

& CHRISTMAS

SPREAD JOY THIS CHRISTMAS

The Mission will be hosting its annual "Christmas Shopping Week" for families and individuals staying with us. During this weeklong event, guests can pick out gifts for their kids and loved ones for free from a wide selection of donated Christmas gifts.

DONATE TOYS



Donate or Host a Drive for new toys and gifts for all ages. Scan the QR code below to get ideas or order from our Amazon Wish List. Please drop off gifts at our Donation Center or have gifts scheduled to arrive by Dec 13th.

VOLUNTEER



Volunteer to wrap gifts or be a shopping guide for shelter guests at our Christmas Shopping Week. Can't join us that week? We always need volunteers to serve meals and beautify our campuses! Sign up for shifts on your volunteer account or visit trm.org/volunteer to create one.

GIVE A GIFT



Support and uplift your neighbors in need by giving a gift today. Your generosity makes it possible for our guests to receive meals, safe shelter, recovery, housing programs, and life-changing care. Give the gift of a new life this holiday season at trm.org/donate.

Speaking of spreading joy, turn the page to read Maddy's story and how she's looking forward to celebrating and sharing joy this holiday season...



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

YOUR LEGACY STARTS NOW

TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED AND OUR COMMUNITY FOR DECADES TO COME.

Leaving a designated gift could be one of the most powerful and enduring charitable gifts you make.

Get more info or start a conversation about your planned giving options by scanning the QR code.



MISSION MONTHLY

NEWSLETTER OF THE TACOMA RESCUE MISSION

NOV 2024



Sharing Hope & Joy

The holidays at the Mission

Being the Change

Maddy and her family are thriving! Read all about their journey inside.

THANKSGIVING

AT THE MISSION

Thanksgiving is here and we have so much to be grateful for – our amazing staff, dedicated volunteers, faithful giving partners, supportive community, and, most importantly, the transformed lives of our neighbors in need.



“I came to the Mission not believing in hope, but having that first meal was amazing to me. It gave me a lot of hope knowing the Mission is here to help you no matter who you are or where you are.” – Brooks

“I now have hope and faith. I get to break bread with my brothers here in the Recovery Program. Before the Mission, I used to say that I was garbage, but I don’t think like that anymore.” – Mark



“I first got here and there was so much food. I got a shower, change of clothes. It gave me a little bit of hope, then came a little bit of faith and a little bit of change. The Mission gave me my life back. – Elizabeth



BEING THE CHANGE

From getting support to supporting others into stability and new life. Maddy shares about being the change.

What inspired you to “be the change”?

“I felt like my life was predisposed to fail. I was born into the largest motorcycle club in the eighties. My mom was running and gunning. My birth father would spend 35 years of my life in prison before I met him.

I went into foster care at nine and went through five failed adoptions. I’m a second generation foster child. My mom was in foster care and my four oldest siblings were in foster care before I was born. I was angry. I didn’t understand why people couldn’t love me, why I couldn’t have a good family.

I made it my goal to be the light and change maker for my family, my community, myself, and especially my daughters. Even when times get hard. It’s my driving force to this day.”

How’d you get involved with the Tacoma Rescue Mission?

“I came through the Mission after leaving an abusive marriage. I was applying to a hundred different jobs and needed help with food and basic resources. When I finally got connected with a job-placement program, I chose to intern with the Street Outreach team at the Mission and was then hired on. It was a way for me to give back what they had given me.

I wanted to make sure I kept moving forward and not backwards to the same cycle I had been repeating my whole life. So I was working and continuing to go to school.

I hold five degrees now, one of them being a Master’s in Social Work. I recently was hired as a Mental Health Professional in the Mission’s Counseling Department.

My girls are seeing my confidence and me trusting in my skills. We’re all starting to move forward together. I can tell in all of our smiles that things just aren’t as heavy anymore.”

What does the Mission mean to you?

“The Mission has supported me in ways I will forever be grateful for. The people here never wavered on me when I was a client needing help and never when I was an employee.

The Mission continued to foster my growth and support me in every aspect of my journey here so I can do the same for others. This is a special place. It feels very sacred and so different from any place I’ve worked. I couldn’t ask for more.

I hope that in my time here I can give back to the Mission and the people here as much as they’ve given to me and my family.”

What will the holidays look like for you this year?

“I honestly had forgotten about the holidays, the traditions, the celebrating, the decorating. When you’ve lived in survival mode your whole life, there are always things that take priority.

Now I believe in building traditions, celebrating, and finding connection to family, friends, and place. My seven-year-old reminds me that all of those things keep the magic alive and leak positivity onto everyone.

This will be my first Christmas that won’t just be overwhelmed with stress. It makes my eyes water. I’m looking forward to enjoying the essence of the holidays.

It’s also the first holidays I’ll have my whole family together. My mom lives with me now, I have my two girls, and I just reconnected with my birth dad.”

Is there anything else you’d like to share?

“Sometimes we just need a chance. It doesn’t matter where we came from, what we have or don’t have, the way we look, the way we sound.

Giving someone a chance to grow and be supported in the ways they never had, that’s what leads to success. That’s what got me to where I am today. All I would ask of anyone is to be willing to give someone a chance.”



Read more powerful stories of transformation at trm.org/stories.

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