



A Message from Duke . . .

A Parent's Heart

I believe that every parent has the same motivation - they are trying to protect their children.

As a dad of four, I do the same thing. And I want to help protect the kids at the Mission, too. Especially because as Lawrence, the Director of the Youth Program, says, *"The kids are usually shell shocked when they get to the family shelter."*

They are shocked. They are hurting. They have suffered.

And while suffering is a part of life, it's not all that life is about! That's why we've have chosen to focus our Youth Programs on letting the kids have fun and encounter things that allow them to dream while still helping them learn, grow and experience the love of Jesus. When all those things come together, we're able to set them up for a future full of hope and success.

Thanks for helping to make all that happen. Thanks for helping to protect innocent kids!

In Christ,

Duke Paulson
Executive Director

Back to School Drive

Help us provide essential items to help vulnerable kids thrive this school year! ➡

Please drop off items to our donation center, located at:
504 S 30 St., Tacoma, WA 98402.

Donation drop-off hours:
Monday-Friday, 9:00 am–5:00 pm,
or Saturday, 10:00 am-2:00 pm.

Call 253.383.4493 for more information.



The food, safe shelter, one-on-one tutoring and loving, Christ-centered support your gift will provide can help a kid like Kimberly thrive and go on to live lives full of joy, meaning and purpose.

Help Vulnerable Children Thrive!

No parent wants their family to experience homelessness and no child deserves it.

But it still happens. And here in the South Sound as inflation climbs, more and more families are ending up on the streets.

It's heartbreaking, but it also means that we have an amazing opportunity! When we come together, we can show these children and families the love of Christ.

Together, we can help them get on to the path to a whole new life!

Will you help by sending a gift? Each \$33.16 you give will help provide essentials and care for one child in our Youth Program.

Your support can help break the cycle of homelessness that many families get trapped in. Show them there's a different way and give them the tools to step into a better future!

Each \$33.16 you give will help provide essential care, services, Christ-centered support and life-changing activities for one vulnerable youth!
Visit trm.org/donate to make a difference today.

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



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TACOMA RESCUE MISSION | JULY 2022

The Powerful Words of a 13-Year-Old

HELP. HOPE. HEALING.

When children and teens first come to the Mission with their families, they are often unsure about what to expect. Often they are fearful and withdrawn. But when they get to hang out with other kids and do things designed for them, they open up and their lives begin to change.

Kimberly*, who is 13, wrote about how the experience was for her. Here are her words:

When we first got the sign-up paper for the Teen Program, I read it and wanted to go because it sounded fun.

But when it was time to go for the first time, I didn't want to come. But I went. I went inside and met new people and we started doing art . . .

Continued Inside . . .

"When I go to the program, I can do fun things and I can carry fun memories from the program to home and to wherever I go."
– Kimberly

INSIDE:

- A Parent's Heart
- Back to School Drive
- What's a Day in the Youth Program Look Like?
- 4 Tips for Talking to your Kids About Homelessness
- Help Vulnerable Youth Thrive!

*Photo changed for privacy



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The Powerful Words of a 13-Year-Old

... I love art, so I loved being there, talking to new people and doing new things.

Going to the program helped me to make friends and to be able to want to talk to people. At school I don't really talk to people, but when I come here it makes me happy and I get to talk to people more and better than before.

The Teen Program also helped me artistically and educationally. It helps me artistically because we do art projects a lot and I get better at drawing and painting.

It helps me educationally because I learn about new things. Interesting things that I wish I knew before.

When new people come to the program, I can give them examples and ideas of what to do here so they get used to it. I wanna give a positive influence. I would wanna get a job to earn money to help my mom with the house, but I don't think I would be able to get a job at 13 so if I can, I would love to keep going to the Teen Program this summer.



Your gift today will make sure the Mission's Youth Program stays open for kids like Kimberly this summer!

Verse of the Month

“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me. . .” – Mark 9:37a (NIV)

What's a Day in the Youth Program Like?

For kids like Kimberly, every day in the Youth Program is full of surprises and fun to keep kids engaged and wanting to come back for more.

