



A Message from Duke . . .

I See My Family

My family has a long history of military service that I'm very proud of. There are four generations before me that have all served in the military. Both of my grandfathers served in World War II and one of my uncles died in World War II. My dad served in the Air Force for 35 years.

I think that's why the Veterans' Room is something I'm so passionate about. When I look into the eyes of men like Charles, I see my dad, grandfathers and uncle looking back at me.

Luis (our Senior Director of Operations) and the rest of the team at the Mission – many of whom are veterans themselves – know what these men need and if the Mission can't provide it, they work with the Veterans Administration to find a solution.

Tacoma Rescue Mission's Veterans' Room is one of the best places for veterans experiencing homelessness here in Pierce County. It just is. And it's the gifts from friends like you that will help keep it running.

In Christ,

Duke Paulson
Executive Director

Thank You for Being There!

Charles is just one of the many veterans who have been helped at the Mission thanks to friends like you! Here's what a few others have said about the support partners like you provide:



"I'm 74 years old. I spent nights on a park bench before I came to the Mission. Being able to stay in the vet room, is the difference between night and day. You have so many opportunities to do what you need to do and connect to resources I didn't know about." - James



"My lowest point was realizing I had given all my years and truly my blood, sweat and tears to defend this country, but when I needed help, nobody was there. Thankfully, the Tacoma Rescue Mission gave me a place to stay and soon, I'm moving into an apartment of my own." - Franklin



Each \$26.81 you give today provides meals, shelter and veteran-specific care and services for one veteran.

Help a Veteran Escape Homelessness!

Living in the South Sound, you likely know at least one veteran or current service member.

Imagine they were the one on the street. What if just \$26 could help them escape homelessness and get back on their feet?

It can!

Each \$26.81 you give will provide a day of meals, shelter and veteran-specific care and services for one man.

Veterans are a brotherhood. They share the same honor running through their veins. The same dedication. The same willingness to do whatever it takes.

"These guys volunteered to be the keepers of this country," Luis says. "It's more than okay to take care of them when they need it."

And right now, they need it. **Let's come together to help them! Please respond by July 31.**

You can give a gift today to help our courageous neighbors at trm.org/helpaveteran

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.

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HELP. **HOPE.** HEALING.



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE **TACOMA** RESCUE MISSION | JULY 2022

Saving One Life Could Save Five More

If there's one word that describes Charles, it's sacrificial.

Not only did he serve in the military – willingly risking his life in a field artillery unit of the Army – but he sacrificed again and again for the people in his life that he loved.

When his wife divorced him, he gave her their condo and car. When his mom had a stroke, he went to her side to care for her.

Just when his mom was settled at a care facility and he was coming up to the Northwest for a fishing job, he got dangerously sick himself. His blood pressure spiked. He was at risk of having a stroke at any moment.

He lost his job opportunity. He had no home to go to. He knew he had veterans' benefits, but wasn't sure how to access them.

Desperate to stay off the street, he began searching for shelters.

Continued Inside . . .

"At the Mission, they had the Veterans' Room for me, which was spectacular. It was great to be with other veterans that were in a similar situation –people I can relate to." – Charles

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Nowhere Else to Go

... “I got directions for how to get to the Mission on the bus, and I came here. . . Since I’ve been here, they’ve looked out for me since day one,” Charles shares.

“They connected me with Uriel, the veterans’ counselor. He’s helped me a million and one ways . . . including helping me find a job.”

With a roof over his head, food in his stomach, his health restored, and the support of other veterans and counselors, Charles was able to move forward.

He found a ton of job opportunities and was hired at one that’s a great fit. And the people there helped him get housing right next door to his job!

Plus, has a new-found community of friends and support. A community he wouldn't have without friends like you making the Veterans’ Room possible.

“You get to grow, you get to learn more about other vets,” Charles explains. “We talk to each other about military, about things we did, and about our life, where we come from and so forth. And we always have that military comradery. We always have that respect for each other, and we do things together, as a group.”

That comradery – that brotherhood – is what the military is based on, and it’s exactly what people like Charles will find at the Mission if we can keep this program going.

“Give from your heart. Give whatever you can,” Charles says passionately.

“Your donation is going to help us move on to a regular life, off the street, off drugs and alcohol, off of dependency. Give so that we can get back to being participants in the community . . . We need a hand up. And sometimes, we can't do it for ourselves. We have to rely on others.”

Veterans have done so much for us. Let’s come together and do something for them!



“Without you guys and the Mission, I wouldn't be here. I'd be on the street. I'd be struggling . . . and the worst could've happened.” – Charles

The Importance of a Dedicated Space

Our Veterans' Room is a 10 bed dorm, designed specifically for veterans experiencing homelessness. If you’re ever in the Veterans’ Room you might hear phrases like, “I was on the FOB when the IDF hit, so I radioed the TOC,” “15 minutes prior to 15 minutes prior,” “PCS-ing” and “Civvies.”

