



eugene mission 
 Rescue + Revitalize + Restore

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

1 Corinthians 15:58

A Firm Foundation



It is a sunny afternoon and a group is touring the Eugene Mission campus when a visitor asks about the Mission’s approach to homelessness.

A staff member shares that the Eugene Mission is an unabashedly Christian organization seeking to partner with hurting people to share Hope, alleviate suffering, assist with

supportive skill-building and bring about their restoration to healthy community.

The visitor hesitates, and asks, “Wouldn’t more unhoused people use your services if you removed the Christian emphasis?”

It is not the first time the question has been asked. And to be clear, it is a question that, in most circumstances, is asked in good faith and with a genuine concern for vulnerable individuals. To answer the question, it is easiest to use the analogy of a medical situation.

We understand the status of being unhoused as a brutal symptom of a much more serious condition of “disconnection” – often from God and hope, mental and physical health, healthy family and friends, vocation and broader community.

For permanent healing, there needs to be the restoration of these various relationships. The critical component of

these relationships is the Hope provided by Jesus Christ. We would not be competent practitioners if we omitted the most important element of healing, even if that element is not always popular.

The Eugene Mission welcomes all people of any faith or no faith to our programs. And while we do not require guests in our Emergency Shelter or Rescue, Revitalize and Restore (R³) Program to participate in any religious component, it is our fervent hope that we convey the love, peace and joy of Jesus Christ to all with whom we interact.

Blessings,

Sheryl Balthrop

Executive Director

Volunteer with Us!

Please join us for Thanksgiving as a volunteer! There are multiple opportunities to assist with meal prep the week of Thanksgiving with dinner service from 11-1 on Thanksgiving Day in three different locations on campus.

Contact: MikeT@eugenemission.org



The Healing Power of Friendship

Under the gazebo in front of the Eugene Mission Learning Center, former guest Alfonso Stapler and volunteer chaplain Jeff Leishman sit laughing and reminiscing about their five-year-long friendship.

“It didn’t happen overnight,” notes Jeff with a smile. “It takes time to build a true friendship, especially a healthy one.”

Jeff and Alfonso met while Alfonso was living at the Eugene Mission. After 21 years of sobriety, Alfonso found himself in a full-blown relapse.

“I had been sober for over two decades and thought I could dabble a little,” shares Alfonso. “Before I knew it, I was back to methamphetamine, cocaine and alcohol.”

Alfonso’s relapse destroyed relationships he had worked hard to cultivate, and ultimately, he was evicted and on the streets.

“I was crushed,” recounts Alfonso of that time just five years ago. “This was not my first time on the streets and here I was, back again, addicted and homeless.”

Homelessness is not a situational crisis, but a chronic one that can span a lifetime if the root causes are not addressed. There are complex causes to homelessness that include addiction, mental illness, trauma and disconnection from family and community. The cumulative result is that many experiencing homelessness feel disempowered and incapable of making changes in their lives.

“A friend from church found me and brought me to the Eugene Mission,” recounts Alfonso. “He told me he was sorry for my circumstances, and that the Eugene Mission was where I needed to be. As it turns out, he was absolutely right.”

Alfonso joined the Eugene Mission’s Rescue + Revitalize + Restore (R³) Program and began taking classes and

participating in vocational development opportunities. Alfonso attended recovery groups and began to address unresolved trauma.

“I watched Alfonso thrive,” shares Jeff. “There are so many opportunities for guests to engage in the R³ Program. And there is so much support and encouragement along the way.”

Alfonso nods in agreement.

“The staff and volunteers genuinely cared about me,” he says. “I didn’t feel judged. They wanted to be a part of my recovery journey. Staff and volunteers like Jeff saw the potential in me that I could not see in myself.”

While providing food and shelter is important for the stabilization of the unhoused, the Eugene Mission service model is also focused on the need for relational services. Relational services rebuild lives and provide a path of recovery and independence. Our years of experience in working with our unhoused neighbors has shown us that homelessness is not sustainably solved by solely providing material resources.

“I am so grateful to have been a part of Alfonso’s remarkable journey,” shares Jeff. “Five years later, he is an incredibly dear friend. I recently got married and Alfonso was at the top of the list of people I invited. It meant the world to me that he was able to be there for me.”

During his stay at the Eugene Mission, Alfonso was able to stabilize and reconnect with his family. He found a church family that loves and supports him in his recovery from addiction and in addiction relapse prevention. With the help of Jeff and a team of navigators, Alfonso was able to establish necessary documents to enroll in a housing program that provides permanent supportive assistance to individuals who experience chronic homelessness.

This past summer, Jeff and a team of Eugene Mission staff, volunteers and friends gathered to share the joy of moving Alfonso into his new home. There were so many helpers, it was hard to find things to move. After the work was done, Jeff, Alfonso and the group prayed together for Alfonso and his journey forward.

“Bad habits can rub off on people, but so do good ones!” says Alfonso. “I was surrounded by love and support while I was at the Eugene Mission and I’d like to now show that to others.”

