



"When I learned I was to become a mother, I came to the Eugene Mission. The Women's Center took me in, even throwing me a baby shower to prepare for the birth of my daughter."

Merry Baby's First Christmas to new mother Po'okela and baby Akasha Rose, who will spend this special season in the Center for Mothers with Children.

## **Promise & Celebration**



"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." [Isaiah 9:6]

As we close out the year, we reflect upon God's glorious fulfillment of promises that ring through the ages

and the lives of our guests. The prophet Isaiah spoke of the coming Savior who would deliver His people from destruction and death. This prophesy was fulfilled with the birth of Jesus Christ that we joyfully celebrate this month.

This past year, we have seen how a relationship with Jesus Christ delivers individuals from despair, destruction and death. We have seen how the gospel clears the fog of lies and condemnation and provides Hope, meaning and purpose. We have seen the miracle of the breaking of chains of addiction, the calming of chaos and the restoration of healthy relationships.

The Eugene Mission is giving thanks and celebrating this Holy Season! We have seen Isaiah 61 on full display this past year and what it looks like in regular, everyday terms when God's people "proclaim good news to the poor," "bind up the brokenhearted" and "proclaim freedom for the captives."

2022, though challenging, has been a year of great encouragement! We have seen our guests' spiritual, physical and mental health improve. We have partnered with our guests as they have acquired exciting new social and vocational skills to prepare them for independent living. We have walked with our guests as they, in His power, have broken free from the chains of abusive relationships, addiction and past trauma.

Not only are our precious unhoused guests leaving the streets behind, but they are also leaving pain, isolation and destructive behavior behind. The future for our guests looks very bright indeed!

This Holy Season we rejoice. We lift up our hearts and voices in celebration of the work Our Lord has done in the precious lives of guests here at the Eugene Mission.

Thank you for being part of the fulfillment of promise and please join us in celebrating!

Hallelujah!

Sheryl Balthrop

Executive Director











Kyle & daughter Leah enjoying a playset at The Eugenen Mission

# Life Change Breaks the Cycle of Addiction

Leah giggles as she goes headfirst down the slide behind the Eugene Mission's Family Room. She looks around to make sure her daddy sees that she made it to the bottom all by herself. Leah, now three years old, was born into the foster care system as her father Kyle enrolled in the Eugene Mission's Life Change Program to break his cycle of alcoholism and methamphetamine addiction.

"I had heard about the Life Change Program before, but I wasn't ready," shares Kyle. "But knowing my daughter was coming, I wanted to become a really good dad for her and I knew if I was going to make it happen, I had to become the best person I could. She deserved that."

Kyle had his own experience with the foster care system entering at the age of four with his younger brother. Kyle's mother was an addict with her own history of pain and struggle. After a night of partying, she drove intoxicated with the boys unbuckled in the back seat. There was a terrible accident and Kyle went straight from the emergency room to a series of 13 foster homes by the time he was six. Kyle's testimony is heavy with early trauma, loss, neglect and abuse.

Children of addicts are eight times more likely to become addicts themselves.

"I knew I couldn't let her be born into a life of addiction," says Kyle. "It was time for someone to break the cycle and I had to do it for Leah."

Addiction and homelessness are not problems that can be addressed in 30 days like many other programs seek to do. Long-term recovery is made possible by providing the comprehensive programming necessary to address the complexity of issues that bring people to the Eugene Mission. Participants need staff and volunteers whose approach is relational rather than transactional.

"I had the chance to get close to so many great people through the Life Change Program," says Kyle. "They taught me how to think sober and become a father to my beautiful daughter. The best part is that they are still here for me even two years after graduating from the program. They continue to keep me accountable."

While still in the program, Kyle moved into his on-campus apartment and was able to receive full custody of his daughter. Denver Harris, the director of the Life Change Program, connected Kyle with the owner of Monaco Tool.

"I was given a golden opportunity," says Kyle. "They took a chance on me and now I am here with a career that I love."

Kyle describes what he is most proud of since becoming sober.

"It's the family that I have built," shares Kyle. "Not just with Leah but with everyone at the Eugene Mission. Family means love, support and being there for one another. That's what we've got here. Three years ago I was at a crossroads where I could either trust in God and this program or I could go back to everything I had known my whole life. And I made the choice to work on myself so that I could be there for my daughter. Now I get to wake up to this beautiful girl every day and live a life free of addiction. I thank God every day for bringing me here."



Kyle working at Monaco Tool.



R<sup>3</sup> baking classes.

