

Wenatchee Rescue Mission Thanksgiving Newsletter 2023

John is thankful for Wenatchee Rescue Mission

Written by: John
Hello, I am John, a former Wenatchee Rescue Mission/Hospitality House resident and now live in the Wenatchee Rescue Mission permanent housing unit. I first came to the Wenatchee Rescue Mission in July of 2014. At that time, it was called the Hospitality House. Some years ago, I was diagnosed with severe depression, anxiety, and non-combat-related PTSD. Many reasons led to this diagnosis.

On April 20, 1986, my mother passed away shortly after a diagnosis of Breast and Bone Cancer; I was only 19. In July of that same year, I came home and found my father deceased from a heart attack; he was only 45. In September of 1986, I was sexually assaulted by a trusted leader in my church.

In my later years, I worked for the Washington State Department of Corrections. Unfortunately, I was assigned the duty of supervising sex offenders. Not long after, I left my job due to PTSD. After working a few jobs, I found myself homeless in 2014. I had a short stay at a homeless camp and 6 months at my ex-wife's house. On July 2, 2014, I found myself with nowhere to stay. A person I know who lives in the Wenatchee area told me about the Hospitality House/Wenatchee Rescue Mission. I ventured out to Wenatchee in complete panic hoping to find the shelter.

Without this person I know and the incredible assistance from staff and men at the shelter, I am not sure I would be here writing this testimonial. I felt relieved because I had a safe roof over my head. There are few places where you can stay and have 3 meals, shower, take care of laundry and safely sleep. Yes, I was finally safe, but I still had many issues and breakdowns while staying at the shelter. I was always supported and encouraged to do what it took to make myself better. Today, I live in the Wenatchee Rescue Mission Permanent housing area. Many of the men are like brothers to me. I volunteer daily to help my fellow community. Recently, I had a mouth full of painful teeth, so much so that I would not eat or smile much. The staff told me to believe that God will help connect us to someone who can help. Not long after, the team had great news! They got my teeth pulled and a brand new set of dentures. All without putting me in debt. I can now smile, which was not possible before. I now have more confidence. God indeed answered my prayers! With the help of Wenatchee Rescue Mission, I am safe and working towards being well. I will forever owe them my undying gratitude.



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1 Chronicles 16:34 "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

Wenatchee Rescue Mission

Thanksgiving Newsletter 2023 cont.

THANKSGIVING THOUGHTS

By Executive Director Scott Johnson

I must admit Thanksgiving was never my favorite holiday. Don't get me wrong, I loved eating great food at my grandmother's house and seeing all the family. But after a few hours, it's all over. In my youth, I recall thinking is that it? Somehow, I left the house with a feeling of emptiness and, at times, conviction. But why? My thoughts raced around, thinking about others who did not have family or a house to go to. What do they do? Where do they go? I pondered this question for many years well into adulthood. Not long after I started in ministry, I got my answer! In my youth, the Lord was preparing my heart for his ministry. God knew then that everyone needs to be welcomed into his family by showing someone God's love through action.

What does any of this have to do with Thanksgiving? Everything! Wenatchee Rescue Mission serves people who otherwise may never have a family to welcome them or serve a hot meal on Thanksgiving. When someone walks through our doors, they are accepted just like a family member, no matter who they are. Even people like my wild uncle, who used to throw the rolls to everyone instead of passing the basket (that's a whole other story). I thank God for individuals like YOU who allow us, through your generous donations, to serve everyone like a family member. You are the Mission!

But wait, there is more! Thanksgiving provides a moment for our staff and volunteers to connect with someone and help them realize it's time to change. It's time to let go and let God take control. What I have learned about Thanksgiving is that it's about loving God and his people. It's about actively showing someone we care by providing the basic human needs and thanking God that we can do so. Ultimately, we all need to love one another as God loves us. It brings us joy to see the smiling faces and the great big thank you's we hear when someone comes to Wenatchee Rescue Mission for a Thanksgiving meal. We hope you will find it in your heart to give this year towards our Holiday celebrations. It means the world to those we serve and helps us continue acting out God's love and connecting to people in a deeper way that most never see or experience.

WHY GIVING BACK IS SO IMPORTANT.

By Monique Johnson

Every person Wenatchee Rescue Mission serves has a unique story and set of barriers. It takes leaders who genuinely care about people to help overcome these barriers daily. Our staff leads by example to inspire our men and women to keep trying and not lose hope. This hope creates a ripple effect and before we know it, our men and women are encouraging each other and fostering their own empathy and compassion. Most people become inspired to be generous with their time, their money and their talent when they follow someone they respect as a leader. When we give time and care to those we don't know and understand, it helps us recognize our common humanity and develop a deeper understanding of the struggle and challenges people face alone. We can't do it without your support. Join us today. We need your caring example!

**"Our own light can become dimmed but
rekindled by the light of another."**

