

Having never experienced homelessness, Dennis had no idea how to navigate the resources or even what was available.

Often people like him do end up on the streets but, thankfully, Dennis and Jimmy found our Outreach Team before they had to resort to living in a tent.

We were about to have nowhere to go. No place I called could help.

Some of the numbers I'd been given were no longer in service. Others never called me back.

Then I got ahold of Anna who's a part of the Tacoma Rescue Mission's Outreach Team.

“She said she could help, and I just started sobbing.”

Anna calmed me down and she said, “I’ll call you right back.”

It meant everything that she said she would call back and that she actually did.

I was at my wit's end. All I knew was that I had to take care of Jimmy and I had no idea how I was gonna do it.

We would have been in a tent just like everyone you see out there right now. Anna and the Mission intervened when we needed it, and we really needed it.



Where are they now?

Dennis and Jimmy were able to get into our Family Shelter.

They are saving up to move to Minnesota where Dennis's brother lives and where rent is more affordable. Dennis's brother is going to help them get back on their feet and has a job lined up for Jimmy there, too!

To read more stories like this, visit trm.org/stories.

Create Your Own Outreach Bag

Create some Outreach Bags to keep in your car. Then when you come across someone experiencing homelessness, you can give it to them and bless them.



Make a Lasting Impact!

Become a Monthly Partner! Because each \$12.59 can help rescue an unsheltered neighbor from the dangerous streets, when you sign up for a monthly gift of \$50.36, you can help rescue 4 people every single month!

By coming together, we can help transform and restore the lives of our hurting neighbors throughout the year.

Give now at: trm.org/givemonthly



MISSION MONTHLY

Newsletter of the Tacoma Rescue Mission

JAN 2023

Dennis's Story: Saved from the Streets



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Dennis's Story: Saved from the Streets



I've never been homeless, and my son, Jimmy, is autistic. He's just not cut out for living in a tent.

But without the Mission, that's where we would have ended up.

What happened was my landlord raised the rent and then told us we had 90 days to be out.

I have always paid my rent fully and on time so I kept up payments even when the rent increased.

We had to pay the extra rent for those three months, making it impossible for me to save for our next place.

I rented a van and loaded up all my son's stuff first.

There wasn't room for mine, but I figured I could extend my van rental another day.

The van was already reserved by someone else so I had to turn it in and couldn't get my stuff out.

I lost everything, thousands of dollars in tools and antiques and furniture and everything.

I felt helpless.

"I called every number I could find to try and get help before we ended up in a tent on the street."

Mission Minutes: Transformational Outreach

Did you know that our Outreach Department is comprised of two teams?

Outreach Department

Search & Rescue Team

For our neighbors on the streets, the line between safety and life-threatening danger is thin.

That's why our Search & Rescue team, made up of staff and volunteers hit the streets 7 nights a week in the Search & Rescue Van, distributing much-needed items, facilitating healing relationships, and offering the men and women they meet a ride back to the Mission.

Daytime Outreach Team

Every day our Daytime Outreach Team goes out to our neighbors living on the street to offer mobile case management and re-connect with individuals and families that Search & Rescue met with the night before.

They bring the life-changing resources we offer in our shelters directly to our neighbors in need. Empowering and helping our neighbors overcome barriers, pursue their goals, rebuild their lives and overcome homelessness.

Thanks to the Generosity of Friends like you . . .

3,446

individuals living on the street or in encampments were brought food, essential items and life-changing resources through our Outreach Department this past year.

7

nights a week, our Search & Rescue Team is able to go out and care for our neighbors in need. This is a big increase from just two years ago when we went out 3 nights a week.

2

more outreach vans were added to our fleet, bringing us to a total of 4. This has allowed our team to bring life-changing care and resources directly to more neighbors in more places.

Meet our Outreach Department!

To introduce you all to our amazing Outreach Team, we asked each member to share what they find most meaningful about their job.

"We get to go on a journey with our neighbors, walk along side them and see them taking charge of their lives and overcome barriers to reach and accomplish their goals." – **Dabi, Outreach Specialist**



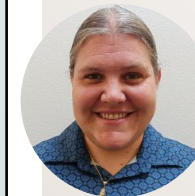
"The most meaningful part of my job is being given the daily opportunity to love people right where they are, the way Christ loves us. I feel most blessed in life when I'm able to bless those in need." – **Anna, Outreach Specialist**



"The most meaningful part of my job is knowing that I am doing the creator's work. That I am being the change that I want to see." – **Madelain, Outreach Specialist**



"The opportunity to give hope to those who are hopeless, as I was at one time. The simple act of being shown loving kindness is rare for those experiencing homelessness, so I focus on showing that." – **Ivy, Outreach Specialist**



"The most meaningful part for me is the connections we get to make with people experiencing homelessness." – **Mario, Search & Rescue Coordinator**



"The most meaningful part of my job is being able to serve God by serving those who are experiencing homelessness and being able to show love as Christ has called us to do." – **Ben, Search & Rescue Coordinator**



"I get to be part of the personal and professional growth of my team members - the most kind, compassionate, trauma-informed individuals who make a difference in the lives of all they meet." – **Davina, Outreach Manager**

