



eugene mission 
 Rescue + Revitalize + Restore

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

[Luke 6:38]

Making Space to Give Back



I remember meeting a Eugene Mission guest a few years back who had been the victim of predatory behaviors. As we provided her with bus passes, additional warm clothing and other items she needed, I reminded her that she needed to be sure to use the items herself. This precious woman, who

was making great strides on healthy boundaries, looked at me and said, “I really look forward to when I can give to others in a good way.”

I have often reflected on this conversation and upon its broader implications. Giving requires wisdom. Unwise giving has profoundly adverse consequences for both donors and recipients. Kind-hearted donors are harmed when they are deceived into giving. Receivers are harmed when they are the recipients of unwise gifts. Also, recipients who are always receivers are harmed.

What is often overlooked and misunderstood is the “perpetual receiving” dynamic. Individuals who are always in the position of receiving may be belittled if not humiliated. As image bearers, we have an innate desire to create and overflow with that with which we have been blessed. What happens when

we as individuals and as a community perpetually position our unhoused neighbors as passive receivers?

The model is clear for us: God so loved... He gave...

In God’s story, human flourishing is not just about being blessed, it’s about being able to bless others. As related in Acts 20:35, “It is more blessed to give than receive.” Even secular studies acknowledge this truth and identify the profound health benefits of giving.

Committed to the flourishing of our guests, the Eugene Mission’s Rescue + Revitalize + Restore and Life Change programs include such “giving-back” opportunities as the Hospitality Program, Adopt-A-Block Community Clean Up and guest volunteering opportunities. We want our guests to grow as community members and have the joy and blessing of giving. We thank you, the generous supporters of the Eugene Mission, for making this possible.

In gratitude,

Sheryl Balthrop

Executive Director

Life Change Graduation 2022

6:00pm June 17, 2022 | City First Church 730 W 8th Eugene, OR 97402



Bed 148

A small envelope arrived in the mail at the Eugene Mission last Friday morning. It looked like a donation.

We opened the envelope to find a thank-you card that read:

*Mission Staff,
Thank you for all of the help
and opportunity.
— Samuel Roberts*

Curious about the nature of what seemed significant in one simple sentence, the note was passed to two longtime employees in the Men's Center.

"This is special," says Tony Davis, who has worked in the Men's Center for a decade. "Very, very special."

A smiling Tony began to reminisce with Norm Ingebretson, who has worked in the Men's Center alongside Tony for many years.

"This is why I am so invested in helping the R³ program work," says Norm, as he turns the card over to inspect the return address. "The old model allowed people to get lost in the masses. Under the old model of service, we didn't see a lot of progress in our guests."

Samuel, the letter writer, had checked into the Eugene Mission in 2009 amid the recession. He had been working in food processing, was laid off and lost his housing.

"It was circumstances," recalls Tony. "He was a kind and gentle soul. He just couldn't see his way out."

Tony and Norm pondered the simple note.

"He was assigned to bed 148," they remember. "And there he slept for 13 years. He never missed a night. He never caused any problems."

In 2020, the Eugene Mission became a residential program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the governor's stay-at-home orders that stretched to 15 weeks.

During that time, the Eugene Mission staff was amazed by the joy and growth in the guests despite uncertainty and challenges. The modification of daily operations provided a unique opportunity to launch a new relational program called R³, which stands for Rescue + Revitalize + Restore. Every guest of the Eugene Mission is now enrolled in the R³ or Life Change programs. This provides every guest a daily schedule, including classes and recreational and spiritual development opportunities.

"The restoration of an individual is best addressed in a profoundly relational manner," explains Sheryl Balthrop,

Eugene Mission Executive Director. "Often the elements an unhoused person needs most are Hope, recovery, mentorship, life-skill and vocational training with behavioral supports. These relational elements are crucial for growth, independence and restoration."

The relational approach of R³ made a connection for Samuel.

"We started working with him on goal-setting," answers Tony. "Small goals. He was on the morning janitorial team. He was invested in helping with pandemic precautions during that phase of understanding COVID."

Daily and weekly, Samuel met benchmarks and was asked to be the lead for the morning janitorial team.

"We wondered if he was ready for that," laughs Norm. "He was. Once he started leading that team, he blossomed. He literally blossomed."

"Until the R³ Program, Samuel just couldn't see a way out," remembers Tony. "One of his program goals was to work on a resume."

Samuel met mission volunteer Colleen Coulbourne who was teaching a job-readiness and resume-writing class in the R³ suite of classes. Colleen coached Samuel and encouraged him. With the help of Lane Workforce Partnership, Samuel found a temporary job and was quickly hired full-time. With employment and a financial plan, Samuel qualified for a housing program. He was an ideal candidate.

Earlier this year, Samuel moved into his own apartment, his first "home" in 13 years. He continues to live and work independently with newfound purpose and confidence.

The envelope, as it turns out, did not contain a donation but, rather, one priceless statement of gratitude. Amen.

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted, and he saves those whose spirits have been crushed." [Psalm 34:18]



Eugene Mission Hospitality

Skill-Building Meets Community Building

The Hospitality and Culinary Program (HCP) at the Eugene Mission is a new and innovative program that is changing how communities think about partnering with organizations serving the unhoused. This exciting program provides opportunities for our guests to learn vocational and life skills in real-time as community groups hold meetings in the Eugene Mission's four gathering spaces.

