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**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Homelessness Can Happen
- Philanthropy & Children
- Heat Wave Affects Homeless
- Living a Self-Sufficient Life

## Homelessness Can Happen to Anyone

"I was very nervous, I was ashamed . . . and I was embarrassed, because you don't picture yourself as a person that would be homeless," Cinnamon explained as she shared her story about how tough economic times led her to the Rescue Mission shelter. "That was the first time ever that I just didn't have anywhere to go, and I had four children."



Cinnamon came to Washington State from Indiana, hopeful that her family would find affordable housing and that she could obtain reliable employment. When she arrived, her plans didn't work out and she was frightened about how she would find a way to care for her

children. "I didn't know what we were going to do," she said. "You assume that a homeless person is something that you're not, but it can happen to anybody."

After staying three months in our shelters, she became self-sufficient. She appreciated that our staff works diligently to ensure that clients' needs are met with compassion, and that they gain the necessary tools to overcome whatever emotional and economic crises they face. "It's not how I would have pictured it," she said. "They were nice, they were considerate, and they were concerned."

Since her stay, at the shelter Cinnamon went back to school to become a certified dental assistant, and her family is doing well. She is thankful that our programs not only offered her

family safety from the streets, but also the time, resources and case management she needed to get on her feet. "They didn't make you feel like you were in a shelter," she said. "It completely changed my life." Cinnamon said her life is very different now. She loves her career and is finally able to take care of herself and her family. She said she wants people to understand that it's important to just keep moving forward, because hope is still alive and people do still care. "There are plenty of opportunities in life to change things for the better," she said. "You take it for what it is and for me I came out a better person."

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She said she doesn't like that she had to be there, but she's grateful that she was able to because it changed the way she views herself. "I want to help those that are in that situation to understand that they can't give up," she said. "As long as you're living, there's an opportunity for change."

Together we can continue making amazing transformations like Cinnamon's a reality. Your commitment to the hurting and hungry in our community not only provides people with new opportunities to rebuild their lives, it also helps build a better community and the piece of mind in knowing that we all can depend on the love and support of one another in our time of need.

## We Always Need Volunteers!

For updated volunteer information, visit our online volunteer Hub:

[rescue-mission.org/volunteer-hub](http://rescue-mission.org/volunteer-hub)



## Philanthropy and Children: Good Citizens in Training

Promoting the health and wellness of disadvantaged children seems like an easy sell, but it's much more complicated to others in the community that may not understand the essentials that come along with such an awesome responsibility.

Today's education system promotes critical thinking. When children attend yearly field trips, they visit science centers, zoos, and wildlife reserves to expand their knowledge in different fields of science. While all these tools are vital resources to promote cognitive development and a greater appreciation for how the world works, little is being done to encourage the importance of philanthropy in the community.

Rarely do you see a push for children to reach out and learn more in areas where their community needs them most. By implementing a greater awareness of community activism while they're young, children will grow up to be more educated and compassionate about the circumstances behind non-profit leadership. Instead of seeing homelessness as a disease, they will be hardwired with the compassion to promote positive changes, and to break the stereotypes that stigmatize poverty.

Children are impressionable while they're young, and they are the future leaders in America. By teaching them to care, they will likely have deeper core values toward all socioeconomic backgrounds in their community, and will have a better appreciation for preserving vital non-profit programs like the Rescue Mission.



## Heat Wave Affects Homeless

Often, people think of homeless people during extremely cold days of winter, but the extreme heat also poses a danger to those who cannot get out of the heat. Some may be wearing all the clothes they own in the world, thus making it even more hot.



The Downtown Tacoma Campus at 425 South Tacoma Way is open all day and night to help homeless people who may be suffering from heat exhaustion and need to get out of the sun. There will be water available all day in the day room in addition to the regularly scheduled meals.

*Please inform anyone you know who may need to use these services.*

## Living a Self-Sufficient Life

We recently heard from Ashley, who was a resident at our Tyler St. Family Campus two years ago.

***"I just wanted to give you the biggest thank you in the whole world. You don't understand how much this means to me. Now that I'm working, and I'm off of state assistance and moving into my own house free of section 8 and public housing, I finally feel like I'm starting on the path I need to be on. Although I'm truly thankful for having those resources when I needed them most, I'm happy where I am. So thank you again! I really appreciate you."***

Ashley is a great example of how with hard work, many of our clients leave our programs with the tools to live a self-sufficient life they have dreamed of.

**\* Look for our special memorial section in the September newsletter!**

