

“I was homeless and I didn’t know about this place. The funny thing was that I wasn’t even that far from here. But I just didn’t know this place existed. I can’t say enough good things about this place. I mean, I feel like I have hope now. I found myself. I also never knew what it was like to have a dad. I’m not angry about it anymore, but I used to be angry at everyone else who had a dad. I felt like the world owes me a father figure. I got to a point where I figured I was strong enough to be my own man and didn’t need a father figure. Every time someone tried, I would push them away. I think that’s why I like thie Mission, too, because I had someone like that. Mike, who was my roommate in the program, was a mentor to me. He didn’t try to be a father figure or anything, but he understood and was very emotionally supportive. I’m no longer in that stage of my life where I think I’m too strong for a father figure. I can accept help and I’m learning to accept help. It’s been an eye-opener.”



Mike and Chan

What’s next for you?

“For a long time, I couldn’t figure out what the heck I was supposed to do with my life. And now I know I’m going to follow God. I’m going to go back to school and study bioengineering. I want to make prosthetics. I almost lost my arm when I got shot. Luckily, they were able to repair it in surgery. I can help those who didn’t get that option.”

Anything else you’d like to share?

“I hope other people can find the hope that I found here. It doesn’t matter if you have mental illness or drug issues, there is something brighter and you are loved. Don’t give up on yourself. You can have a real relationship with God and yourself. That’s been the biggest thing for me. It’s phenomenal. I believe in myself now more because I believe in God. There’s real healing and real hope through this place. You’ll be surrounded by people that care. For the people who give their time and money, I hope they are blessed deeply. From the bottom of my heart. Everything that they’ve given means everything to us. They give us hope and belonging that we don’t have when we’re on the streets.”

Give a Care Kit. Make a Difference.



Care Kits are a simple yet powerful way for you to make a difference in someone’s day and even their life.

With every Care Kit handed out, you can provide essential, everyday items not easily accessible to our neighbors experiencing homelessness AND help foster a restorative sense of community, connection, and dignity.

What to Include in Your Care Kit



Having extra, dry pairs of **underwear and gloves** can help avoid hypothermia in the cold, wet weather.



Beanies and hats help the body keep in heat.



Water and food are essential. Make sure that snacks are non-perishable and soft enough for those with dental issues.

