



A Message from Duke

Beloved Daughter

The truth is, every woman who is struggling to survive on the streets is someone's daughter. They're someone's mother. Someone's sister.

And, most importantly, every vulnerable and hurting woman in our community is a beloved child of God.

These daughters, mothers and sisters are in desperate need of care and refuge. They need our help. And they need it now.

You and I can offer them that.

Because of friends like you, a new women's shelter has begun construction.

But we still need your help to finish this much-needed shelter by April 2020.

Together, we can come alongside these women at their darkest hour of need, and make a lasting impact in our community.

Let's make a difference for our vulnerable sisters.

In Christ,

Duke Paulson
Executive Director



Help hurting women in our community escape the dangerous streets by helping finish an urgently needed shelter.

Build a Safe Haven for Vulnerable Women

Tonight, hundreds of women will be on the streets due to lack of shelter space in the South Sound. Frantically wondering, "How am I going to survive the night?"

You can change that.

Your gift today will help finish a women's shelter so it can open in April 2020.

Timing is critical. Both for women in need and the difference you can make.

A generous donor has offered to match every dollar friends like you give by March 15, up to a total of \$50,000.

Give today to DOUBLE your impact!

Be a crucial part of making this new shelter a reality!

Your gift today will help save and change lives for years to come. Every gift matters.

Help build a shelter for vulnerable women at trm.org

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

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
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HELP. **HOPE.** HEALING.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE **TACOMA** RESCUE MISSION | FEB 2020

Just to Survive. . .

Cheryl had no place to go.

"A lot of shelters required you to be married or have kids with you," Cheryl explains. "I didn't qualify or there wasn't room for me. I couldn't find a way to get off the streets."

She was left to choose between two evils: being alone on the streets or accepting help from a stranger.

Accepting help came with horrible compromises. **Just to have a warm place to rest, she would be expected to trade sexual favors. And refusal wasn't an option.**

"If you don't do anything for them, they won't help you or they'll hurt you," she explains. "But being alone and on the streets is even scarier."

Being alone made Cheryl an easy target. Her only hope for survival was to constantly be on the move.

"I had to keep walking all night just to stay safe," she shares.

It was a lose-lose situation. . .

Continued Inside ➔

"Honestly, a lot of women don't make it. They just disappear." — Cheryl

INSIDE:

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- Build a Safe Haven for Vulnerable Women

**Name and photo changed to protect privacy*

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Just to Survive . . .

. . . Either choice made Cheryl vulnerable.

She was plagued by constant fear. Fear of being attacked, raped or worse.

Like when a man offered Cheryl a seemingly harmless ride to the nearest bus station.

“Out of the blue, he punches me in the face,” she recalls. “He grabs me by the throat and says, ‘you’re going to do what I want.’ I thought I was going to die.”

No woman should experience that.

Only when Cheryl was accepted into the Mission's New Life Recovery Program, was she able to escape the dangerous streets.

Your support made it possible for her to find life-changing help, safety and healing.

You helped save her life.

But Cheryl, to this day, has to live with the devastating trauma from her time living on the streets. Pain and hurt she could have avoided if there was shelter for her.

"If there was a single women's shelter available back when I needed it . . . It would've saved a lot of bad things from happening to me," Cheryl emotionally explains.

Tonight, hundreds of vulnerable women will be experiencing the same trauma.