The HCP partners with trained chefs, community volunteers and guests who engage in vocational training together to provide beautiful meals with exceptional presentation and atmosphere. Presentation projection and hybrid Zoom set-ups are available, along with food and beverage service. The HCP is part of the residential, transformational programs at the Eugene Mission for guests working to overcome social and skill barriers and rejoin healthy community with sustainable income, sobriety and housing.

Currently, our new program is serving 4-12 meeting groups each week and hosting upwards of 600 community members every month. We are so grateful for the community groups that are part of this exciting new program.

For more information, contact beths@eugeneMission.org.

Culinary Training Program Wish List

- + Cuisinart processors
- + Kitchen Aid Mixer
- + Air Fryers (new cooking class!)
- + Induction compatible Frying Pans

Making a Difference Together

Over the past seven decades, the Eugene Mission has expanded from a gospel mission providing the unhoused “three hots and a cot” into a gospel mission providing an essential safety net and restorative community serving our most vulnerable and disconnected neighbors.

The Eugene Mission recognizes that homelessness is about much more than rooflessness. Homelessness is about disconnection from family and community. To return people who are homeless to community (and a home), we provide comprehensive programming addressing the barriers and root causes of each person's homelessness. Our success is seeing individuals restored, so that when they return to a home setting, they will not fall back into previous failed behaviors. At the Eugene Mission, we are changing the crisis-rescue-repeat cycle for good.

Homeless individuals have complex health and social challenges, which often include addiction, mental illness, trauma, and social and vocational impoverishment. Unlike traditional homeless shelters, the Eugene Mission helps our guests identify, address and overcome the issues and barriers that brought them to our doors. Repeatedly, we see how life-change is about whole-person growth, relationships

and restoration to loved ones and community. When our guests get well, our entire community benefits.

At the Eugene Mission, we are blessed to share Hope and to serve senior citizens, veterans, men, women, children and families all taking the courageous steps to address challenges in their lives as they enjoy safe and sober access to meals, showers, clothing, life-skill classes, vocational training opportunities and recreation.

The terrible costs impacting a precious individual, their family and the community when a person languishes on the streets is immeasurable. The public cost of emergency services (paramedics, emergency rooms, crisis intervention, law enforcement) for high-needs unhoused individuals exceeds \$80,000 per year. The Eugene Mission's free-to-participant programs save the community millions of dollars. This benefit, because of our higher rate of success, further multiplies across years and generations. All we do is achieved with zero public funding—just private donations from generous community members and the hard work of our staff and volunteers.

We thank our generous donors whose gifts help make a difference!

Women's Life Change is Coming Back!

The Life Change Program is the best kept secret in the Northwest. Life Change's success rate is more than double the rate of other programs! Our success demonstrates that 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—complexity that simply cannot be addressed by typical 30-day recovery programs limited by insurance coverage and government programs. Participants usually need 30 days just to stabilize, and then guests need case management, vocational and faith support, life-skills classes and experiences, sponsors and mentors, and learning about the community through service.

The Women's Life Change Program will follow our 18-month residential addiction recovery and relapse-prevention program model. It is designed for those willing to enter into a rigorous wellness learning process in order to develop a new lifestyle of recovery. Participants are helped in moving from reliance upon substances to being sober-minded—to accepting responsibility for their actions, having boundaries, rebuilding lost relationships/maintaining new ones, and learning how to live on a budget in a healthy community. We hope you'll be part of moving that dial further by helping us remodel an existing building to accommodate the Women's Life Change Program. Please know that you'll be helping women find long-term addiction recovery and the ability to transform their lives to ones of Hope and independence.

Homeless individuals have substantial and complex health and social needs and challenges, often including addiction, mental illness, trauma, and social or vocational impoverishment. Unlike traditional homeless shelters, the Eugene Mission helps our guests identify, address and overcome the issues and barriers that brought them to our doors. Repeatedly, we see how life change is about whole-person growth.

The Eugene Mission is currently renovating one of its existing buildings for Women's Life Change Program. The two-story building will include office space for Life Change staff and volunteers, classroom space and six modified apartments. The Eugene Mission is blessed with a highly skilled in-house construction team that has begun work on the new Women's Life Change house with an eye toward a June 25th, 2022, grand opening. We have received a generous \$200,000 challenge match for refurbishing the building and facilities as needed. Your contribution will be matched \$1:1 through May 15th, 2022.

Please contact beths@eugenemission.org with your matching gift, to request a tour or for more information.



Construction team lead Luigi Rossi, a 47-year contractor

In-Kind Wish List

- + Bacon
- + Fresh Salad Greens
- + Metal Serving Spoons (buffet)
- + Dry Erase Markers
- + Paper coffee cups
- + Caesar Salad Dressing

Ways to Give

- + Give online and become a monthly sustaining donor at eugenemission.org
- + Give by mail using the enclosed envelope.
- + The Eugene Mission gratefully accepts donations of stock.
- + Remember the Eugene Mission in your estate planning, will or instrument FEIN#93-0563797.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for our guests, staff and volunteers who are working together in our R³ and Life Change Programs. Please pray for wisdom as we restore Women's Life Change to the Eugene Mission.