# R<sup>3</sup> Classes & Activities Empower Skills, Self-Sufficiency

The Learning Center at the Eugene Mission is a beehive of activity with new classes focused on vocational and skill development, sober recreation and hobby development. The amazing Learning Center has a fully equipped computer lab, a culinary training kitchen,

classrooms, a sewing lab and a large indoor family room for our guests with children. The space also has banquet facilities for the Hospitality and Culinary Training Program.

On this bright autumn morning, a group of guests are busy sweeping floors, setting tables, folding linens and preparing for Rotary club and Kiwanis club

gatherings, both of which visit the Eugene Mission weekly for a lunch meeting. The effort and activity that goes into hosting upwards of 12 meetings each week brings joy and opportunity

to our campus. Community members meet our guests and our guests work with trained chefs and volunteers on all elements of banquet service, including planning and preparing a beautiful meal.

In the computer lab, Jessica and Wendy, community volunteers from the Eugene Public Library, are teaching computer basics. Many of our guests come to the Eugene Mission with little to no exposure to basic computer skills, which can be a significant barrier to employment and housing. Several groups of guests will visit the computer lab throughout the day to learn basic

keyboarding skills, how to navigate online platforms for housing, job seeking and health care benefits. Many will sign up for online classes and workshops including "renter's rehabilitation" and certifications such as food handler cards.



Computer basics with Jessica & Wendy.

Computer basics with Jessica &

Guest participating in sober activities.



Mary Jane at R<sup>3</sup>'s flower arrangement class.

Outside, it is harvesting season and a van pulls away from the Learning Center to bring a group of guests to Detering Orchards to pick apples. In the fall sunshine, guests can be seen laughing together, enjoying fresh cider and marveling at how many kinds of apple trees there are. The procured apples will be delivered to the Learning Center's kitchen for a baking class. As fresh apple pies are baked from scratch in the training kitchen, the aroma fills the building. The Women's Life Change Program meets in the kitchen at the

end of the day to sample the pies and tidy up the kitchen for the next day's activities and classes.

In the sewing lab, volunteer Dan leads a group of guests working across ten sewing machines and a newly acquired

cover stitch serger. Today they are working on oven mitts for the training kitchen. Many guests share that sewing activities are soothing

and a wonderful, sober pastime for those recovering from drug and alcohol addiction. Later that same day, volunteer Denise will meet with a group in the sewing lab to work on several embroidery, needlepoint and crochet projects.

We invite you for a tour of the Eugene Mission Learning Center and to learn more about our residential, relationshipbased programs: R<sup>3</sup> (Rescue

- + Revitalize
- + Restore)

and the Life Change Program. Our transformational programs meet our guests where they are upon arrival and support them through classes, vocational and life skills training, sobriety support, spiritual development and activities leading to self-sufficiency. We are tremendously grateful for your support and prayers as we partner with community volunteers, businesses and organizations to help our guests find their path off the streets for good.

Contact beths@eugenemission.org.

#### Thank You!

As this year draws to a close, we want to let you know how thankful we are for you! We are encouraged by the faith, love and Hope demonstrated by your support.

Your monetary gifts have kept our lights on, paid for staff to provide consistent care and support and made it possible for us to expand the extraordinary 18-month Life Change addiction recovery program to both men and women while we continue to build our transformational R<sup>3</sup> Program for each of our residential guests staying at the Eugene Mission.

We thank God for you. Thank you!



One day and night of food, shelter & loving support for one guest.



One month of art supplies for Mission kiddoes.



One week's supply of baby wipes, diapers & pull-ups.



Class supplies for each of our 10-week R<sup>3</sup> classes



Sponsorship of field trips and sober recreation outings for our guests.



One month of gas & maintenance for vehicles to pick up food donations & take guests to appointments.



One month's supply of maintenance materials for our entire campus.



Sponsorship of one Life Change Program member for 18 months



One month of utility costs power our 7.5-acre campus with 28 furnaces, 37 water heaters & 24/7 laundry.



Gift to fund Life Change addiction recovery programming.



Three loving staff members who provide guidance & nurturing support for our quests.

### Ways to Give

- + Financial support for the Eugene Mission with the envelope included or *www.eugenemission.org*
- + Please remember the Eugene Mission in your estate planning, will or instrument. FEIN#93-0563797
- + The Eugene Mission gratefully accepts stock donations.
- + We invite you for a visit to our campus and our new Learning Center. Contact *Miket@eugenemission.org*