

A Message From Mike

Transforming a Past - Building a Future

Matthew's story is shocking, but it's all too common in the people we help every day

Homelessness starts as a kid. It starts when youth are ignored, abused, traumatized . . . or have been homeless themselves.

That's why recovery is such a difficult process. It's why we help each of our guests dig into the roots of their problems and help address the past that imprisons them.

Only then can they use new tools to start building a new and bright future.

You've read about Matthew's painful past – a past that left him broken, addicted and homeless.

I hope you'll join us next month to read Part Two of his story – it's just as surprising as part one as you'll learn how against all odds Matthew has broken free from that cycle of homelessness

And it all happened because of generous support from people like you.

Thank you for your continued partnership that helps us continue changing lives!

Partnering with you,

Mike

Mike Johnson
Executive Director

YOU CAN PROVIDE VITAL SUMMER CARE



Help Beat the Summer Slump! Every Gift You Make Helps Someone Like Matthew

Homeless people's needs don't go away in the summer. In fact, we're serving more people now than we did in the middle of last winter.

But along with the start of summer, giving to the Mission has dried up.

Without these vital resources, we'll not be able to maintain everything we do to help our homeless neighbors.

Food. Shelter. Recovery. Prevention. Youth Programs.

When you give to the Tacoma Rescue Mission, you're not only helping restore a person's life – you're improving our community as well.

Please make your most generous gift today. Our shortfall is great. But so is the number of people coming to us for help.

Please join me and others in our community to reach out and restore a life.

People like Matthew and hundreds of others need your help!

Go online to TRM.org to give right now!

YOU gift can make a transforming difference in someone's life!

HELP • HOPE • HEALING
THE TACOMA RESCUE MISSION NEWSLETTER

Connect with The Rescue Mission: [myrescuemission](https://www.facebook.com/RescueMissionUS) [f](https://www.facebook.com/RescueMissionUS) [RescueMissionUS](https://www.facebook.com/RescueMissionUS) [t](https://www.facebook.com/RescueMissionUS)

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 today.

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 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.

HELP HOPE HEALING

THE TACOMA RESCUE MISSION NEWSLETTER

Matthew never had a chance. The surprise isn't that Matthew is homeless; The surprise is that he survived, at all!

It began when Matthew was an infant — he was born as a baby with an addiction, cocaine already in his system. By the time he was four he was homeless; his family was living out of cars and in the woods. Despite his mother's mental illness and severe drug habit, the family was eventually able to move into a small, dilapidated place on Hilltop. That's when things got really bad . . .

Continued inside

“It was just me and my brothers on the street. I was 12, my brothers were 13 and 14,”



PLUS: INSIDE -

The Making of a Homeless Man: Matthew's Story - Part One

The Astonishing Facts: Homeless Youth

A Message from Mike: Transforming a Past - Building a Future

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The Making of a Homeless Man.

Cont. from front page

On Hilltop, Matthew was molested by a family “friend” when he was five. His mother felt sorry for him, so she didn’t beat Matthew like she did her other boys. But Matthew shudders with horror when he recalls the day his mom lost control.

“She was mad the dishes weren't done, and then she started throwing dishes, hit my brother with a plate, like a flying saucer, and then she broke this glass, and my brother Nick, she cut his wrist with the broken glass because the dishes weren't done.”

It wasn’t long after that, that his mom made her first attempt at suicide.

Despite constant violence in the family, Matthew remained his mom’s favorite. As a reward, she began smoking methamphetamine with him – **when he was twelve!** He’s been addicted ever since.

Shortly after getting her son hooked on meth, his mother simply abandoned Matthew and his brothers on the street. They drifted to their grandfather’s garage (he wouldn’t let them in his house) and eventually ended up with their father – who himself was a heroin addict.

By the time he was sixteen, he was kicked out again and onto the street for good – neither parent wanted anything to do with him. His father died from heroin related issues in 2006. In 2012, his mother overdosed on heroin and methamphetamine and also died.

To this day, Matthew still suffers from terrible nightmares and panic attacks due to his childhood. Depression and even suicidal thoughts are something he has battled for years. And of course, he has had addiction issues since he was a young boy.

So it’s no surprise that as an adult, Matthew has been in and out of homelessness, struggling to adjust to a normal life.

But then, his life took a 180° turn at twenty-nine years old, when he walked through the Mission’s doors. ***So be sure to read next month’s Help Hope Healing to learn the rest of his story.***

"I started smoking meth with my mom when I was 12. My addiction really just progressed from there."

Matthew in the Hilltop neighborhood, where he was abandoned on the streets at just 12 years old.

Be sure to read Part Two of Matthew’s Story in our July issue of Help Hope Healing!

The Astonishing Facts

The Tremendous Toll on Homeless Youth

- 1.5 million homeless youth in the U.S.
- 87% of homeless youth suffer from PTSD
- 72% have suffered physical or sexual abuse
- 25% of youth exiting foster care become homeless
- 2x homeless youth suffer learning disabilities at twice the incidence of other children

SUMMER of HOPE = Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness

Our SUMMER of HOPE initiative focuses on three critical elements in the fight against homelessness. Food and Shelter for those who have none. Recovery to help people become whole and restored. Youth programs for our homeless children to help prevent a new generation of homeless adults. By injecting your help into one of these three areas, we can break the cycle of homelessness for so many people.

Please join us this summer! To help instantly, go online to trm.org.



VERSE OF THE MONTH

"The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden like a spring whose waters never fail." - Isaiah 58:7



A mother and daughter who recently moved into our Tyler St. Family Campus.

Our June Critical Needs:

- Volunteers for our Search & Rescue Van
- Volunteers for dinnner service
- Volunteers for our reception desk
- Bottled water
- Travel-size hygiene items
- New underwear and socks
- Fresh Produce
- Diapers of all sizes

Call us at 253.383.4493 to learn how you can help!

Our Current Prayer Requests:

- For children who are out of school and in our youth programs.
- That our Tacoma community grows in compassion for our poorest members.
- An increase in revenue to help us make it through the summer.
- Perseverance for the men and women in our programs.
- Families who are waiting for an opening in our shelter.
- Filling empty staff positions.

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

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