



A Message from Duke

Trust-Building Care

In the two years since the Women’s Shelter opened, one of the most painful things for me has been recognizing the level of physical abuse that some of these women have gone through while living on the street.

It’s a huge trauma to overcome. Their ability to trust anyone to care for them has been shattered.

That’s why the care friends like you help offer through the Women’s Shelter is so important: showing up, providing vital services, demonstrating God’s love in tangible ways.

That consistency helps trust grow. And once that trust is established, I see women finding healing and beginning to rebuild their lives.

Many of these women will go on to do amazing things – Mary is already dreaming of opening her own program to help more women in our community!

The Women’s Shelter has been a huge blessing. And will continue to be. With friends like you standing with us, how could it not?

In Christ,

Duke Paulson, Executive Director



We can’t change the past. But together, we can equip and empower women in dire need to step into a better future.

Will You Answer the Call?

Help Vulnerable Women Escape the Dangerous Streets!

When God called us to build a refuge for women experiencing homelessness, **friends like you helped build our Women’s Shelter.**

When the city called us to help rescue a pregnant woman sleeping under a bridge, your support made it possible for us to find her and provide her with much-needed care.

When Mary called on us to help her escape the streets, **your generosity is what helped Mary get her life back.**

With your gift today, we’ll be able to answer the call of more vulnerable women who are facing life-threatening dangers on the streets.

Will you help answer the call?

Every \$19.91 you give will provide a night of safe shelter plus a full day of essential, life-changing care for one woman.

Consider rushing your gift – helping a woman get off the dangerous streets before it’s too late.

Help rescue a woman in dire need right now by giving online 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
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HELP. HOPE. HEALING.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TACOMA RESCUE MISSION | FEB 2022

Finally Safe. Finally Free.

Mary is willing to recognize the hard truth of life – her life.

“I was a meth monster at 61 years old,” she shares matter-of-factly.

Mary didn’t want to struggle with addiction. But once it happened, she was hooked.

So hooked that **she ended up experiencing homelessness for 15 years.**

“I wasted a lot of years using. The more I used, the uglier it got. I had never been that chronically homeless before in my life,” Mary emotionally explains. *“I couldn’t get out of it. I tried several times and wasn’t successful.”*

Part of the problem was that until the Women’s Shelter at the Tacoma Rescue Mission opened about two years ago, women like Mary didn’t have many options in Pierce County to get the help they really needed.

She stayed on the streets, facing horrific dangers and situations that no one should have to face.

Continued inside ▶

“Women out there take a lot of mental and physical abuse. The women really need the support the Mission offers. I’ve seen the name calling and women being shoved around. They have to take it or something worse will happen. . . I had my whole life scattered around out there on the street so bad, I didn’t think I was going to make it.” – Mary



INSIDE:

- The Dangers Women Face on the Streets
- Because of You, Lives Have Been Changed
- Trust-Building Care
- Essentials for Women
- Will You Answer the Call?

Finally Safe. Finally Free.

But then, **Mary found out about the Tacoma Rescue Mission's Women's Shelter.**

She grabbed what she could carry and walked until she reached our doors.

“You get to go in there, you get to take a shower, you've got a clean bathroom and you've got a nice little bed to sleep in,” she explains gratefully.

“I've never had so much help in my entire life, the whole time I'd been out there on the street, I've never had more support than this place right here,” Mary continues.

"Three square meals a day, showers, a bed to sleep in. They're there for you. . . I felt so safe."

The support of generous friends like you made all those things possible.

While at our Women's Shelter, Mary got life-changing, Christ-centered mental and emotional support that helped her escape the streets and her addiction.

“If it wasn't for the Women's Shelter and the staff that kept me safe, dry, and emotionally set me on the right track, I wouldn't be here today,” Mary shares. ***"I owe them everything for getting me to where I'm at today."***

Mary has since moved out of the Women's Shelter into stable housing, reconnected with family and is living a whole new life.

"I still think about the Tacoma Rescue Mission everyday and about everyone there who supported me through the hardest time in my life," Mary shares.

Mary isn't entirely sure what's next for her, but because she's seen how terrible it is to experience homelessness as a single woman, she knows she has to do something to help.

“I want to go back to school and help in some way. I'd really like to start a program of my own to support other women who need it,” Mary shares hopefully.

Mary may not be able to offer the support she dreams of providing for other women today, but you can.

Will you help save and change the life of another woman like Mary?

Each \$19.91 you give today will provide a night of safe shelter and a day of care for one woman in need.



The Dangers Women Face on the Street

No matter what gender you are, being on the streets is dangerous. But women – like Mary – tend to face even more dangers than men.

“If someone is on the street, homeless and a female, she is more vulnerable to predators, to someone coming and trying to attack her or try to take her. Women are seen as targets in a way that men usually aren't. Homelessness is a bigger threat to our lives as women,” Lawanda, one of our Women's Shelter staff members, explains.



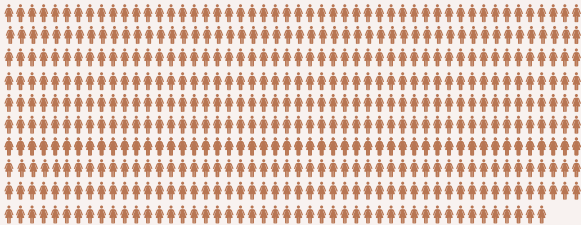
“A lot of the women, as soon as they walk through the doors, I say to them, ‘you're safe.’ And that's when all the tears come, because they've been sleeping scared under a bridge for years,” Lawanda continues emotionally. ***"It's so important to be able to offer individual care and safety. Somewhere to run from violence, to flee from abuse. The Mission offers that.”***

“You hear the women say nobody cares about me. I was just raped or molested up the street. Nobody cares. But we say, we care. We have shelter for you. We have refuge.”

Because of You, Lives Have Been Changed

The first year our Women's Shelter was open, supporters like you made all this possible!

10,789 nights of safe shelter were provided to 497 women in dire need.



30 nights was the average length of stay

This safe haven doubled the shelter beds available to women in Pierce County.

46 women escaped domestic violence situations.

Over 50 vulnerable women successfully transitioned out of the shelter into stable living or permanent housing.

2,600 hours of crucial support was provided to Women's Shelter guests. Including care, services, and resources to identify and overcome each woman's unique barriers.

Essentials for Women

It's common for women experiencing homelessness to come to the Mission with just the clothes on their backs.

That's why we're calling on friends like you to help.

Will you help provide these crucial items?

• Undergarments
(new underwear, bras, sports bras)

• Hairbrushes and Hair Ties

• Deodorant and Bodywash
(new or like new / washed)

• Toothbrushes and Toothpaste

• Pajamas

• Socks

• Women's Tennis Shoes
(new or like new)

• Razors

• Twin-Size Sheets

• Feminine Hygiene Products



Donations can be dropped of at our new Donation Center location: 504 S 30th St, Tacoma, WA 98402

Our Donation Center is open to accept drop-off donations:
• Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
• Saturday, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Verse of the month:

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice.” – Proverbs 31:8-9 (NLT)