



A Message from Duke . . .

It's About Relational Ministry

Search & Rescue is one of the Mission's essential street outreach ministries.

With every blanket, warm pair of socks, hat or package of food brought directly to our neighbors experiencing homelessness, we want them to know they are truly loved and valued. Each made uniquely in God's image.

It's very relational. It's about seeing the beauty and the heartbreak in every person we meet on the streets. It's about meeting their specific and urgent needs. It's about consistently meeting them right where they are at to build trust. With that relational foundation, we've been able to help save and change lives. Even helping some of our hurting neighbors go straight from an encampment to being housed or being reunited with family without setting foot in our shelters.

Thanks to generous supporters like you, God's help, hope and healing is being shared in tangible ways. And that's why I hope you'll send a gift today to keep this vital ministry going. Especially as the weather worsens, putting our hurting neighbors' lives in real danger.

In Christ,

Duke Paulson
Executive Director

Lives are at Stake in the Winter Weather

When you're unsheltered, there's no escaping the cold, damp winter weather. **Right now, your vulnerable neighbors are being exposed to life-threatening risks including . . .**



Frostbite. Your skin freezes when exposed to the cold for too long. This can lead to large blisters, nerve damage and serious infections.



Hypothermia. When your body loses too much heat, hypothermia sets in. Young children, the elderly and those struggling with alcoholism are at greatest risk. If not treated quickly, hypothermia can cause severe health problems or even death. Hypothermia can occur even in cool temperatures (above 40°F) if someone is chilled by the rain or sweat.



Heart Problems. Your heart has to work harder to keep you warm when you're exposed to the cold for a prolonged period of time. This increases your heart rate, blood pressure and risk of heart attack.

"When your body drops to a certain temperature, you can't adapt to the cold anymore. And when you're on the street, you can't escape it either. Your body goes into hypothermia. And you don't have the clothes to keep you warm or dry." – Calvin



Each \$8.04 you give today will help provide urgent help for a neighbor struggling to survive on the cold, wet streets.

You Can Help Rescue a Vulnerable Neighbor

Homelessness, at any time of year, is hard and heartbreaking for our neighbors struggling on the streets, in desperate need.

But, **at this time of year being on the streets isn't just heartbreaking, it's life-threatening** – with the constant damp air, rain and temperatures dipping below freezing.

Lives are at stake!

Each \$8.04 you give can help rescue one of your vulnerable neighbors from the dangerous winter streets.

You can give your life-saving gift quickly and securely at trm.org

The best way to save our neighbors and help them change their lives is by going to them. Your gift today will help make that possible.

Please consider rushing your gift.

It seems to be getting colder – and more dangerous – every night!

Each \$8.04 you give can help rescue someone from the freezing cold wind and relentless rain.

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) | [Twitter](https://www.twitter.com/TacomaMission) | [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/TacomaMission)



HELP. HOPE. HEALING.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TACOMA RESCUE MISSION | JAN 2022

On the Streets in the Dead of Winter

Growing up, Calvin didn't feel like he mattered. Instead of feeling cared for, he experienced hurt.

"My stepfather was an alcoholic. He was on drugs. He was just very mean," Calvin shares.

By the time he was a teenager, the hurt was too much to bear. **The only relief he felt was when he was drunk or high.**

"It took all my pain away," Calvin painfully remembers. *It made me think outside of what was going on with me as a child. So, boom . . . At 16 years old, I was hooked."*

Over the years, Calvin was able to get off drugs, but always kept drinking.

When his neighbors enticed him with drugs again, he fell back into addiction, and he fell hard.

He ended up on the streets, sleeping in a cold, damp tent.

"Being homeless in the dead of winter is really hard. You just can't stay warm. Can't stay dry," Calvin explains.

He needed help. But didn't know where to find it . . .

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"Search & Rescue is so important. They give people hope. They give people warmth and show people love when they need it the most." – Calvin

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On the Streets in the Dead of Winter

One night, our Search & Rescue street ministry team pulled up to where Calvin was camping.

They gave him warm socks, a hat and a blanket.

“I felt so comforted. They did more than give me essentials to keep warm, they made me feel important again. And told me if I needed anything, to call,” Calvin emotionally shares.

That first encounter with our Search & Rescue team planted a seed. Although Calvin wasn’t ready to go with them back to our shelter that night, he felt a renewed sense of hope. That there was a way for him to escape the streets.

A week later, Calvin was finally ready to take steps toward a new life.

So, he threw his backpack over his shoulder and started walking to where Search & Rescue had told him he could find help.

“I walked from Fife all the way to the Tacoma Rescue Mission,” Calvin shares.

