

. . . from my physical pain and mental torment. I was going nowhere quick.

A buddy of mine in the shelter had joined the New Life Program for addiction recovery. He got me connected with the staff in the program. That's when I learned I had another option.

So I followed in my buddies footsteps, got sober, and got myself into the recovery program.

The biggest thing for me was that it was Christ-based. That was huge.

Not only did I get sober, but I started to get the other parts of my life in order. I got off probation after five years. I had my license renewed and reissued.

I finally had time to work on my physical fitness and mental health. I re-connected with my daughters. My wife and I are co-parenting and we are doing really well.

I'm graduating this month from the program. I've been transformed into a better me. It's like shedding the old and walking into a brighter, better environment. Like living life in color for the first time.

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***"It all goes back to the Mission giving me a sanctuary, a place of peace where I could work on myself and build the strength to get back to a place where I'm capable to not only take care of myself, but those close to me."***  
– Dakota

#### Where is he now?

Dakota has enrolled in EMT certification classes, with plans to enter a fire-fighting academy in June. He is looking forward to starting a career that will allow him to support his family while serving our community.

To read more stories like this, visit [trm.org/stories](http://trm.org/stories).



## 3 Ways to Get Involved This Easter



**VOLUNTEER** at our Downtown Campus or Family Shelter prepping and serving meals on Easter or throughout the Easter season. This is a great opportunity for individuals as well as families, friends and other groups!

Visit [trm.org/Volunteer](http://trm.org/Volunteer) to sign-up.



**DONATE** pre-filled Easter baskets and/or plastic Easter eggs for the children staying at our shelter. Toys, books, activity or art kits, candy, and more all great options to fill baskets or eggs.

Email [volunteer@trm.org](mailto:volunteer@trm.org) to learn more.



**GIVE** \$4.11 Easter meals. Every meal you give provides nourishing food and can open the door for our neighbors in need to access other life-changing services and resources.

Visit [trm.org/EasterMeals](http://trm.org/EasterMeals) to give a gift today.

# MISSION MONTHLY

Newsletter of the Tacoma Rescue Mission

## Dakota's Story: Seeing with New Eyes

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- Seeing With New Eyes
- The Forging Paths Community
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# Dakota's Story: Seeing with New Eyes



Back in May of 2021, I lost my house because of COVID. My family and I moved into a rent-to-own trailer. I was always the head of household for my family so I was still working as much as I could to keep up with bills and put some money away.

Then, my wife and I decided to split ways. We weren't happy and we were drinking. I was working all the time so I wasn't there for her and I was depressed, so that made it all worse.

In the middle of our divorce, I had to go to jail for a couple months because of a probation violation from a DUI. Drinking has been a long-standing affliction in my life but I had recently gone overboard.

While I was in jail, my wife put the money for our rent toward other things, and we lost the trailer. So, when I got out, I came back to

nothing. No home, no job yet, no savings. I had nowhere to go.

It kind of transforms you into a different person. Your life becomes all about surviving. Luckily, I had my daughters to motivate me to get my life together.

**"I knew about the Mission, but I didn't think I'd ever end up here one day. And I never expected to become the person I became while homeless." – Dakota**

I got food and sleep at the Mission and worked during the day. One day I got jumped and robbed, got beat up pretty bad. They took all of the money I had been saving since I had to keep it on me.

I started drinking a lot. That's what my life became, just to get away . . .

## Mission Minutes

### The Forging Paths Community

You may have heard about the City of Tacoma's Forging Paths Community (FPC), a new homeless mitigation site at 35th and Pacific with day-to-day operations being provided by the Tacoma Rescue Mission.

FPC was established in the place of a cleared homeless encampment. The City's goal is to provide a safe shelter area that offers the individuals that were living in the encampment and other neighbors experiencing homelessness with services, resources, and care needed to step into stability. So far, the response has been positive – both from guests and the surrounding community. Here is some of what FPC offers!

**"I think the main thing is giving people a safe place and a warm community. To give them more than just you're out there by yourself on the street trying to survive. People here care about you, if you do need something people are here for you. Others living in the community and the staff is here to provide the essential things you need."**  
- Jesse, FPC Manager



-  50 high-quality platform tents, with power and heat.
-  3 case managers on duty daily to help guests identify and overcome barriers keeping them on the streets.
-  1 mobile shower unit with separate men's and women's showers.
-  5 portable bathrooms with hand washing stations.
-  1 shared kitchen unit for guests to prepare their own meals.
-  1 mobile laundry unit available for guest use.
-  24/7 security to ensure the safety of guests and their belongings.