



A Message from Duke

Creating Opportunity

Many children who are experiencing homelessness don't have the opportunity to dream about their future.

They're weighed down by the stress and trauma of their circumstances. Feeling hopeless as they struggle to stay on top of school work. Isolated from their peers.

But, because of compassionate friends like you, vulnerable children are able to hope again. They're able to get the support they desperately need to thrive. And focus on just being kids.

The Mission's Youth Program allows them to experience things that they otherwise wouldn't – like extracurricular educational activities, field trips to the beach, hiking, visiting college fairs, or exploring museums.

The kids are able to see what *could be*, rather than feel trapped in *what is*.

The Youth Program gives children in need the opportunity to dream about a better future. And the help they need to achieve those dreams. I pray you'll keep it going!

In Christ,

Duke Paulson, Executive Director



Your gift today will help a child who's experiencing homelessness and hurt get the life-changing support they need.

Give a Child in Need the Opportunity to Thrive!

Many kids experiencing homelessness don't know how to process the trauma of it.

They are afraid to open up to their peers, miss school and quickly fall behind, only continuing the cycle of poverty and homelessness for generations.

But you can change that!

When you give a gift today, you'll provide life-changing academic support, mentoring, and counseling to a hurting child who is staying at the Mission with their family.

"I hope community members continue to support the Youth Program. The families definitely need it. The kids need a safe, supportive place to go," Cassandra, our Youth Program manager, shares.

You can give a hurting child the opportunity to focus on school. Dream about the future. And discover there's more to life than just surviving.

When you support the Youth Program, you'll be giving kids like Teihauna the resources and space to truly thrive!

Help change a child's life today. Give now at trm.org.

HELP. HOPE. HEALING.

Exceptional Kid. Heartbreaking Situation.

By age 12, Teihauna was already well aware of what trauma and hardship looks like.

She was experiencing homelessness with her family. Battling a rare, debilitating muscular disease. And recovering from almost losing her dad to a violent assault.

Teihauna is the oldest of five kids. Like many families in the South Sound, her parents were having a hard time making ends meet.

Their lives were turned upside down when Teihauna's father was stabbed in the heart while working as a hotel security guard. By God's grace, he survived.

"He died for 45 minutes. He was supposed to be brain dead, but he's not. He's here. It's amazing he's here," Teihauna shares gratefully.

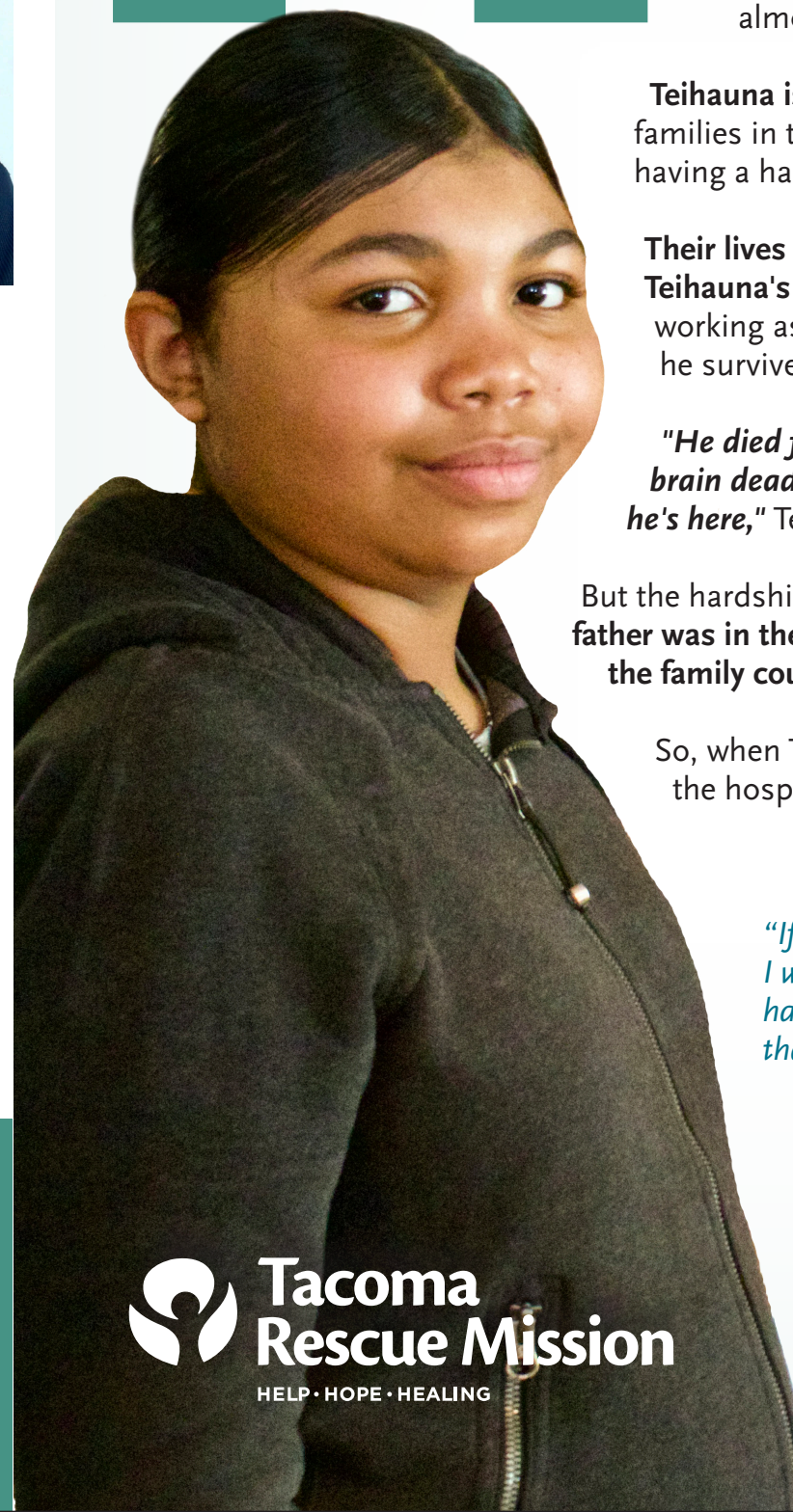
But the hardships weren't over. **Because Teihauna's father was in the hospital for so long, unable to work, the family couldn't afford their rent.**