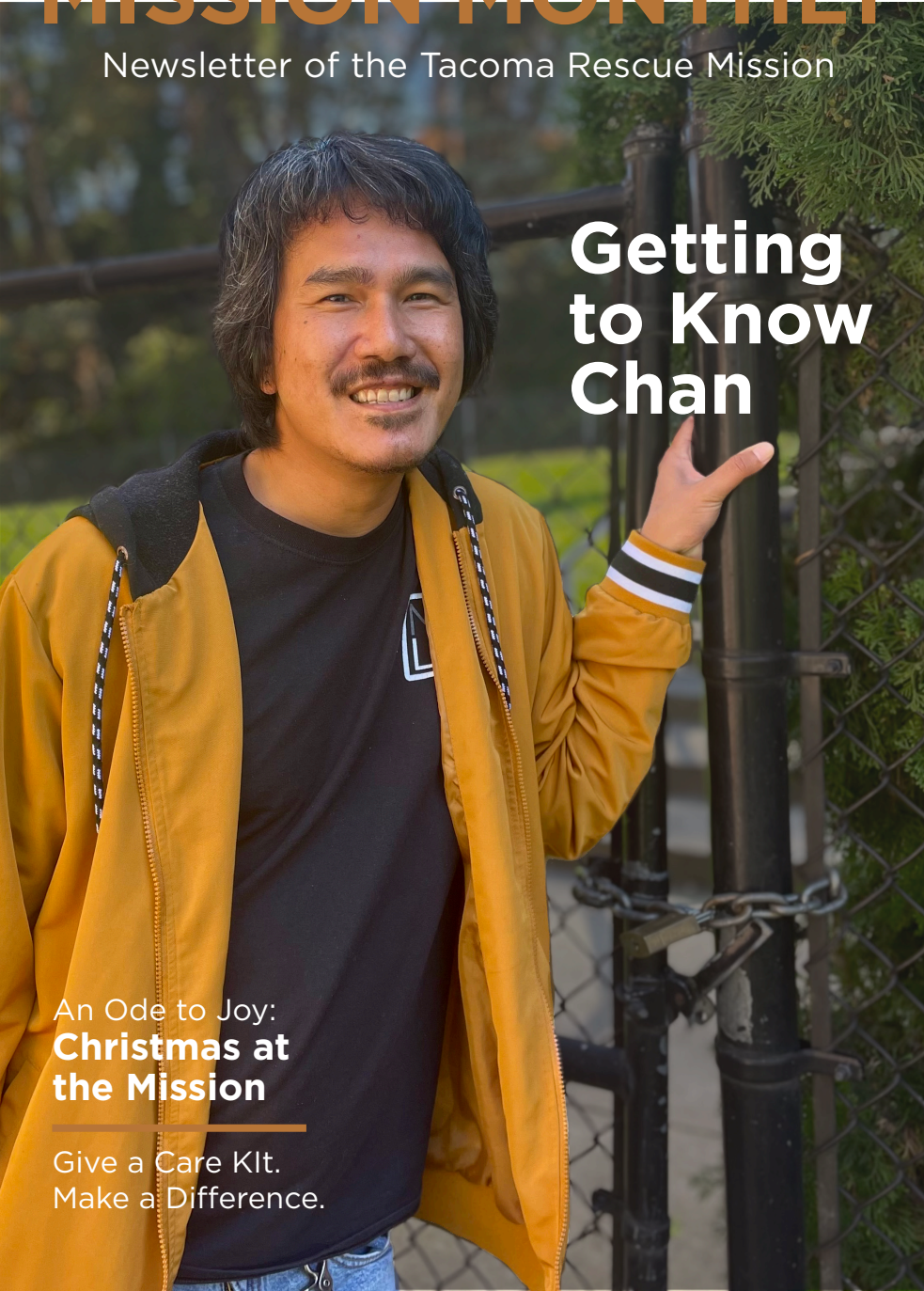


Hand warmers are crucial tools to staying warm in the harsh weather.



Wipes and hand sanitizer are vital hygiene items. “Wet wipes are like gold for our neighbors on the street,” Davina, Outreach Manager, shares.

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



Getting to Know Chan

An Ode to Joy:
Christmas at the Mission

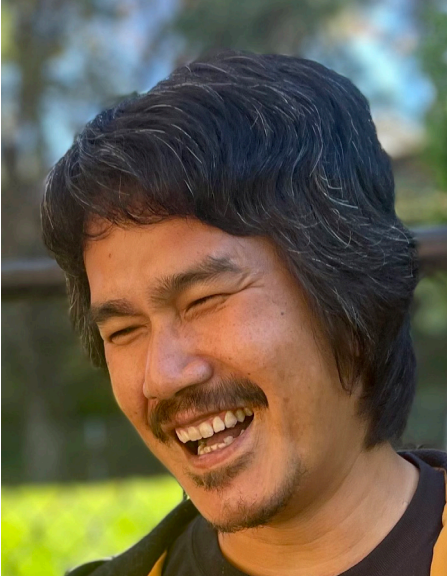
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Getting to Know Chan

A trusting relationship with God, a firm belief in himself, and a new sense of purpose are all parts of the restored life Chan’s stepped into. Now that he’s graduated from our New Life Recovery Program, he hopes others can experience those things, too.

About Chan’s journey...

“It’s been a long journey. Growing up, I never knew my dad. My mom never stayed in one place for more than three years because she gets paranoid. We moved from Chicago to Virginia, Michigan, California, then ended up in Tacoma. It was a confusing childhood. I’d get picked on at school and then my mom would beat the crap out of me at home for no reason. I’d escape into nature a lot. I appreciated the quietness and calmness. Me and my siblings were outcasts of our family, of our friends. We never learned the life lessons that we should have. And that set us up for the rest of our lives. We’re tough kids, but tough for the wrong reasons. It’s really hard to grow up without values that matter, just street values. Every single person in my family started using drugs. My little brothers and sisters started when they were 14. Me and my older sister started using when we were adults. I lost my younger brother and cousin to fentanyl overdose.”



“I’m lucky to still be here. But, drugs caused a lot of problems for me. That and my mental health issues. I was the one to help my mom manage her paranoia and depression when I was younger, then I ended up having symptoms just like her later on in life. Paranoia, hallucinations, depression. The drugs were my relief. But, I lost my car. I lost my place to stay. I got shot three times because I was doing meth, and there was just a lot of negative stuff.”

What has the Mission meant to you?

“You guys being here has saved my life. After my brother passed away, I gave up on life and got myself into a situation that ended in me being shot. If I had known about this place earlier, it would’ve been a different story. I was just hopping from car to car trying to find a safe place to sleep.”

Interview continues...

Christmas at the Mission

Thanks to the generosity of community members like you, the Mission will be brimming with joy this Christmas season.

Men, women, and children staying with us will enjoy holiday meals, be able to get gifts for their loved ones and themselves, decorate cookies, make ornaments, meet Santa, and more!

Most importantly, our guests can experience the true meaning of the season – the love of Christ.

But, don’t just take our word for it...



“When you’re homeless, you don’t get the holiday cheer everyone else experiences. You feel like you’re forgotten. Just to feel happy and loved because you’re here at the Mission being taken care of, it fills your heart and soul. It’s a beautiful thing.” – Evan, Men’s Shelter Guest

“If you could see the smiles. Hear the laughter. See the tears in the moms’ eyes when their kids are provided for. You’d see how much your kindness matters.”

– Sarah, Family Shelter Guest



OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED



CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Donate gifts to unhoused families: New toys for all ages, gift cards to Target and Walmart, books for every reading level, winter clothes, and electronics for teens and adults. More info at trm.org/inkind.



SHOPPING DAYS

Families staying with us can “shop” for their loved ones amongst donated Christmas gifts over a week-long shopping event hosted at the Mission. **Volunteer to help set up, assist families as they shop, and wrap gifts.** Sign up at trm.org/volunteer.



MEALS MINISTRY

Join us! **Volunteer to prep and serve meals** at trm.org/volunteer OR **give the gift of meals** at trm.org/donate.