And while most people won’t have any idea what they are talking about, the brotherhood of men in that room will understand every word.

“The military is unique. It has its own language. When it comes to helping veterans, the best way to do it is to be as precise and specific as possible. That’s why the Mission created a dedicated Veterans’ Room. Here men who have served can gather together as a brotherhood, speaking the same language and getting the support that is unique to their situation,” Luis, our Senior Director of Operations who served in the Army for 22 years, says.

“For them to be in a space where everyone understands that language, it can open up doors to so many opportunities to move forward, heal and empower each person to step into a new life.”

In addition to having a space set aside just for them, your gifts provide veterans with the specialized support and care they need.

Because of You, Veterans in Need Have Access to . . .

Nourishing Food

Safe, Dedicated Shelter Space

A Specialized Caseworker

Help Navigating Veterans Administration Services

Christ-focused Counseling and Care

Wrap-around Employment Support



New Name, Same Life-Changing Help

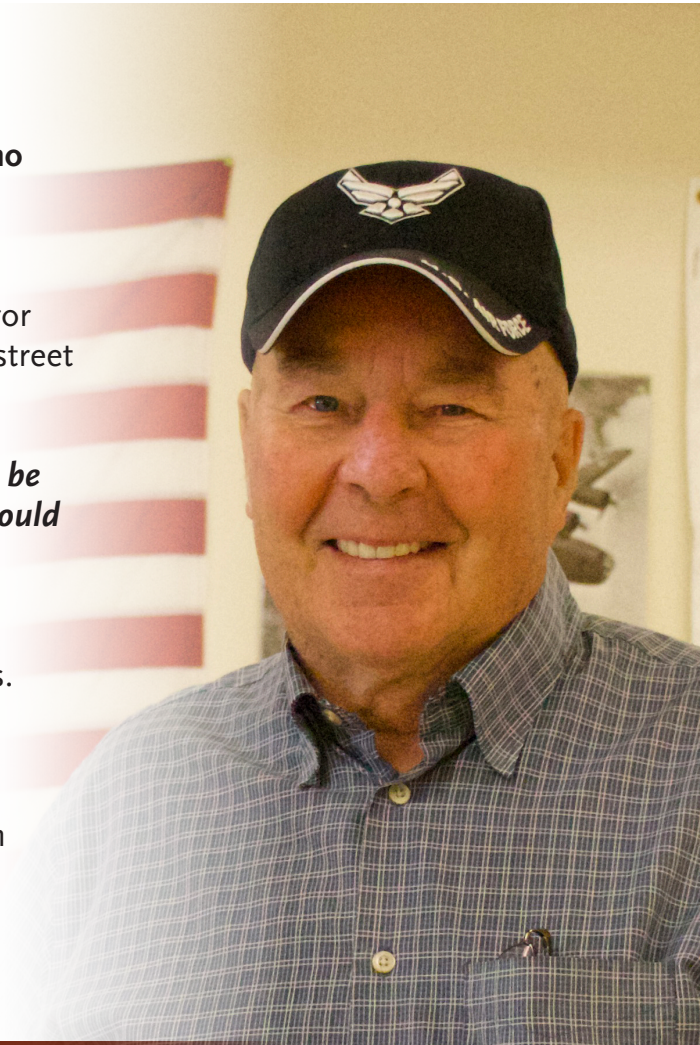
This month, the Veterans’ Room will be officially renamed the “Larry and Tineke Geringer Veterans' Room,” in honor of Larry Geringer and his wife, who are the reason the Veterans Room exists.

Larry served in the Air Force for 26 years. After he retired from the service, he couldn’t shake the horror he felt every time he saw a homeless veteran on a street corner.

“I thought, ‘This is not right. These veterans should be taken care of, and I wonder if there’s a way that I could help make that happen,’” he says.

At the time, Larry was on the Mission's Board of Directors, where he continued to serve for 26 years. He brought his concern to the board, who agreed they wanted to help.

So, the Mission's veterans’ program was created in 2010 and the Veterans’ Room was opened in 2014. With the help of partners like you, it will remain open for years to come.



Our Prayer for Veterans

Lord, we pray for all those who have served our country throug service in the armed forces, for they have made the significant sacrifice by placing their bodies, minds and souls in danger.

May you bring healing and peace to their hearts, and may you always protect and bless them wherever they may be. Please also bless their families, for they have also made great sacrifices.

Thank you, Father, for these brave men and women. Thank you for allowing us to care for them in their time of need. Please use us to show them your love.

Amen.

