



## A Message from Duke

### Hope Starts Here.

Every person who comes to the Mission has a unique story and struggles.

Many of the hurting individuals and families who come to us have nowhere else to turn. They are exhausted, alone and without hope.

But thanks to compassionate partners like you, hope is restored and lives are transformed here at the Mission.

Hope often starts with a hot meal or a night of safe shelter. But it doesn't stop there.

We build relationships with our guests so we can get to the root of their barriers and provide personalized care to help them rebuild their lives.

The only way we can offer crucial care and life-changing services is because of generous community members like you.

Thank you for coming alongside our vulnerable neighbors. And for making the Mission a place where hope can begin and God's love is shared.

In Christ,

Duke Paulson, Executive Director



Every \$19.91 you give will help provide a night of vital shelter and a day of crucial meals and care for a hurting neighbor.

## When Life Falls Apart, You Can Make a Difference

**Think of the person who was there when you needed help the most.** The one who helped you when you had nowhere else to turn.

We all need those people at some point. **God uses them to show us His love and to give us hope in the midst of struggle.**

Our vulnerable neighbors need someone to be there for them right now.

**You can offer crucial help and vital hope to someone in dire need.**

**Will you make a gift today to provide essential shelter, crucial meals and life-changing resources** to an individual or family who's desperate to get back on their feet?

You can show a hurting neighbor that they are not alone. And help transform their life.

**Each \$19.91 you give provides a night of shelter and a day of meals and care for one person.**

**Every gift makes a difference!**

*Help change a life today. Give now at [trm.org](https://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 | JULY 2020

## "I Never Thought It Would Happen to Me"

**When Franklin's\* landlord gave him 60 days to find a new home, he didn't worry.**

*"I didn't see that there would be a problem," he explains. "I'm a 100% percent disabled veteran, so I receive steady disability compensation monthly."*

**Franklin assumed he and his family could easily find a house** similar to the one they'd rented for five years.

**But that wasn't the case.**

*"The housing market is unbelievable. We couldn't find any comparable, affordable and safe housing in time," Franklin explains.*

*"We were forced out on the streets. I spent over 20 years in the United States Army. I never dreamed this would ever happen to me, I thought that there was no way it could."*

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*"Homelessness can happen to anyone.' It's not just a phrase. It's a reality. It happened to me."*  
— Franklin

\* Name and photo changed to protect guest privacy

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# "I Never Thought It Would Happen to Me"

Franklin and his family stayed in hotels until that got too expensive. **Then they were forced to live out of their car.**

Imagine night after night sleeping in your car with your wife and kids. Frightened and worried. No end in sight.

**Franklin desperately searched for housing, not knowing where to go.** He had never needed this kind of help before.

*"It just seemed like there was no light at the end of the tunnel,"* Franklin shares.

**After struggling for more than 10 months, they finally found help at the Mission.**

*"Prior to coming here, we were in crisis everyday. When we came to the Mission, that crisis was relieved. We finally had a roof over our heads,"* Franklin explains.

**With a safe, stable place to stay and case managers to help, Franklin was able to get connected to crucial veteran's resources that helped him find affordable housing.**

*"It wasn't until we got to the Mission's family shelter, that we were able to connect with the right people,"* Franklin explains.

He and his family recently moved into a military apartment complex. They are thankful to be settling into their new home with a restored hope for the future.

Without the support of friends like you, Franklin and his family would likely still be struggling on the streets.

*"My wife has a calmness that she didn't have before coming to the Mission. It's given my children comfort that they didn't have. And it's allowed me to focus on helping my family,"* Franklin gratefully shares.

**Your compassionate and generous gifts change lives!**

*"What you've done for us has been a lifesaver. You don't know how many lives you've touched or how many lives that will be touched by the people you've helped."*

*Each \$19.91 you give will provide a night of shelter and a day of crucial meals and care for someone in dire need.*



## Homelessness Can Happen to Anyone.

At the Mission, stories like Franklin's are all too common. Individuals and families finding themselves in circumstances — like experiencing homelessness — that they never thought could happen to them. Individuals like Josh and Jessica\* . . .



**Josh had a stable and thriving career as a nurse for years. But when he moved to Tacoma, he struggled to find a new job.** Unable to afford rent on top of child support payments, he lost his apartment.

The Mission is helping him get back on his feet. Josh is eager to join his nursing colleagues in the fight against COVID-19.



**Jessica lost the ability to move one of her legs because of a medical condition and wasn't able to work.** With no income, her savings dried up and she was evicted from her apartment.

She and her son were forced to live out of their car until they found life-changing help at the Mission.

*"There's no cookie cutter type of person that we work with here at the Mission. Homelessness doesn't discriminate. It can happen to anybody, regardless of your socioeconomic status, race, gender, religion. It doesn't matter." — David, Family Shelter Case Manager*

## Help Your Hurting Neighbors Rebuild Their Lives.

Thanks to the generosity of compassionate friends like you, Franklin, Josh and Jessica recieved the life-changing services and resources they needed to get back on their feet.

But there are still men, women and children struggling on the streets in our community. Desperate for hope and a helping hand. They need your help.

*"There are so many families out there hurting. And with your help, they can relieve that hurt. They can relieve that anxiety. And relieve that sense of hopelessness."* — Franklin

\* Name and photo changed to protect guest privacy

## COVID-19 Update

Throughout the pandemic, we've continued to provide crucial help to men, women and children who have the fewest resources to cope with COVID-19.

Due to closures and job losses, even more individuals and families are coming to the Mission for help.

**To help ensure the health of our guests, volunteers and staff, we've continued to adapt how we provide life-changing services and resources.** This includes:

- Serving all meals in a to-go format instead of cafeteria style.
- Setting up handwashing and sanitizing stations throughout the Mission.
- Opening a temporary overnight men's shelter at Bellarmine High School.
- Increasing cleaning frequency to hourly instead of twice a day.
- Monitoring the temperatures of guests, volunteers and staff daily with non-contact thermometers.

All of the above have resulted in increased and unexpected costs. **Your continued support helps to ensure that our vulnerable neighbors receive the vital care and resources they so desperately need.**

**Visit [trm.org/covid19update](https://trm.org/covid19update) to learn more and explore ways you can help.**



### Verse of the month:

*" . . . let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."*  
— 1 John 3:18 (NIV)

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