He arrived around 2:00 a.m. Our Men’s Shelter staff invited him in, gave him a hot meal and a warm bed to sleep in.

From there, Calvin got connected to our New Life Recovery Program. He’s since gotten sober, has a renewed faith in Jesus, is working on an electrical certification and is loving life.

“I feel like the program has given me a new perspective on life. . . The tools that they give us and show us, tools that we get to utilize every day after this program to live a better life, it’s priceless,” Calvin shares.

Calvin is living a whole new life. He knows where he would be without Search & Rescue and the generous support of friends like you.

“If not for Search & Rescue, I would have gone deeper into my addiction. And further into homelessness,” Calvin says.

“Search & Rescue is essential. There’s people out there that are cold, hungry and walking around with freezing, hurting feet because they can’t rest or change into a dry pair of socks. Search & Rescue delivers the essentials that people on the street need for survival that they aren’t getting from anywhere else.”

Will you help another neighbor like Calvin get the help they desperately need?

Each \$8.04 you give will help rescue one person from the cold, wet streets!



Verse of the Month

“He will have loving-pity on the weak and those in need. He will save the lives of those in need.” – Psalm 72:13 (NIV)

Inside Look: Search & Rescue

Interview with Mario, Search & Rescue Coordinator



We wanted to give you an inside look at the ministry that helped change Calvin’s life and has helped change the lives of so many other neighbors in need.

We sat down with Mario, our Search & Rescue Coordinator, to ask some of the most frequent questions we get from community members like you.

Q: How many nights a week does the Search & Rescue Team go out?

Mario: *“We used to go out three times a week, but we’re up to seven times a week!”*

Q: Why is it important to go out every night?

Mario: *“A lot of reasons, two that I’ll highlight.*

First, we have eight routes that go throughout Pierce County. Going out more often, means we hit those same routes more often. We see people more regularly and that consistency builds trust. We can tell people we’ll be back and a few days later we are. With more interactions, we’re able to more easily follow-up on prayer requests and build stronger relationships.”

Second, on the streets people’s needs change quickly. We might meet someone one week and they’re not ready to come to the Mission. But the next week maybe a storm destroys their tent, leaving them cold and soaked. They need help right away, and might even be ready to come to the Mission and let us help them in additional ways. Going out every night helps make sure we are there when they need it the most.”

Q: Does this ministry really save lives?

Mario: *“Yes. Without a doubt. Just recently, we pulled up at the very moment someone was overdosing. We called the paramedics and got her the help she needed. I know that was all God bringing us to her right when she needed us. The next time we saw her, she said, ‘Thank you guys for being there for me when I died.’ Then she asked if there was room at the Mission for her. We got her into our Women’s Shelter so she could start a new life.*

Another night, it was freezing cold, and we saw a man who had no tent or anything. He was just sleeping on a metal grate which just made him colder. He didn’t want to come to the Mission, so we wrapped him in emergency blankets to make sure he stayed warm. He survived. It’s not exaggerating to say he would’ve died that night if we hadn’t found him.”

You Never Know Who You’ll Reach

A Volunteer’s Perspective

The Search & Rescue team is made up mostly of volunteers. These volunteers see first-hand how your support saves lives – and they are blessed in the process. You never know who you’ll meet, the impact you’ll have on them or the impact they’ll have on you.

As a volunteer, John has not only shared God’s love, he’s felt it.

“One man I met had his head down, his whole body was slumped, he looked like he’d given up and was totally exhausted. He was covered with two months of dirt. When I offered him my hand, some food and looked him in the eye, he seemed a little startled,” John remembers.

“I asked him, ‘Can I sit down here with you?’ He said, ‘Yeah.’ Then he said, ‘You know what? I’m not an animal. I’m a man.’ I said, ‘Of course, even more than that, you are created by God. We all are created by God.’ He was overjoyed at that simple act of compassion,” John shares.

That’s what the Search & Rescue team is all about. It’s about being the hands and feet of Jesus, showing God’s love, building relationships and helping people to see their true value.

To sign-up or learn more about volunteering with Search & Rescue, visit trm.org/Volunteer.

Donate Urgently Needed Items

Will you help save lives by donating some of the most-needed items below?

- Socks & Shoes
- Coats, Sweaters, Rain Jackets & Ponchos
- Hand Warmers
- Blankets (especially wool or fleece)
- Hygiene Items (travel size)
- Wet Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer
- Tents & Sleeping Bags
- Non-Perishable Snacks
- Flashlights & Batteries

Please bring donations to:
425 S Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA 98402



“Everything is critical: socks, shoes, hand warmers. Those items could prevent something like frostbite,” Mario explains. *“You’re essentially providing first-aid.”*

