

. . . Little by little I started drinking. I had really just given up. Alcohol just became my way out. I wanted to drink myself to death. My husband kicked me out of our house, and I was homeless.

“

I was angry with God, I believed He lied to me, and I just couldn't trust a God like that. The truth was that I had been lied to, but not by Him. I discovered that here, in the New Life Program.

This is the greatest program ever. I wish everybody could have the chance to experience it, being immersed in the teaching of God, who speaks to you in so many different ways. It's amazing.

Over the last year at the Mission, I went from being in a physical and mental jail, to complete freedom and peace. From being a survivor, to being an overcomer.

It started by obeying God's command and choosing to forgive. Without forgiveness, I would still be in my jail of bitterness, rage, hopelessness, and depression. I was able to forgive, not because I felt like it and not because the

people that hurt me deserved it, but in spite of how I felt. Then, I had to forgive myself.

I started to trust God more each day. I learned to stand in and claim His truth. Each time I held God to His promises, my faith grew, my peace expanded, and my joy increased. My joy and my peace no longer depended on circumstances or other people! It was like, "Wow, what a concept!"

I also learned a lot about healthy boundaries, co-dependence, and anger management. I learned that I have value, that I am loved, and that God has a purpose for me. I discovered the lies I believed in order to survive and protect myself.

Now, I pray and turn to the scriptures to renew my mind. I have this relationship with the living Christ that I've always wanted. It is so much better, more amazing and powerful than I ever dared hope for. I have life and I have it abundantly.

I have eternal gratitude to everyone who's involved in the New Life Program, whether by giving money, praying or volunteering.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart, you saved my life!



Thank You for Celebrating with Us!

Have we told you lately how grateful we are for you?

Community members just like you are faithfully helping provide sustenance, safety, trusting relationships, tools, and opportunities for our neighbors experiencing homelessness to rebuild, transform, and restore their lives.

Our HopeGivers Celebration is just one of the many examples of your faithful generosity. And, once again, we are humbled by it.

This year's HopeGivers Celebration raised over \$150,000!

With a special thank you to our Transformation and Strength level sponsors:

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If you didn't catch the celebration and have 30 minutes to spare, you can watch the recording at trm.org/hopegivers. It's definitely worth the watch!

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

Martina's Story: Survivor to Overcomer

INSIDE:

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- Congrats, Grads!
- Thank You for Celebrating with Us!

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253.383.4493 info@trm.org
PO Box 1912, Tacoma, WA 98401

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A recent family reunion for Martina and her children!



Martina's Story:
Survivor to Overcomer

I was homeless at the beginning of last year in winter. I stayed in a tent for three nights. I knew if I stayed there, I was not going to survive. It was so cold. I had plenty of blankets, but it took literally four hours to warm up, even with all the blankets. And then I had to choose whether I wanted to breathe or keep my nose warm.

I found out about the Mission's New Life Recovery Program at a shelter in Yakima. I knew that's what I wanted to do. Everybody told me that the people who go through it come out changed. I knew I wanted change. I didn't know what that change was, but I knew I needed it.

I was coming out of an abusive situation. I had married a Godly man or that's what I thought at the time. It took me a long time to realize that he was using scripture to manipulate us, all of us, me and our kids. He used the scripture that says

wives submit to your husbands to justify verbal and physical abuse.

I didn't see it then. I was so caught up in the legalism of scripture and the idea that I needed to obey my husband to please God even when he was hurting me and my children.

Once I was able to see the abuse, I was really angry. But, I wasn't financially stable enough to leave. I was in my 50's at this point . . .

"The whole experience of being homeless overnight was eye-opening. Having had a house, a yard, a job, a husband, a family and all of a sudden, nothing. God used that though, He used it all to change me."

Story continues . . .



In March, we celebrated six men and women who dedicated a year to overcoming addiction. You've already met two of them — Martina, on the cover, and Frank, featured in last month's newsletter. Today we highlight the four other AMAZING graduates!



"Before this program, I was homeless, I had no contact with my family, and my mental health was down, hearing voices. Now, since the program I mended most of my family relationships, got my mental health under wraps, and it has brought me closer to God and the Holy Spirit. This program has been life-changing. If I can do it, so can you." - Amanda



"My life was dominated by drugs, stealing, and rehab. I had no God, nobody, no discipline. After being booted from a rehab center for the fourth time, I took a serious look at my life. I wanted more. So, I was dropped off at the Tacoma Rescue Mission. I just need to thank God for putting up with me and for everybody that helped me through this life-changing program. God gave me the tools to build myself up. I look forward to life now." - Dean



"Firstly, I want to give honor to God. Without Him I don't know where I'd be. Secondly I want to give honor to the Search & Rescue Team. They found me in the midst of my addiction. I was living in my car. They gave me food, they gave me water and they prayed with me . . . After they told me about the New Life recovery program, I called the Mission to get in. I knew I couldn't do it by myself. I was just feeding my flesh so much . . . I ran to God and He was in this program." - Thomas



"The journey from a life of crime and addiction to a life of faith and purpose was a long and difficult one. In the New Life Program we are given a safe and supportive environment where we can get to the root causes of our addictions, fellowship and grow in our faith, make amends for past wrongs, and forgive ourselves. I want to thank everyone who has had a hand in my recovery, who has helped me become the man I am today." - Kimo

Don't miss our next New Life Program graduation on July 28th at 6:00 pm. You can tune in to our graduation livestream at trm.org/graduation to celebrate with us and hear the powerful testimonies of our graduates!

Our New Life Program is a year-long, in-house addiction recovery program for men and women which includes room and board, mental health counseling, mentorship, employment services, housing support, supportive community, and more. We believe that Christ is at the foundation of true transformation, so we put loving God and loving one another at the core of the recovery process. This program is 100% funded by the generosity of giving partners like you, no state or federal funds. You can learn more about our New Life Program at trm.org/recovery.