



**eugene mission**   
**Rescue + Revitalize + Restore**

*R<sup>3</sup> Director Joseph Beal and Executive Director Sheryl Balthrop join staff for a tour of the Women's Garden.*

## Rescue, Revitalize, Restore Program Celebrates Three Years



As challenges come and go, we are reminded of God's sovereignty and power to transform even the most difficult of circumstances into beautiful outcomes. A scripture that illustrates this truth is Genesis 50:20, spoken by Joseph to his brothers after they sold him into slavery: *"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."*

In this passage, Joseph reflects on his past hardships and recognizes that God used even the evil intentions of Joseph's brothers to bring about God's greater purpose. Through Joseph's suffering, many lives were saved, revealing God's supreme ability to bring good out of dire situations.

During the height of the COVID era, when fear and isolation were rampant, God placed a call on the Eugene Mission to trust Him and to serve in a radically relational and Hope-centered manner. When much of the world was distancing from others, the Eugene Mission drew close to those who were hurting and afraid. The Eugene Mission recommitted to sharing Hope and to walking closely with our guests to restore them to healthy community.

It was truly encouraging to see how at a time of world-wide contraction and uncertainty, God placed it on our hearts to go

forth trusting Him and to embark on a journey of robust guest engagement, skill building and goal attainment. Now, three years later, the fruit of those steps taken in faith is shown in the hundreds of lives restored by the R<sup>3</sup> Program. Hallelujah!

We give all the glory to God and praise Him for providing the dedicated and gifted volunteers and staff who walked alongside our guests on their path to restored relationship, meaning and purpose. By nurturing our guests' spiritual, emotional and practical needs, our R<sup>3</sup> guests develop vital life skills, secure employment and reintegrate into society as productive members. More importantly, they find renewed Hope, self-worth and a sense of belonging.

Please be encouraged that even in the darkness and suffering we see on the street, God shows the path forward and how individuals and community can be beautifully transformed with biblical principles of Hope, love, compassion and service. We are delighted to celebrate with you the good things God has done and is doing in and through the R<sup>3</sup> Program!

In celebration and gratitude,

*Sheryl Balthrop*  
Executive Director





Guest Navigators Kai Batalona and Tony Davis reviewing daily class schedules.



Guest Chef Sydney Johnstone leads a workshop making fresh bread.

## The Path Off the Streets Begins Here

Join us as we celebrate the third anniversary of the “New Eugene Mission!”

In July 2020, the Eugene Mission officially launched its residential and relational program and campus operations to address the root causes of homelessness for our guests. In order to follow the 15-week Governor's stay-at-home orders for the COVID-19 pandemic, the Eugene Mission closed its doors to drop-in services such as showers and meals. This was the first time in 60 years the Mission had done so. This was a time of great uncertainty, and also great innovation.

For 15 weeks, with 250 guests, we sheltered in place in a shelter! All volunteer shifts had been suspended in the early pandemic days and, along with our guests, Eugene Mission staff formed teams to observe pandemic precautions: taking apart bunk beds, spreading people out, forming sanitation teams, culinary teams, janitorial teams, laundry teams and all the other work required to run a 7.5-acre campus with 250 residents during a global pandemic. Looking back on this experience, it was both the best and the worst of times.

Throughout those 15 weeks, 250 guests and 40 staff members collaborated on projects, shared meals and planned activities. We found our guests began to flourish in beautiful new ways. The adjustments we made in response to the pandemic sparked the growth of a new sense of community, increased guest engagement, the accomplishment of daily objectives and the development of life skills. *Two hundred and fifty guests chose to stay on campus and ride out the pandemic with sobriety and intentional activities to move their lives forward.*

The “residential and relational” program model was a future goal, and the pandemic provided the opportunity to begin implementing future goals now. With a generous gift from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, the new low-barrier Rescue Shelter was opened in July 2020. Guests coming into the Eugene Mission may arrive in any condition as long as they are safe to be in a congregate setting. Guests experience a continuous stay (not leaving to potentially use drugs and alcohol) for up to 14 days to begin the path off the streets through one of two life-transforming programs:

### Life Change Addiction Relapse Prevention Program

The Life Change Program is a 12 to 18-month intensive residential relapse prevention program focusing on the root causes of substance abuse and relapse. Life Change's success rate for long-term sobriety is more than double the rate of other programs. Long-term recovery is made possible by providing the programming necessary to address the complexity of issues that bring people to the Eugene Mission. Shorter 30- and 60-day programs are not long enough or comprehensive enough to focus on the issues driving substance use disorder, which are often rooted in traumatic early life experiences, including childhood sexual abuse and domestic violence.

