



A Message from Duke . . .

The Good Shepherd

Weeks ago, I had the humbling experience of helping assign beds to guests at our men's shelter for the night.

The men staying with us were waiting for me to speak. I began by updating them about changes we had to make due to COVID-19. They asked great questions and then thanked me for sharing the information personally with them.

Answering questions and hearing what was on their hearts gave me a new perspective of how this virus affects us all. I was also reminded that, as Psalm 23 says, we have a Good Shepherd who seeks us out and cares for each of us whatever our station in life.

Despite the many changes and challenges we are facing, I take comfort in knowing these troubled times will pass, God's love will never fail us and friends like you continue to share God's love in such tangible ways at such a time as this.

In Christ,

Duke Paulson, Executive Director



We've had to adapt how things are done throughout the Mission, often in brand new ways.

This includes how we'll gather to **celebrate changed lives in our community and raise crucial funds to help finish an urgently needed women's shelter at this year's HopeGivers fundraiser.**

**Join us at our first ever
HopeGivers Virtual Event!**

WHEN: Monday, June 1, 2020 — Friday, June 5, 2020

WHERE: trm.org/HopeGivers*

Tune in throughout our week-long event to learn how you can help vulnerable women in our community who have no where else to turn. You can also give a gift today by visiting trm.org/HopeGivers or calling 253.383.4493.

*Visit this webpage to learn more about our HopeGivers Virtual Event.

**RSVP today at
trm.org/HopeGivers**

**Give a COVID-19
response gift today!**



Please make a gift to help provide crucial meals, vital shelter and other essential resources to our neighbors in need!

Help Meet the Critical Needs of Our Most Vulnerable Neighbors.

During this time of crisis, more men, women and children in our community are coming to the Mission in dire need.

These are individuals and families who have the fewest resources to cope with COVID-19 and the drastic changes it has caused.

They have nowhere else to turn. No homes to seek safe shelter in.

Will you help meet the most essential needs of our vulnerable neighbors by sending an emergency relief gift today?

Your support will help provide crucial meals, vital shelter and other essential resources during these uncertain times.

Every gift matters.

We've seen a huge surge in costs as we rapidly adapt to meet an increasing need and adjust to new changes in how we provide critical services and resources. And **we need your help.**

Now, more than ever, we need to stand together to care for those in need. Your gift today will help save lives!

Help our vulnerable neighbors today 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
trm.org | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/TacomaMission) | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/TacomaMission) | [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/TacomaMission)



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TACOMA RESCUE MISSION | MAY 2020

Your Special COVID-19 Update Newsletter:

HELP. HOPE. HEALING.

When Life Suddenly Changes . . .

The COVID-19 crisis left Victor and kids without a place to call home.

Nearly every day, Victor's two children ask him the same questions: "When are we going to move into our apartment?" and "When will this corona thing end?"

Sadly, he can't give them any answers.

"We were supposed to move on March 18th. But the required inspection to move in was canceled due to Corona," he shares.

Now, Victor and his family must adapt as they continue their struggle to escape homelessness and rebuild their lives.

"My kids were psyched! They thought we were going to move into an apartment," Victor explains. "They said, 'Dad, we're finally going to be able to be a family!'"

"And now all of a sudden, it's all shut down. As a dad just trying to do the best for your kids, do you know how bad that feels?" . . .

Continued Inside ➔

"I'm trying to do whatever I can to give my boys what they deserve, to provide for them." – Victor

INSIDE:

- When Life Suddenly Changes
- Responding with Care to COVID-19
- Standing Together
- Help Meet the Needs of Our Vulnerable Neighbors



When Life Suddenly Changes . . .

When Victor’s ex-wife died last year, he fought to prove that his disability should not prevent him from getting custody of his kids.

“Just because I’m blind doesn’t mean that I can’t do the same things. I just do it totally in a different way,” he shares.

Victor was finally awarded custody of his children. But, since he was living with his parents who had failing health, Victor needed to find somewhere else to stay.

Without a place to live, Victor and his kids sought shelter and help at Mission. He found an affordable apartment with the critical help of his case manager soon after.

His children were by his side and they had a place to soon call home. Finally, everything was looking up!

But then the coronavirus hit. Now, everything is at a stand still and they don’t know when they’ll be able to move in to their new place.

While stuck in limbo, Victor is just trying to be the best dad he can be.

He shares that on many days he holds back tears, dissapointed that he can’t give his sons a real home.

But, he’s done everything he can for now.

“My kids are just waiting for this all to end so we can move into the apartment and be a family.”

Verse of the month:
“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.” — Matthew 25:35 (NIV)

In the meantime, friends like you are helping to provide meals, shelter and essential care for Victor and children.

While they are frustrated, and tired of being stuck inside, they are thankful for the Mission and caring partners like you.

Victor shares that, despite their circumstances, “everyone at the Mission has been awesome. It’s a great place to get on your feet and to get yourself going. They’re just wonderful here.”

Your gift today, of any amount, will help provide crucial meals, vital shelter and critical services to someone like Victor and his kids.*

*Story written April 20, 2020

Give a COVID-19 response gift today to help a neighbor in dire need!



Responding with Care to COVID-19

No one knew what to expect when the virus hit our community. We were all forced to adapt.

At the Mission, we’ve had to make changes to meet a huge surge in need and costs due to COVID-19. All while adapting how we provide crucial services to help ensure the safety of our guests, volunteers and staff.



Food is now served as individual “to-go” meals instead of cafeteria style at our family and men’s shelters. This helps encourage social distancing.

The dining hall at our downtown campus has been temporarily converted into sleeping space to help meet an increased need and help ensure social distancing.



Guests now recieve crucial services virtually such as case management, counseling, adult education and career navigation.

In addition, we are renting handwashing stations, using personal protective gear, bussing higher-risk men’s shelter guests to an offsite sleeping space each night and more!

Even with the unprecedented changes, we remain committed to sharing God’s love and serving those in dire need. Now is the time to stand together. And alongside our vulnerable neighbors.



STANDING TOGETHER.

Generous community members like you are making a difference in the lives of our hurting and hungry neighbors during this uncertain time.



Thank you to the many businesses, churches, individuals and more who’ve come alongside the most vulnerable individuals and families in our community at such a time as this.

Even while staying safe at home, friends like you have found creative ways to still make a difference for those in need.

Making sandwiches to help feed our hungry neighbors, sewing masks to help protect everyone at the Mission and so much more!

Your donations make a big difference in the lives of men, women and children experiencing homelessness during this pandemic.



Only together, can we make it through this difficult time.

And that means we need your help!

Your support today will help the vulnerable men, women and children in our community who have the least resources to cope with COVID-19.

Explore the many ways you can help and learn more about the Mission’s continued response to COVID-19 by visiting trm.org/Covid19Update.

You are helping to save lives and change lives!