So, when Teihauna's father was discharged from the hospital . . .

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"If the Mission's Youth Program didn't exist, I would've been mad all the time. I wouldn't have been able to get a break from everything that was going on or focus on my homework."

– Teihauna



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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Exceptional Kid. Heartbreaking Situation.

. . . the family didn't have anywhere to go. They were forced to live out of their car.

"Not having any space was the hardest. I remember one day I woke up on the floor of our van and I didn't even know where I was," Teihauna shares. "We'd just go to the park to brush our teeth and stuff."

Fortunately, someone told them about the Tacoma Rescue Mission's family shelter.

Thanks to the support of generous partners like you, Teihauna's family was able to find shelter at the Mission until they could get back on their feet.

Teihauna got connected to the Youth Program within the first week she was here, and she loved it!

In spite of the trauma she and her family have been through, Teihauna is thriving.

The program has helped her stay dedicated to her school work. And continue pursuing her dreams of being a Veterinarian.

"The youth program is actually really cool because you have a quiet space to do your homework," she says.

"I get space from everything that's going on so I can stay on target and focus. If I don't get good grades, I'm not going to get to be a veterinarian," Teihauna says, already looking ahead to a bright future.

She wouldn't be able to do that if it weren't for friends like you supporting the Mission's Youth Program.

Everyone in Teihauna's family is grateful for all the support and help they've received thanks to friends like you, but Teihauna is especially thankful for the hope, encouragement and safe space the Youth Program has given her.

"For every kid, it's a hard situation," Teihauna says about experiencing homelessness

"I think it's just very thoughtful of the people that are giving to keep the Youth Program going. Because kids want to have fun and it's fun here. Kids also need to learn. You can learn here as well and get help if you need it."

You can give another child like Teihauna the opportunity to succeed in school and in life.

Will you give a life-changing gift today?

Your gift today will provide life-changing support to a hurting child through one-on-one mentoring, tutoring, and more!



Change Starts Here

"This is where change starts for youth at the Mission," Cassandra, our Youth Program manager, shares. "The Youth Program provides a safe space for the kids to grow and be emotionally supported. They need that to move forward and not feel the stress of where they're at."

Because of the generosity of friends like you, the Youth Program can meet vulnerable kids right where they are. No matter their age, circumstances, or education level. Each child gets the support, tutoring, mentoring, and more that they need to thrive.

"In our small setting, we work with the children one-on-one. Helping make sure that they are successful in school and successful in life," Cassandra continues.

"I like the program because we get to play games. I can get homework help and get to do so many different activities that I've never done before."
- Ares, age 9

Open a World of Possibilities for a Child in Need

A big part of opening up possibilities for kids is giving them the opportunity to try new things and have new experiences.

For Cameron, a former Youth Program participant, having access to extracurricular science activities sparked a dream to pursue engineering. For another child, a field trip to the Museum of Pop Culture may inspire a passion for music or film they wouldn't have realized otherwise.

Thanks to your support, vulnerable children are getting out of their element. They're being exposed to new experiences that'll open a whole new world for them.

"It lets the kids know that they don't have to be confined to the circumstances they're in. It gives them hope. It encourages them to want better for their future," Cassandra passionately shares.

More activities are already planned for this summer. Including museum visits, bowling, college fairs, hiking trips, and more!



Become a High Impact Volunteer

We're looking for dedicated volunteers who are committed to building relationships and changing lives by coming alongside children in need on a regular, consistent basis.

For young kids and teens who are facing homelessness and instability, many times all they need is someone to just be there. Someone who they can count on to show up again and again.

You can be that person!

As a High Impact volunteer, you'll work one-on-one with children staying at the Mission to provide tutoring, mentoring, and other vital support.

You can play a pivotal role in the life of a child who's homeless and hurting.

Sign-up to be a High Impact Volunteer at trm.org/HighImpact or call 253-383-4493



Verse of the Month

"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'" — Matthew 19:14 (NIV)

Help a child experiencing homelessness and hurt step into a better future. It starts with your compassionate gift today!