Celebrating Life Change

Oregon's statistics on substance abuse paint an unflattering picture. While Oregon had the third-highest addiction rate in the country last year, our state ranked 47th out of 50 states in treatment options. This inverse correlation is not good. Substance abuse costs families and individuals an inestimable toll as it often presents an insurmountable barrier to maintaining relationships, employment, health and housing.

The Eugene Mission recognizes the brutal suffering caused by substance abuse and supports its guests in their sobriety. We are committed to changing the terrible trajectory of addiction in the lives of our guests and to providing them with a pathway out of it. Recovery is a critical piece of the journey off the streets, and we recognize the recovery journey takes time, dedication and resources.

The Eugene Mission's Life Change Program embodies our commitment to walking this journey with our guests and sharing the complete healing that only Jesus Christ offers them.



The Life Change Program provides 18 months of intensive residential relapse prevention services free of charge. The program helps participants heal and grow spiritually, emotionally, physically, socially and vocationally so they are equipped to victoriously reenter healthy community.

The Life Change Program has been expanded in 2022 to include a

residential women's program. Early on the morning of July 27th, five of our guests embarking on the Women's Life Change journey moved into a newly remodeled building on the Eugene Mission campus.

While the Life Change Program for women existed at the Eugene Mission for a time, the deeply troubling increase in rates of addiction and overdose deaths in women — particularly with the increased prevalence of methamphetamine and fentanyl — spurred our commitment to making Women's Life Change a permanent part of what we do.

The Life Change Program for both men and women is the best kept secret in the Pacific Northwest. Life Change's success rate is more than double the rate of other programs! We have demonstrated 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.

We invite you to tour our new Women's Life Change house! Please contact MikeT@eugenemission.org.

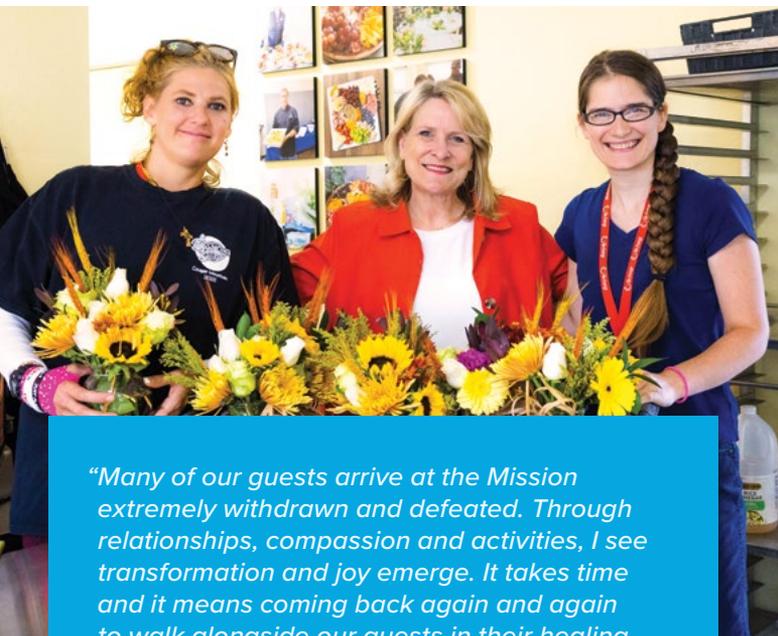


"The best part of my job at the Eugene Mission Women's Life Change is the excitement of watching these amazing women achieve the dream of who they want to be and become, and the reality of who they are. When you watch someone come in with their head down, ashamed and defeated, and then watch them begin to heal and thrive, there is nothing like that! Praise God!"

— Kimber Walton, Women's Life Change Program Manager

“What I love about working at the Eugene Mission is that I get to serve and bring joy to people who are typically not shown basic care and love. The food I make fills a hunger, but also feeds a soul. Making food for someone is an act of love.”

— Phaedra Jackson, Director of Culinary Arts



“Many of our guests arrive at the Mission extremely withdrawn and defeated. Through relationships, compassion and activities, I see transformation and joy emerge. It takes time and it means coming back again and again to walk alongside our guests in their healing journey. It is an incredible honor to be a part of this process. I thank God every single day.”

— Beth Sheehan, Director of Philanthropy
(and volunteer coordinator of decor!)



“It is incredible to see these people who come in here so lost, so broken and so beat up. To see them walk out of here 18 months later with their head held high, with a job, with money in the bank. It is incredible to see God’s work in these people. Indeed, God makes a way out of no way and I am blessed to be a part of the Life Change Program.”

— Denver Harris, Life Change Program Director

Prayer Requests

Please pray for our guests and their healing from trauma, loss and addiction. Please pray for continued support to provide comprehensive, transformational programs for our guests.

Wish List

- + Bacon for our holiday breakfasts
- + Cake Flour for culinary classes
- + Chocolate Chips for baking classes
- + Coffee for early mornings
- + Flower Clippers for classes
- + Olive Oil for cooking classes
- + Vegetable Peelers for meal prep

Ways to Give

- + Financial support for the Eugene Mission as we work with our guests to address barriers and challenges.
- + Remember the Eugene Mission in your estate planning: FEIN#93-0563797.
- + Become a monthly sustaining supporter at eugenemission.org/giving/
- + The Eugene Mission gratefully accepts donations of stock.