



## A Message from Duke . . .

### Yes. It's Personal.

In spite of what many people believe, there is no stereotype of what homelessness looks like. It's unique to every individual.

I've met people in their early teens experiencing homelessness. Moms who are raising kids in the community. Dads who held down jobs of significance in the community who are now struggling. I've seen grandparents and senior citizens come through the shelter.

Because there's not just one way that homelessness can happen, there's not just one way to overcome it. That's why your support is so incredibly valuable.

It is only because of your generosity that the Mission is able to offer personalized, holistic care to each individual who comes to us. That personalized care makes the difference between a hand out and a hand up that helps a person change their life for good.

You make it possible for us to care for our neighbors in need with the love and dignity we all deserve. You make it possible for barriers to be removed and help men, women and children step into better futures!

In Christ,

Duke Paulson, Executive Director

Tacoma Rescue Mission's  
**HOPEGIVERS**  
2021 VIRTUAL EVENT

Over \$140,000 raised,  
thanks to YOU!

## A Heartfelt Thank You

Thanks to compassionate friends like you, over \$140,000 was raised at this year's virtual HopeGivers fundraiser.

Because of your generosity, individuals and families in dire need will have the opportunity to receive life-changing care. To go from merely surviving to truly thriving.

**Lives are already changing!** Thank you for making a lasting difference in our community.

A special thank you to our Transformation Level Sponsors. Your partnership is helping to transform and restore lives!



**The Carino Family**

If you missed the powerful stories shared during the fundraiser, you can still watch them at [trm.org/HopeGivers](https://trm.org/HopeGivers).



Every \$19.91 you give will provide life-changing resources to a neighbor who's facing the unexpected - homelessness.

## Provide Urgent Care This Summer. Help Change a Life.

Teranejah has a message for everyone in our community: *"If you can get out there and help, please get out there and help,"* she says. *"Then everybody wins."*

She's right.

**When our neighbors overcome homelessness, experience hope and step into lasting stability, everyone wins.**

It starts with your generous support today. Each \$19.91 provides a day of life-changing care for someone in dire need.

*To start changing lives today, give now at [trm.org](https://trm.org)!*

Your gift of any amount will meet someone in desperate need with the exact help they need, right when they need it most.

For many vulnerable individuals and families, help is urgently needed this summer.

Your gift can do so much more than change lives. You can help change our entire community.

Each \$19.91 you give will provide a day of crucial meals, vital shelter and essential care for a neighbor who's desperate for a better future.

## 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](https://trm.org) | [f](https://www.facebook.com/TacomaMission) TacomaMission | [i](https://www.instagram.com/TacomaMission) TacomaMission



HELP. HOPE. HEALING.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TACOMA RESCUE MISSION | JULY 2021

## When the Unexpected Happens . . .

Living in the North End of Tacoma and working an office job in Gig Harbor, **homelessness was the farthest thing from Teranejah's mind.**

**She was always able to provide for herself and her 3-year-old daughter.** But as a single mom, she always found herself out of money by the end of the month.

So, Teranejah decided to go back to school in order to move ahead in her career and in life. But when she told her boss her plans, **her job let her go, suddenly.**

On top of losing her job, **her landlords decided to renovate their home and her lease wasn't extended.**

*"I couldn't get into a new place. Everybody wanted two or three times the rent upfront. It wasn't possible."*

Teranejah says with frustration.

**Now, with no housing and no job, Teranejah and her little girl were faced with the unimaginable – homelessness . . .**

Continued Inside ➤

*"Before my whole situation, I would've said, 'I'll never experience homelessness.' But it can happen to any of us. And if you keep investing in resources to help like the one's at the Mission, then they'll be here for a family member, a friend or you to use when you need it."*

– Teranejah

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# When the Unexpected Happens . . .

Teranejah and her daughter were forced to seek refuge in their car.

*“I remember thinking, if someone could just take my daughter in and leave me out there, it would be ok. I never wanted her to experience anything like that,”* Teranejah says, remembering how desperate she felt.

*“You don’t ever see yourself being in that situation when you’re so far up already.”*

Having never experienced homelessness before, she didn’t know where to go for help.

Night after night of sleeping in a cramped car with her little girl, Teranejah was losing hope.

Thankfully, she found out about the family shelter at the Tacoma Rescue Mission.