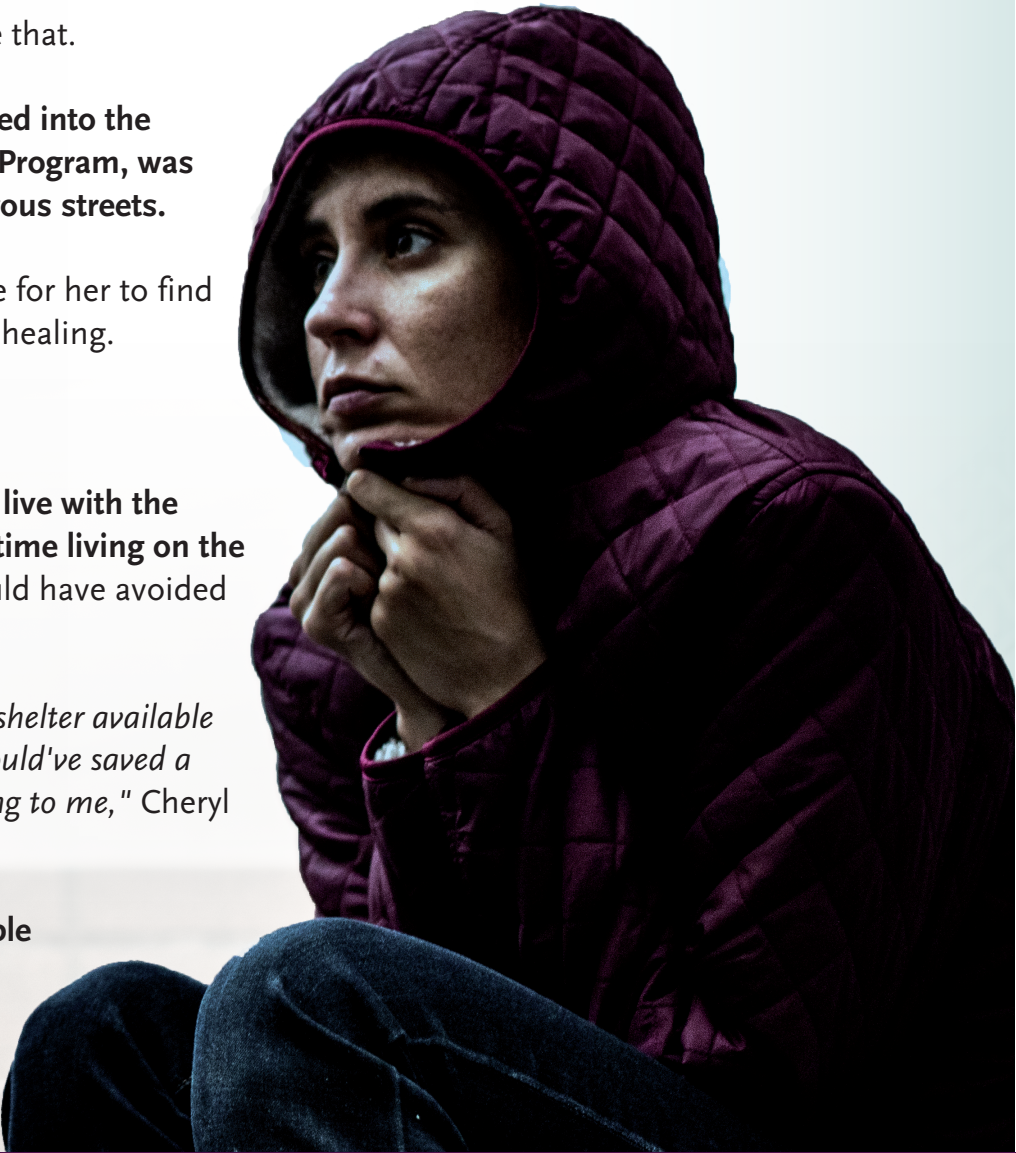
There simply is not enough shelter space available in the South Sound.

You can help change that.

A new women’s shelter is currently being built at the Mission. A safe haven that we cannot finish without your help.

Your gift today will help finish this urgently needed shelter and help women who have nowhere to go.

You can help them escape the streets and begin rebuilding their lives.



If I had somewhere to go . . .

As Cheryl explained in her story, she could have been saved from terrible hurt, pain and trauma that she experienced on the streets. If only there had been a safe place for her to go.

Many more women share her story. Like Erica . . .



"A shelter would've meant getting out of my situation. Not staying with dangerous people or having to do things I wouldn't normally do just to get by," Erica shares.

You can help change that narrative. **Help build a safe shelter so that vulnerable women in our community can escape the terror of life on the streets.**

Help Women Go from Merely Surviving to Thriving

"These women are in survival mode. They can't even think about thriving, doing or being anything, because they're just trying to survive day to day." — Brenda, Mission Employee

Thanks to the City of Tacoma and caring supporters, construction has begun on a new women's shelter at the Mission.

But we need your help to finish it by April 2020. Be an essential part of ensuring vulnerable women are embraced at their darkest hour of need.

“I had no one on my side. It’s terrifying. You feel like you’ve lost everything. You’ve lost all hope,” Stefanie shares.

Help build a place of hope, transformation and restoration. Where hurting women like Cheryl, Erica and Stefanie can receive crucial resources and care to help them go from merely surviving to thriving.



Provide Basic Essentials for Women in Need

When you are struggling to survive on the streets, getting basic essentials can make a life-changing difference.

You can help vulnerable women in our community right now.

While the new women's shelter is being built, **help care for women in need by providing the following crucial items:**

- Feminine hygiene products
- Undergarments (*bras & underwear*)
- Deodorant
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Hairbrushes
- Pajamas
- Socks
- Cosmetics (*These can help women feel more confident, especially when getting ready for job interviews.*)



Please drop off all donations at:
1321 Center St., Tacoma, WA 98409

Host a Drive

Hosting a drive at your business, school or church is a great way to collect more of these essential items while getting your community involved!

To host a drive visit trm.org/Drives or call 253.383.4493.

Verse of the month:

“You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day.”
-Psalm 91:5 (NIV)