

Congratulations to our Fall GED graduates: Allysa Bonse, Kimberly Cortina, Todd Miller, Rachel Montgomery, Charles Morgan, Alexander Nichols, Erica Robinson, Joshua Sutton, Cody Waner, Shane Sutton, Lucas Wilson, Craig Woeck, Tonya Stevenson, Lindsey Carter, Robin Wilson, Jessica Richter.



## New Life Program Clients Share About Joy

**Although hardships are painful, they are often accompanied by joy resulting from a heavy burden being removed. We asked a few clients to tell us about a time when they felt this kind of joy.**

"I felt this joy when I thought I would be able to stay clean after my graduation from my 3rd treatment center, and when my family accepted me with open arms back into their lives."

"I'm actually in the process of removing burdens from the hardships in my life. My mom and dad are really bad into drugs and alcohol, and I was raised with a heavy influence of that. My parents actually praised me when I learned how to use. I am holding resentment inside towards them; I need to forgive both of them so I don't have to be angry anymore. I know that is going to lift a heavy burden off of me. I can already feel it being removed."

"I've had many burdens removed from me by my God, who is still caring for me and my needs. Joy is being brought back into my life right now because I am in this program! I am very happy to be a part of this and I'm going to finally find out about me and how my life has been disrupted by bad choices. I want to be able to accomplish something positive and give back to society. This is going to be great, and the joy is that God is in it all."

"By me losing my job and my home. That was a big and heavy burden, one of not knowing what to do, not being able to provide for my family. As a result of that, we came to the Rescue Mission. By coming to the Mission, it brought a lot of joy and peace in to our lives, they didn't just provide a place to stay; they provided a lot of love and comfort. They brought faith and hope into our souls. My family and I give thanks from the bottom of our hearts to all the staff and people who made this possible. God bless all of his faithful servants."

"The joy that I have been blessed with is the fact that, for once in my life, I am finally getting my life together. I have spent the last seven years in denial about myself and what I was doing to not only myself but to those that were close to me. So this place was like a God send for me. I have removed so many burdens here at the NLP program and I am learning every day to deal with the ones that I am still working on."

"I think I am in that position right now because this place lifts a lot of burdens off of a person. You don't need for anything here; everything is taken care of for you which gives you more time to get closer to God."

*"The joy that I have been blessed with is the fact that, for once in my life, I am finally getting my life together."*

## Challenge Learning Students Celebrate Earning their GED

**The Challenge Learning Center, located at the Downtown Tacoma Campus, works with people in a helpful, supportive environment to move forward with their education.**

This October we celebrated the success of the many students who worked hard to further their education by obtaining their GED. We spoke with Allysa, Lindsey and Tonya, a family who supported each other by working on their GEDs. Allysa lost her job last year, and made a decision to earn her GED. After her success in the program she encouraged her sister who recently had a baby, and her mom, who was happy with her full-time job to do something they had always wanted to do, get their GEDs. This family of four supported each other by babysitting, studying together, using the tutoring available, and encouraging one another to simply show up. When we asked Lindsey how she felt about her experience she said, "I've said for years I wanted to get my GED, and I kept putting it off, their inspiration and encouragement helped me to take that first step. Getting my GED gave me the self confidence

I needed, I feel a lot better about myself just from doing it." Often one accomplishment can be the stepping stone to the next, Allysa plans to go to school for medical assisting, and Lindsey is making plans to further her education. These ladies are a wonderful example of the learning and growth that goes on at the Mission everyday.



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702 Pacific Avenue

**Mailing Address**  
PO Box 1912  
Tacoma, WA 98401

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(253) 383-4493

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425 S. Tacoma Way

**To Volunteer**  
Fill out a volunteer form online at [Rescue-Mission.org](http://Rescue-Mission.org)

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- Downtown Tacoma Campus
- Adams St. Family Campus
- Tyler St. Family Campus
- Colonial Apartments
- Jefferson Apartments
- Administration Office

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- Need-A-Break Program
- Family Life Program
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[Rescue-Mission.org/blog](http://Rescue-Mission.org/blog)

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NOVEMBER 2011  
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## One Meal to Someone in Need May Change a Life!

**This Thanksgiving Pierce County is challenged to provide meals at \$1.87 each.**

Our Thanksgiving shopping list is long with more than 10 dozen turkeys. More than 600 pounds of



potatoes. Huge boxes of stuffing and stacks of restaurant-sized cans of cranberry sauce. The meal will be our biggest of the year so far, and the largest Thanksgiving event for homeless families in the county. Although still weeks away, time is

short to prepare when hundreds of homeless people are on the guest list. "We want this meal to be really special," said David Curry, the Rescue Mission's Chief Executive Officer. "Without our help, Thanksgiving will be a day of dread and hopelessness for those who have nowhere else to go." The staff works hard to get as much food donated as possible. They have already gathered up all the volunteers they will need. By pinching every penny, the average cost to prepare and serve a complete Thanksgiving meal is just \$1.87. Curry's goal is not to turn anyone away. "Our 99 years of service places us in a position to not only feed large

numbers of people, but also to help them get off the streets for good," Curry added. "But we depend on support from individuals in the community who really want to help the homeless effectively." In addition to providing meals, the mission offers showers, shelter, warm clothing, adult basic education, an afterschool program for youth, employment mentoring, budgeting and parenting classes and a drug and alcohol recovery program.

