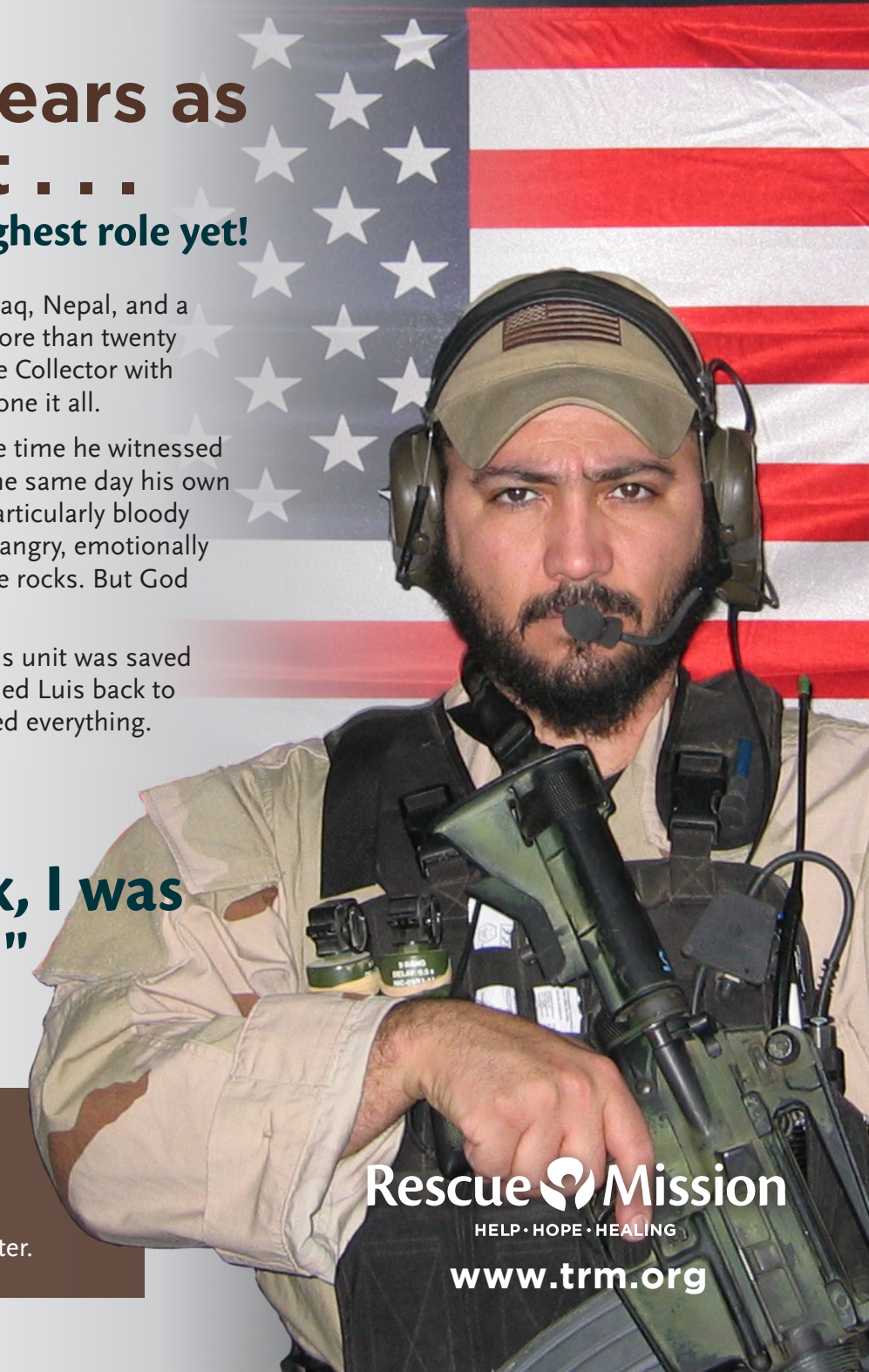
A miraculous incident in which his unit was saved from what should have killed them all – led Luis back to God. This relationship with Jesus changed everything. Soon, he was . . .

