

. . . I used to be fairly judgmental about the homeless population. This has been extraordinarily eye-opening to me.

I feel more empathetic now because I have a better understanding of some of the challenges they face every day.

It's an opportunity, even though it may be small, to feel like you're making some sort of difference.

I think getting to know people, getting to understand their situation a little bit, having them recognize you, and start to trust you is what it's all about. I can imagine that it's very difficult for some of these folks to trust because trust has been broken so many times.



Just a little bit of kindness goes a long, long way.

“

For me personally, it feeds my soul or I wouldn't be here so many times.

Everyone has been very welcoming and so appreciative. When I started, everybody on staff without exception introduced themselves to me and told me a little bit about they do.

They're very willing to express appreciation and never fail to do so. To me that's impressive as an outsider coming in to see, because if that's a reflection of the company culture and the values, it clearly is being embodied by the staff.

Verse of the Month

“My children, let us not love with words or in talk only. Let us love by what we do and in truth.”

- 1 John 3:18 (NLV)

Join a Community That's Helping Transform Lives

When you volunteer at the Mission, you join a diverse group of people who are committed to creating the change they want to see in their community.

Check Out Some of Our Top Volunteer Opportunities



Meal Service

We serve breakfast, lunch and dinner 365 days a year. This a great opportunity for groups and youth (ages 8+)!



Search & Rescue

Hit the streets with our Search & Rescue team to offer essential resources to and build relationships with our unhoused neighbors (ages 18+).



Landscaping

Ensure that our neighbors coming to the Mission in need feel welcome by helping beautify our grounds. A great opportunity for groups and youth.



Mission Thrift

Volunteer in our new Thrift Store! All proceeds go directly to supporting the Mission's life-changing programs and services.



Translator

If you are fluent in Spanish, ASL, Korean, or another language, your help translating can play a key role in allowing guests to get back on their feet.

To learn more or sign-up as a volunteer, visit trm.org/volunteer

Duke Paulson serves as our Executive Director. Learn more about our board members and leadership at trm.org/leadership.

MISSION MONTHLY

Newsletter of the Tacoma Rescue Mission

Anne's Volunteer Journey: **Feeding the Soul**



INSIDE:

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- **Meet Our Volunteers of the Year!**
- **Join a Community That's . . .**

Anne's Volunteer Journey: Feeding the Soul



I retired last year and I wanted to find something I could do that made a difference.

I started volunteering at the Mission's Donation Center last summer.

Then I wanted to connect with the people who are receiving the donations I'd been organizing.

So, I started volunteering in the clothing closet, too.

I became known by the staff and guests because I went every week.

I don't mind doing the sorting and organizing part of it, but the more gratifying piece, for me, is when I get to help the people who are staying in the shelter get clothes and items they really need.

Some people just need the basics, some need clothes for their job, or they've got a court date.

A fellow a few weeks ago said, "I'm getting my two-month sobriety coin and I want to have decent clothes to wear to the ceremony."

Another fellow was so excited because he was starting a job the next day and we got him all outfitted for that.

My heart was so full. That's what's the most meaningful to me.

→
Story continues . . .

Meet Our Volunteers of the Year!

This year we are honoring nine compassionate volunteers who have shown exceptional dedication to coming alongside our neighbors in need!

'23

HAILI

Position:
Search & Rescue Volunteer

Hours served:
348 hours

Why I Volunteer:
It's about consistency with our friends on the streets and other volunteers. The relationships I have with Mission staff, volunteers and friends on the street are real, genuine bonds. They are my family.



'23

CARYN

Position:
Kitchen Volunteer

Hours served:
75.5 hours

Why I Volunteer:
It's all about the relationships that are built while we're preparing meals, greeting guests, cleaning the kitchen. You see God at work in transformational ways. I know that Jesus walks the halls of the Mission. Who wouldn't want to be a part of that!



'23

ABI

Position:
New Life Program Volunteer

Hours served:
116 hours

Why I Volunteer:
I was given so much by the Mission's recovery program. I want to help others get better, too. It's about gratitude to God and to the place that helped me on my journey. I get to see the changes in the men and women. It's beautiful to witness.



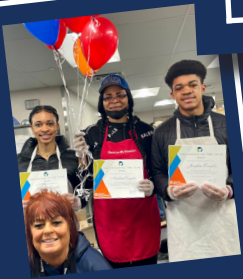
'23

ONYIKE FAMILY

Position:
Kitchen Volunteers

Hours served:
329.5 hours

Why We Volunteer:
Giving back to our community brings us joy. It feels great to come here and see people smile. We have lots of fun making food, helping others in general, and being able to impact their lives even if it's in a small way.



'23

GENE

Position:
Search & Rescue Volunteer

Hours served:
524 hours

Why I Volunteer:
I get to be the delivery guy for all the blessings that people in our community put together and donate. How often do you get to make Christmas every day? I also get to learn from the people on the Search & Rescue team. Most importantly, I'm able to serve God.



'23

LIZZA & LUCI

Position:
Kitchen Volunteers

Hours served:
230.5 hours

Why We Volunteer:
We love helping people, and getting to see all the little ones at the Family Shelter. We know how blessed we are, so we want to bless others. We come here every Tuesday and it's the best day of our week.



'23

PASTORS NOEL & DAVE

Position:
New Life Program Volunteer

Hours served:
832 hours

Why I Volunteer:
We get to walk alongside the guys in the program and watch them change. As long as God is working here then we'll keep coming. It's a privilege to watch God change lives.

