



A Message from Duke The Power of YOU

I am truly blessed to be a part of a community that's compassionate and dedicated to making a difference.

This past year I saw our community come together so that our vulnerable neighbors could escape the streets, get crucial resources and rebuild their lives.

Because of your support, more families have been reunited. More people have felt the deep love of Jesus. And more people have overcome addiction and experienced new life.

None of that would have been possible without your gifts, in-kind donations or volunteer hours. Thank you for answering God's call to love your hurting neighbor.

This ministry, the Tacoma Rescue Mission, is your ministry. And I will never underestimate the vital role that community members like you have in it. I pray that you don't either.

As we look forward to 2020, our goal is to help more people and create more pathways out of homelessness. With partners like you standing with us, I know it will happen.

In Christ,

Duke Paulson
Executive Director



You can help someone struggling on the streets right now escape homelessness & rebuild their life.

Help Your Hurting Neighbors

You can help someone like Maria get off the streets today! Your gift provides crucial care and resources that your vulnerable neighbors desperately need to rebuild their lives.

By helping just one individual you are making a lasting impact in your community. And touching countless lives.

"I want people to know that know that the healing of one human spirit can touch so many more people," Maria shares.

Each \$18.71 you give today provides a night of shelter and a day of life-changing care for one of your neighbors in need.

Please give now. Many people are in dangerous situations and simply can't wait any longer.



Show hurting individuals and families that new life is possible by rushing your gift today!

Help change lives today! Give online at: trm.org

HELP. HOPE. HEALING.
THE NEWSLETTER OF **TACOMA** RESCUE MISSION

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

The entire staff of The 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
trm.org |  TacomaMission |  TacomaMission





HELP. HOPE. HEALING.

THE NEWSLETTER OF **TACOMA** RESCUE MISSION | DEC 2019

God Was Always With Me

Maria was lost in a relentless cycle of homelessness, isolation and addiction.

"Night after night, it was the same thing. I had nowhere to lay my head or sit and take care of myself. Maria shares. "A deep sadness set in. I started to feel completely hopeless."

She felt no connection to her former self or her family — she had nothing.

Until one night when she came to the Mission desperate for a meal. As she sat down one of our staff greeted her and shared, *"if you want something better, there's a recovery program and a safe place for you here."*

A seed was planted. Maria couldn't see it yet, but God was leading her to a new life. . .

Continued Inside ➔

"Looking back, God had a hand over me the entire time," - Maria

INSIDE:

- You're Making a Difference
- Changing Lives & Our Community
- Prayers for the New Year
- Help Your Hurting Neighbors

Tacoma Rescue Mission
HELP • HOPE • HEALING

Continued from cover...

God Was Always With Me

But Maria couldn't see a way out yet or even imagine a healthy version of herself.

"I was so angry at God. I saw God working in other people's lives. I didn't think He was working in mine," Maria explains.

However God continued to put positive people in her life that pointed her toward the Mission's women's recovery program.

Maria finally found enough courage to apply for the program. Haunted by fears and with little hope, she went in for an interview.

"I walked into the interview burdened with all my disappointments and failures," Maria shares. *"I didn't think they would accept me. I had been in isolation and negativity for so long."*

Much to Maria's surprise, the recovery program's manager, Brenda, invited her to join!

"I'll never forget Brenda saying, 'I don't see any reason we can't accept you into the program.'"

In that moment everything changed. Years of rejection, self-doubt and hopelessness melted away. Being accepted gave her hope for healing. Hope that she could have a better life.

"I thought this has to be God," Maria shares.

In our recovery program, Maria received crucial counseling, job-training and more. She began realizing this was God's plan all along.

"God knew I would choose life. He had a plan for me. I just didn't know," she says.

Because of the generosity of supporters like you, Maria was able to recieve life-changing help. And live into God's promise.

"Now, I don't live in fear," Maria shares. *"Through everything, God's made me a true warrior and I'm really proud of that. Nothing I do in my life is important now unless it advances the kingdom of Jesus Christ."*

Today, Maria is a proud graduate of our New Life Recovery Program. She has her peer counseling certification and is working in our community helping people in the same situation she was in.

"I would have never imagined my life now. I thought this happiness only existed in heaven," Maria shares. *"On my worst day, I still get to go home to my kids, laugh with my baby and see my teen be successful in her academics. God has blessed me so much."*

Maria's testimony shows how God is making a tangible difference through your generosity and compassion. **Your gifts are changing lives.**

Each \$18.71 you give can help rescue someone like Maria from the streets and begin a new life!



You're Making a Difference

Thanks to compassionate friends like you, over 2,500 men, women and children struggling with homelessness received life-changing care and resources at the Mission this past year.

Over 304,000 much-needed meals were served, 498 people secured new jobs or increased employment and 581 vulnerable neighbors escaped the streets and moved into stable housing.

That's just a few of the accomplishments made possible by the generosity of community members like you.

"Donors provided my housing when I was getting clean, the playground my children played on and the apartment I have now," Maria Shares. *"Please keep giving. it's working. I'm proof that it's working."*

Changing Lives & Our Community

Right now, many people are still struggling on our streets. Your gift today is crucial as together we're called to a higher degree of service for our hurting neighbors. This includes helping vulnerable women who are currently under-served in our community.

Your continued support is vital to help embrace individuals and families at their darkest hour. Let's continue to show men, women and children in dire need that their community is behind them.

"I'm excited to continue serving alongside my community and fill the gaps of need in Pierce County. Homelessness is a community topic. We have an opportunity to come together in partnership. To listen to each other. To see there is hope and work toward a common solution." — Duke Paulson, Executive Director of the Mission.



Prayers for the New Year

As you enter the new year, please remember your neighbors struggling with homelessness.

And join us as we lift up these prayers.



"Please pray that God continues to strengthen my family. That He keeps me on the path He has laid out for me. And that I can be God's hands and feet to those still struggling with homelessness and addiction." — Maria



"I pray that myself and the people in our community still struggling to find housing, will find affordable places to live. I also pray for the total renewal of my life-style. That I be spirit-filled and that God uses me to encourage others in their time of need." — James



"I want to lift up my son. I pray that he has all his needs met and that he's surrounded by good role models and care-takers." — Phil



Verse of the month:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

-Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)