Because more than half the homeless we serve are women and children, we also offer emergency and transitional housing for families.

"For less than the cost of a gallon of gas, caring friends can give someone a chance to change their lives," said Curry. "Every good hot meal can encourage someone to stay with us and get the help they need."

**For more information about the Thanksgiving outreach or to provide meals, visit the Mission's website at [www.rescue-mission.org/thanksgiving](http://www.rescue-mission.org/thanksgiving)**



Visit our website at  
**Rescue-Mission.org**

## We Asked Our Clients What They are Thankful For This Thanksgiving



When we got here my family was struggling with addiction and homelessness. I had a severe alcohol problem. I am thankful for the safe, secure and caring environment that has helped get us back on track and bring us closer.

I am thankful this year for being able to have a relationship with my child of my choice.

I am thankful for the mission because of the mission I have been able to start my life over with a fresh start and it has been amazing. I have been sober for over 2 years. My kids were returned home and my marriage was restored and I love the mission and God. Thanks for a brand new life also I will start college in Jan. Thank you for the chance to really see and feel love from all the wonderful people here at the mission. I will never forget what you have done for me!

I am grateful for a chance to build a new life, literally a new life. One without bondage to guilt, shame, depression, anxiety. One that is not constantly dark, but has meaning and light.

I am thankful for the roof over my head! For the caring people around me, the wonderful staff that have spoken life to me and my family. For my children to be in a healthy environment with healthy mentors. Thank you Rescue Mission for restoring in my family.

My mom  
Shelter  
Food  
water

I am thankful for many things this year, but mostly I am thankful of relationships renewed.



## Girl Scout Troop #41577 Helps Pierce County Stay Warm this Winter

This cold season 525 children, women, and men in need will have a warm coat thanks to these dedicated young women.

Girl Scout Troop #41577 was able to collect 525 coats of varying sizes that will provide the hurting and homeless of Pierce County with warmth during the winter months. The coats were collected at Wa-Hoyt elementary school, Milgard windows, and from two grants received from Hasbro, and Milgard.

Thank you troop #41577 for spreading help, hope, and healing to those who need it the most in your community!



## You Can Offer Someone Hope This Holiday Season

**Sponsoring Dinners for the Downtown or Adams Campuses**  
It's \$500 to sponsor a dinner that feeds hundreds of people. You have the option to come & volunteer the night you sponsor to see how you are helping & making a difference. This is a great way to serve with your family, friends or company.  
➔ Email Juliet Wallin at [juliet.wallin@rescue-mission.org](mailto:juliet.wallin@rescue-mission.org) or call her at 253.592.6845 for more information on sponsoring meals.

**Adopting Families for Christmas**  
You can adopt or support a family at our Adams or Tyler Campus this Christmas.  
➔ Contact Kim Maki at [kim.maki@rescue-mission.org](mailto:kim.maki@rescue-mission.org) or call her at 253.383.4493.

**Donate Food, Frozen Turkeys, New Toys, Coats, or Clothing**  
Food Donations accepted every day of the week 5am - 7pm at the Downtown Tacoma Campus at the back of the main building - drive through gate between buildings and go to the left. All other donations are accepted Mon-Fri 10am-4pm and Sat. 9am-1pm at our Need-A-Break Center at the Downtown Campus (to the right as you drive in the entrance.)

\*Due to the Pierce Transit construction at the downtown location, the Adam's Family Campus, at 2909 S Adams St, will be accepting donations two days a week: Thursdays from 2-4 pm, and Saturdays from 1-4 pm. The Adam's Family Campus will accept clothing, toiletries, and small household items.

**Volunteer & Help Serve Meals**  
Fill out a volunteer form online at [rescue-mission.org/volunteer](http://rescue-mission.org/volunteer)

**Food & Clothing Drives**  
Would you like a donation barrel for a food or clothing drive?  
➔ Contact Charles Reed at [charles.reed@rescue-mission.org](mailto:charles.reed@rescue-mission.org) or call him at 253-284-4282.



## A Special Thanks to Big Step Consulting

Big Step Consulting, a technology focused consulting company in Gig Harbor, donated \$1,000 to sponsor two meals for the GNC. With their generous donation, they provided meals for many families and individuals in Pierce County that would have otherwise gone hungry.

## In Memory of

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
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For info on estate planning, contact: Juliet at (253)383-4493 or [julietwallin@rescue-mission.org](mailto:julietwallin@rescue-mission.org)