*“Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”*

*1 Thessalonians 5:11*



*Every guest is assigned a navigator and has a daily schedule of classes, activities and life skills shifts.*



*Eugene Library staff lead weekly workshops in computer basics, job searches & safe internet navigation.*



*Colleen & Denise's R<sup>3</sup> sewing class.*



*Charcuterie classes are a guest favorite, using delicacies donated by Trader Joe's.*

## Rescue + Revitalize + Restore (R<sup>3</sup>)

All guests of the Eugene Mission who are not enrolled in the Life Change Program are enrolled in R<sup>3</sup>. Through years of experience with both residential and day-use services, the Eugene Mission has identified profound social isolation and hopelessness in our guests. Each guest is assigned a staff navigator who supports them with daily schedules, classes, activities and resource navigation. Guests get better with the dignity of purpose-filled days, structure, authentic relationships and being in charge of their own path to recovery with the help and support of staff and community volunteer mentors. Every guest of the Eugene Mission has been the recipient of countless pairs of free socks and other resources in the form of transactional homeless services. The R<sup>3</sup> Program addresses profound isolation and focuses on areas of wellness that include physical and mental health, social, vocational and life skills through classes and daily activities.

Guests who enter the Rescue Shelter for services and then choose to leave without enrolling in a residential program are not permitted to immediately return. Like many well-intended programs serving the homeless, the Mission previously was often a revolving door for people running out of money and

benefits at the end of the month. In the past, there were guests who checked in and out of the Eugene Mission for years. We recognize that the guests of the Eugene Mission in 2023 are not the same demographic as 60 years ago when the Mission first opened. We have a crisis of addiction and mental illness in our homeless population. Homelessness is much more nuanced than simply rooflessness. We once were naively helping this new generation just get by, rather than helping them on the path to changing their lives as we do today.

The Rescue Shelter is a dedicated wing where new guests are offered the opportunity to rest, shower, eat, stabilize and receive help navigating their options. The next step to continuing to receive Mission services is to apply to one of our two life-transforming programs described above. Our step-by-step path off the streets is closing the revolving door of homelessness and the need for ongoing shelter and crisis services.

Please join us as we celebrate three years of impact in the lives of our guests. Through a walking tour of the journey from the Rescue Shelter to the R<sup>3</sup> and Life Change programs, we will demonstrate how the Mission's path off the streets is restoring Hope and healthy community.





Program Directors Joseph Beal & Denver Harris tour the kitchen garden with chef Phaedra Jackson.

## The Path Off the Streets Walking Tour

Please join us on **Saturday, July 29th at 10 a.m.** for a walking tour demonstrating the path from our Rescue Shelter to our R<sup>3</sup> and Life Change programs. We will have staff and volunteer instructors showcasing guest classes and activities across the Eugene Mission campus and in our new Learning Center.

A barbeque lunch will be provided by our team of staff, guests and volunteers in our culinary training and banquet center. Please join us as we celebrate three years as a residential campus of life transformation! Please RSVP for lunch by emailing [lifechangeinfo@eugenemission.org](mailto:lifechangeinfo@eugenemission.org).

### Wish List

- + Small-cut pasta (penne, orzo, farfalle, rotini) for pasta salads
- + Butter
- + Powdered sugar for baking classes
- + Decaf and regular ground coffee
- + #10 cans of tomato sauce, mandarin oranges, garbanzo beans/chickpeas
- + Bacon

### Ways to Give

- + Schedule a tour and consider volunteer opportunities or financial partnerships. Contact [Miket@eugenemission.org](mailto:Miket@eugenemission.org)
- + Become a monthly sustaining supporter at [eugenemission.org/giving/](https://eugenemission.org/giving/)
- + Remember the Eugene Mission in your estate planning: FEIN #93-0563797.
- + Schedule a visit for breakfast or lunch with your church, small group, friends, etc. We are usually available Monday-Wednesday. Contact [Beths@eugenemission.org](mailto:Beths@eugenemission.org)
- + Donate using the envelope included with this newsletter.

### Prayer Requests

Please lift up our guests and staff in your prayers. May we serve one another with wisdom and compassion.

## Advancement Through Eugene Mission Programs

### Rescue Shelter

- + Up to 14 day continuous stay
- + Sobriety support
- + Crisis intervention
- + Low barrier

Guests' Choice

### Exit

No Mission services for 6 months  
Ends repeating cycle which extends crisis & health deterioration

### Rescue + Revitalize + Restore (R<sup>3</sup>)

- + Residential program
- + Scheduled classes/activities
- + Individually tailored resource navigation

### Life Change Program

- + Addiction relapse prevention program
- + Genesis Process
- + Phased progression