

Interview continued...

Sometimes I felt pressured to just do things because it's expected for you to take anything you're given because of the situation you're in, even if it may not be good for you. I've learned I don't have to just accept anything. God doesn't see people like that. The Mission doesn't see people like that. I learned that, no matter my situation, I'm still deserving. Of course I need to be realistic, but it's okay to have high standards and want more.

I feel like I'm more capable and equipped with the right tools to get to where I need to be.

We went out on a limb going to the family shelter, not knowing what we were walking into, but still trusting. Trusting the staff. Trusting the process.

Now we're in our own place. My son just got an award at school for "most determined". It's a new adventure for us.

Is there anything else you'd like to share?

Families staying at the shelter are coming from the worst situations you can imagine. They're disheartened. I think that if community partners were to read this, the one thing they would need to know is how important they are in all of this because all of these resources and people to help wouldn't be available without them. They're helping to build people up to where they're meant to be.

Celena and her kids playing at the park



Give the Gift of NEW LIFE



Your support helps to empower our hurting neighbors to step into a new life.

However you decide to come alongside our community members in need, you'll be making a difference.

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Duke Paulson serves as our Executive Director. Learn more about our board members and leadership at [trm.org/leadership](https://trm.org/leadership).

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MISSION MONTHLY  
Newsletter of the Tacoma Rescue Mission

This Easter Marks A New Beginning for Celena's Family



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# An Interview with Celena

We sat down with Celena, a former guest at our family shelter, to hear about her journey and the new life she's made for her and her sons.

## To start, can you share a little about what brought you to the Mission?

We left a really unsafe situation and slept in our car for a bit. We had places to take showers. I made sure the kids were taken care of. But it was really hard because the kids were used to their home and suddenly we didn't have a home.

We were on our last leg. We needed a place to go and hadn't found a housing opportunity yet. I was researching shelters because, having my kids, I knew there were certain places that weren't good. I was worried. I called the number I found online for the Mission and talked to Sydney. She told me all the things to expect at the shelter and that I could call anytime. She even invited me for a tour so I could make sure it was safe for my kids. I felt happy being in the shelter as soon as I walked in. Everyone was awesome. It's like its own little world and safe. It felt like new possibilities. Like a new beginning. It just felt good. So

we made that plunge. That's how I came to be at the Mission.

## What were the most impactful parts of your time here?

One of the most impactful things for me was creating a community. There was always support around. Everyone was really kind to the kids and let them be themselves. I got to help people and they helped me. We were just one big community of people going through the same situation of needing a new start.

The Mission did a lot for all of us. There's a lot of things that we need when we're at the shelter. The food daily is a necessity. The youth program is extremely important because there are a lot of kids at the shelter and they need to feel motivated, too.

I worked with the Mission's career center right away. I learned a lot about human services as a career that I might fit into.

The staff were a huge part of my success. They gave me confidence and empowered me to make decisions I needed to make. They always said, don't do what's not good for you and your kids. I always kept that in the back of my head.

*Interview continues...*

# What New Life Means to Me...

Meet some of the men and women who graduated from our New Life Addiction Recovery Program this month AND read what their new life means to them.

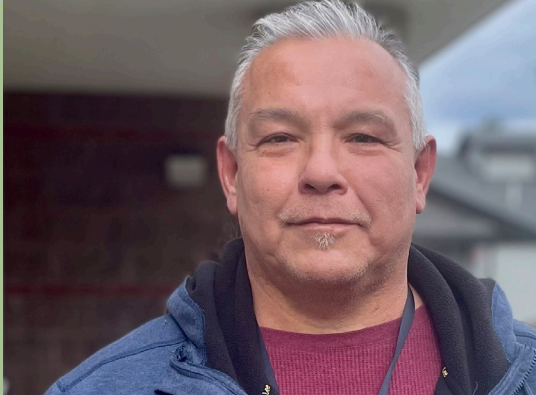


“Living a new life means always staying prayed up. I’m going to get a place of my own and I’m going to be independent.”  
– Margaret



“New life means relationships rekindled and lost opportunities rediscovered.”  
– Amy

“God bought and paid for me and gave his son for my sins. What more can I ask for other than I belong to God. That’s new life.”  
– Harlan



“I learned that dead ends are good places to turn around. I’ve found value in myself and I’m coming into my purpose. Now, I want to find where I belong in our community and get my kids back.”  
– Helenea



“My new life has allowed me to be the father I’ve always wanted to be.”  
– Justin



“To me, new life means having more hope than I’ve ever had.”  
– Nathaniel

“It’s been a blessing to be with family and friends again. In a couple of years, I won’t care how long it took, I’ll just be glad that I never gave up.”  
– Keegan