*“It meant so much to be at the Mission in the family shelter. To just know where we were going to sleep each night and eat. It felt stable.”* Teranejah shares gratefully.

*“I didn’t have to wonder, ‘will this be the night that we’re sleeping in the car again? Will this be a night that I’m begging somebody if we can come sleep on their couch?’”*

Thanks to generous friends like you, Teranejah had access to employment, education and housing support.

While at the Mission, she was able to find a new job AND an apartment for her little family.

Plus, Teranejah had the support she needed to go back to school!

She just received her associates degree from Pierce College last month and has already been accepted to Pacific Lutheran University’s School of Social Work.

The traumatic experience of facing homelessness has given Teranejah a deeper desire to help others – and immense gratefulness for friends like you.

*“Where I’m at right now would not be possible at all without the help from the Mission and all the resources that it’s given me,”* she shares.

Today, you have the opportunity to help someone like Teranejah who is struggling to escape the streets and rebuild their life.

Will you help with a life-changing gift?



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

## Homelessness Can Happen to Anyone

Teranejah isn’t the only one who suddenly found herself facing homelessness.

Many of the men, women and children who receive life-changing help from friends like you at the Mission never imagined they’d lose their homes or their jobs. Or that their whole lives would be turned upside down.

Gary’s, Tracie’s and Franklin’s stories below are three examples, among many, of how homelessness can truly happen to anyone.



### Gary

Gary’s mother’s last wish was to die at home. So Gary quit his job to take care of her fulltime at her house. He bathed her and fed her just like she did for him when he was a kid.

When she passed away, he learned his dad had taken out a reverse mortgage. He couldn’t afford the house payments and lost everything. So, he turned to the very place he and his mother had donated to years before – the Tacoma Rescue Mission.

*“To be almost 60 years old and homeless, it didn’t seem real,”* Gary shares. *“Being at the Mission gave me what I needed to get my life together again.”*



### Franklin

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

As a disabled veteran who receives steady disability, he figured finding a new house for his family wouldn’t be an issue.

But with the crazy housing market, Franklin couldn’t find any affordable housing in time. They were forced to the streets until they found the Mission.

*“It wasn’t until we got to the Mission that we were able to connect with the right people and find housing,”* Franklin explains. *“What you’ve done for us has been a lifesaver.”*



### Tracie

When Tracie’s\* husband died unexpectedly, she was left without any significant income to support herself or her two grandchildren.

Tracie lost the house she and her husband had been renting for over 20 years. With no other options, Tracie and the kids lived out of their car. Thankfully, they heard about the Mission. Here, they found refuge and rebuilt their lives.

*“Within two months I had a part-time job and was enrolled in school,”* Tracie shares. *“I pray every day that anyone who needs help can find or be found by the people at the Mission.”*

\*Name & photo changed to protect guest privacy

## The REAL Image of Homelessness

Homelessness is a complex issue with many misconceptions. So, it’s important to know what’s really happening in our community and about our neighbors facing homelessness.

TRUE  
OR  
FALSE

As the cost of rent increases, homelessness increases.

National research shows that an average increase in rent of \$100 per month is associated with an increase in homelessness of between 6% and 32%. King 5 news reported that, in Pierce County, the average monthly rent increased by about \$300 in the past year.

TRUE  
OR  
FALSE

Most individuals and families experiencing homelessness spend the night outside, sleeping in tents.

According to Pierce County Human Services’ 2020 Point in Time report, 17% of people experiencing homelessness stay outside, the rest (83%) are in shelters, transitional housing, or living out of cars.

TRUE  
OR  
FALSE

Drug or alcohol addiction is usually the cause of someone’s homelessness.

According to the same Point in Time report, only 20% of men and women experiencing homelessness are battling substance abuse. Many of those who do began struggling with addiction as a way to stay warm, stay awake, seek safe or dull emotional or physical pain after they became homeless. The most common causes of homelessness include: family crisis, no affordable housing, and domestic violence.

These are just a few of the facts. Stark reminders of the crisis our community is facing.

But it’s not hopeless! You can help make a lasting difference today.

Your support helps people of all walks of life escape homelessness, no matter the cause!

## Verse of the Month

*“You answered me on the day I called. You gave me strength in my soul.” – Psalm 138:3 (NLV)*

Your gift today will provide meals, shelter and essential care tailored to each person’s needs. So they can escape homelessness and rebuild their lives!