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“When I got back, I was damaged goods!”

INSIDE:

Did You Know?
Helping Our Veterans.
A Message from Mike: They Deserve Better.



Rescue Mission
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Mike accepting donations from Truman Middle School!

Luis Fights the Good Fight.

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... leading Bible studies for his Brigade!

Yet, his military service had taken its toll. When he returned stateside for good, he was disabled, suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and was unprepared for civilian life.

But Luis was also a changed man. Offered a lucrative job as an intelligence trainer, he turned it down. He tells us, "They offered me six-figures to teach interrogation techniques. The kinds of things I did for the Army – I couldn't reconcile that with who I am now in Jesus."

Instead, Luis started serving breakfast at the Rescue Mission on Saturday mornings, building authentic relationships with homeless vets. When we were hiring for a new Men's Shelter manager, it was one of these homeless veterans who told Luis to apply - and we were thrilled to hire him!

Luis understands better than most the effects of trauma on homeless people, especially our homeless veterans. He understands what it takes to overcome the mental anguish our guests and clients endure. And he has compassion for those who are lost.

Is it easy? No! In fact, he describes his first day at the Rescue Mission as harder than any combat situation. But Luis's military background uniquely prepared him for this role that God has led him to.

Luis knows the secret to helping vets and others overcome devastating trauma. And he's sharing with anybody who will listen:

"Many of us veterans carry hidden scars that can only be healed by God's love. You're talking to a disabled vet diagnosed with PTSD. But I personally know that there is no such thing as someone who is too far out for God."

Luis's bravery has extended beyond the battlefield – fighting for lives that are dangerously close to being lost on the street. With your support, Luis and all our team offer help, hope and healing to as many hurting, homeless veterans as possible. Thank you for doing your part!

"Many of us veterans carry hidden scars that can only be healed by God's love."



Luis with a volunteer at a life skills program graduation held in our Men's Emergency Shelter.

Did You know?

Our Homeless Veterans

They're the ones who fight our battles, secure our embassies, protect our freedoms and country. But too often, the cost is steep – and re-entry into civilian life becomes difficult or even impossible. Homelessness in our veteran population has hit epidemic proportions. They deserve better:

How they served

- 47% Vietnam Era
- 21% Afghanistan/Iraq
- 90% Received Honorable Discharge

Homeless Vets

- 85% High School Grads
- 46% Age 45 or older

63% of male homeless veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan have been diagnosed with PTSD



Too many veterans are living in conditions like this.

Tacoma Rescue Mission: Helping our Veterans

Helping homeless veterans is our calling here at Tacoma Rescue Mission. Our veteran's dorm is a barracks-like facility designed to accommodate struggling vets where they can comfortably interact with other brothers-in-arms. It provides a safe, familiar environment where they work together to overcome the many post-military barriers they face.

We also have a Veterans Resource Center at our Men's Shelter. Through a partnership with the U.S. Veterans Affairs Administration, a licensed homeless outreach social worker is available to our veteran clients. All this is coordinated by volunteer veterans who are trained to engage the complex issues facing homeless vets, while offering basic needs, a listening ear, and connections to vital services.

It's all part of our effort to offer homeless veterans the help they need and deserve.



Gerald at the door to our Veteran's Resource Center.



A child at our Adams St. Family Campus enjoying ice cream on a warm day.

It's Spring Time! Our Current Needs List:

- Volunteers for our Search & Rescue Van
- Men's underwear and socks
- Diapers of all sizes
- Fresh produce
- 10 new laptops

Our Latest Prayer Requests:

Our strongest weapon in the fight against homelessness is prayer! Thank you for joining us this month as we pray for:

- Our veterans who will be mourning this Memorial Day.
- Families who are searching for their homeless loved ones.
- Encouragement for our case managers and other staff.
- All our generous donors and volunteers that keep this ministry going.

To join our Prayer Team and receive updates email info@TRM.org!

Rescue Mission
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Help Us Heal our Wounded Warriors!

VERSE OF THE MONTH

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4