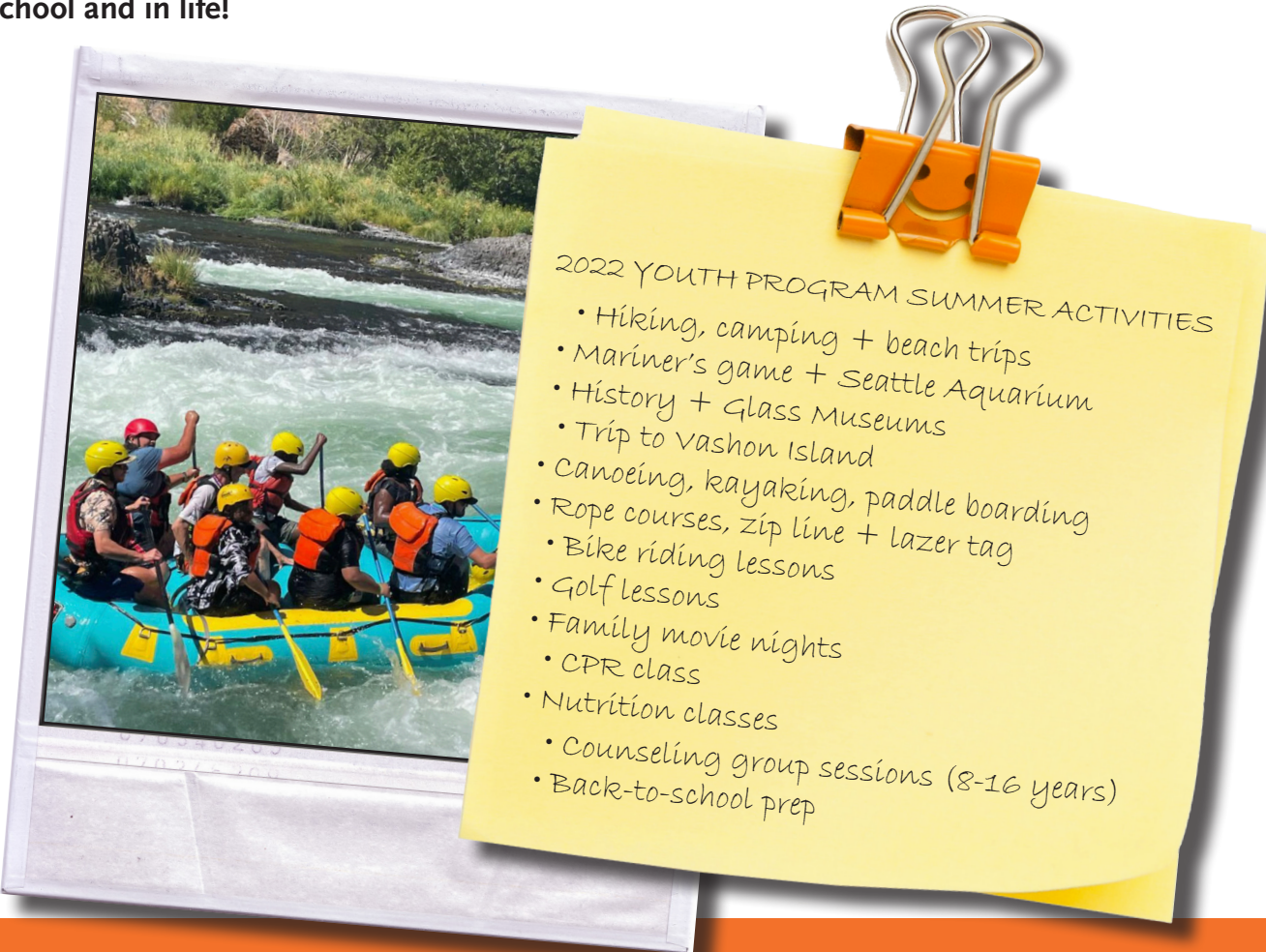
“The kids are usually shell shocked when they get to the family shelter,” Lawrence, the manager of our Teen Program, says. *“They're pulled out of their neighborhoods, have lost their friends. They come here with a negative outlook and they're afraid to come to the program. We try to get their self-esteem built up and offer experiences they might not normally have.”*

During the school year, homework and tutoring are often on the schedule, but we always make time for counseling and activities like art, where kids can learn to express themselves. On weekends, and especially in the summer, we have a variety of field trips to show kids that life can be different than what they've experienced so far.

“Nobody can say that they've taken a step back after being in the youth program,” Lawrence says proudly. *“They have all made positive strides to be better individuals in all aspects of their lives. That makes it all worthwhile right there.”*

“Plus, as staff, we are here to be examples for the kids because they are watching how we act. My example may be the only Bible they ever read, so I have to show them Christ through my actions.”

Your gifts help vulnerable kids have fun, grow, experience the love of Christ and thrive in school and in life!



Because homelessness is so visible in the South Sound, your kids not only see people on the street, they may encounter peers like Kimberly in their classes.

4 Tips for Talking to Kids about Homelessness

1 Remember that actions speak louder than words.

We can get so focused on using the right words that we forget kids pick up on our body language, facial expressions and actions. When you see someone experiencing homelessness, do you... lock the car door? Groan? Smile? Look the other way? Your kids notice all of it.

2 Be straight forward.

When younger kids ask questions about homelessness, their curiosity is genuine and without judgment. Try to respond using the same attitude. If your child asks, “Why is that man sleeping outside?” A straightforward response would be, “Because he doesn't have a home.” Keep your answers short and direct, not adding more unless your child asks.

3 Model empathy.

Help older children and teens understand the complexity of homelessness by telling them how hard it is to get a good night's rest, take a shower or charge your phone if you don't have a home. Remember, your kids may have classmates who are experiencing homelessness, and it's important that they know homelessness doesn't define a person, but it does impact their life every day.

4 Get them involved.

The Mission has a lot of volunteer opportunities for kids – and adults – of all ages. We even have family-oriented opportunities that will allow you and your kids to serve alongside each other. Especially for older tweens and teens, being somewhere where a variety of people are working together to help others – like by serving meals – can be powerful!

Bottom line: Help kids see that often people experiencing homelessness are just like us, they just need a little extra help right now.

