



THE JUNCTION

SHELTER - RECOVERY - MINISTRY | CHRISTMAS 2025

He matters.
He is seen.
He has infinite worth.
He needs to know there
is hope in Jesus.

Read On: He is someone's son,
brother, father, grandfather.



INSIDE:

THIS CHRISTMAS: IN THE
TRENCHES WITH JESUS

RECENT
HIGHLIGHTS

A NOTE FROM
CHRIS RUTLEDGE

A Note From Our Director

THIS CHRISTMAS: IN THE TRENCHES WITH JESUS

I want to tell you about Richard, a man I came to know well.

Richard had a wife and a young daughter. For years, his life was dominated by a crippling methamphetamine addiction, cycling him in and out of jail. When he finally made a resolute commitment to change—a commitment anchored in faith in Christ—he began the painful process of counseling.

He lamented the devastating way he'd treated his family. One memory, in particular, haunted him. Early in his time at a detox facility, he received a letter from his four-year-old daughter—the first mail from her in a long time. She had colored him a picture and, at the top, had written her name and this simple, powerful message: "I love you daddy. I know you can get better." Richard believed this was the motivation he needed. He taped it above his bed.

But as his release date approached, the weight became too heavy. Two days before he was scheduled to exit detox and enter a mission's recovery program, he made the devastating choice to relapse. He left the picture behind, knowing the innocent hope it represented would become too painful to carry.

When I knew him months later, Richard recounted this story with deep shame and pain. He longed for that picture like a lost piece of treasure.

After months of counseling, we were able to help Richard understand a profound truth: that picture represented a burden his four-year-old daughter was never meant to carry. While it's natural to lean on loved ones for short-term encouragement, the simple reality is that her need for her father to be sober was not sufficient to break the stranglehold addiction had on him.

Richard realized that the picture, and the love it contained, had become an overwhelming expectation. His relapse was an act of raw selfishness, but it taught him that the only One capable of bearing the impossible burden of his sin and struggle was Jesus Christ. That is the truth that finally set him free. Today, Richard is doing well, reconciled with his daughter, living a new life in faith.

I'm sure many of us can relate to this feeling—the pain of wanting to be enough for someone we love, yet realizing we are not enough to save them from themselves.

This is why Fairhaven Rescue Mission exists. We personally understand the pain felt by the addicted and by the families who love them. We know that permanent freedom is found only through the power of Christ.

You hear it every year:

"Christmas is a joyful time of year filled with good cheer, family, and warm nights around the Christmas tree, BUT NOT FOR THOSE OUT ON THE STREETS."

Yes, there's truth here, but we sometimes become numb to that message, don't we? We see and hear stereotypes, and we stereotype others ourselves. We see pictures of homeless people on billboards and wonder if those pictures are real. We wonder where our donations are actually going.

Many charities in our community do wonderful work — and we're grateful for them — but Fairhaven is uniquely here *every single day*, face to face with our hurting neighbors, offering real help and real hope right where they are.



Fairhaven is here in the trenches day after day — serving faithfully, consistently, and compassionately right where the hurt is deepest.

I want to cut past the fluff and tell you that there are hundreds of homeless or poor individuals who are coming to our doors this season. They truly come here cold, exhausted, and carrying way more burdens than belongings.

We don't have a lot of flashy pictures to show you because we want to be genuine. We want to respect our Mission guests' privacy, especially considering the hardships they face every day. That's certainly enough to deal with.

And, at the end of the day, we cannot forget this:

Each individual that comes to our doors and seeks our help is someone's son or daughter.

Many of them are someone's brother or sister.

Many of them are someone's mom or dad...or grandma or grandpa.

Homelessness does not discriminate, certainly not regarding age. And the cold weather doesn't either.

Thankfully, we are backed by thousands of loving donors who see the good work God does here through them and our professional staff, who know that their gifts go so much farther than they can imagine, who understand that Jesus is working in the hearts of our staff, our donors, and our Mission guests.

It takes funds to keep the Ministry running, every single day. It takes professional staff to facilitate and properly care for our Mission guests. And it takes you, and all of our donors, to keep the Mission and our guests in your prayers.



THESE ARE OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS



IN THEIR WORDS

The Impact of the New Life Program

We asked our New Life Program residents if they could recall a situation or shelter guest whom God used to remind them not to go back to how they used to live -

John: Every day I see shelter guests going through situations without the help of God, and I tell myself without God and Fairhaven, I would be in a worse situation.

Heshimu: By hearing other people's stories and testimonies, it has allowed me to understand that I'm not on an island by myself. We all have an Achille's heel and should be forgiven.

We asked them to talk about which parts of the program have been most helpful -

John: It would be unfair to just pick one part of the program to say helped the most. Every part of the program has helped me. It's the balance of case management, biblical counseling, classes, and working with others that makes the program what it is, and it is amazing how all that comes together, especially when it comes to God's plan.

Michael: The most helpful part is just having a place to rest and avoid distraction while I'm preparing for my next phase of life.

Other remarks -

Shawn: I'm not alone in every fight I'm in.

Heshimu: Fairhaven is allowing to take care of my physical needs and mental needs.

Michael: I have purpose. And everything is either a support or a distraction.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- A church group recently baptized 2 Mission guests!
- 3 of our New Life Program residents started new jobs!
- We've provided non-residential case management to over 25 Mission guests!
- We've welcomed over 60 new donors and friends to the Mission!
- We've begun dozens of new relationships with local churches, businesses, and groups – leading to food donations for the holidays, speaking engagements, volunteer groups, and more!
- Members of our staff have spoken at local elementary schools about compassion and homelessness!
- We gave gift bags to our Mission guests on Thanksgiving that included hygiene items, scarves, hats, socks, a Bible, and an encouraging prayer from our donors!
- We've welcomed our new Executive Director Chris Rutledge!

Chris is a family man who came to us from Central Coast Rescue Mission in Santa Maria, California. With 16 years of experience in ministry and the mission field, and a heart for serving Christ and His people, he continues the legacy of his predecessors and the work they've done through the grace and provision of God.



WELCOME CHRIS!



What We're Doing Right Here, Right Now

- We've partnered with students, church groups, and donors to provide: 80 thick, knitted scarves, dozens of Bibles, hundreds of pairs of socks, and dozens of hygiene bags - all for our Mission guests
- This month, we're hosting a Christmas event - families will receive toys, pantry items, and filled gift bags of donated items! In addition, we are collaborating with Medicinlogic and Target 4 to provide HIV testing, HIV/HCV health education, harm reduction services + safe use kits, community support connections to care, a pharmacist-led wellness check, immunization assessments, health and medication resources, and colon cancer screenings.
- We're also hosting a special dinner for Christmas, with all the trimmings that many of us look forward to every year!
- Both our New Life Program residents and our overnight emergency shelter guests will be given Christmas presents.



REMINDER!

The Coffee Trail is in operation until **DECEMBER 31!** Remember to use all of your discounts before time runs out!

INFINITE WORTH

The human beings we serve every day in Covington...

These are someone's brothers or sisters.

These are someone's parents or grandparents.

These are someone's children.

For many of our donors, the deepest connection comes from this simple realization:

"This could be my sibling."

In fact, many of you have shared that a brother or sister once struggled with homelessness. That experience taught you compassion. It taught you that homelessness isn't an abstract issue — it's deeply personal.

Here at the Mission, we see that every day.

And this winter, we want to say something clearly to every guest who steps inside:

You matter.

You are seen.

You have infinite worth.

And even now — even in the cold — you can take one good step toward hope.

fairhaven
RESCUE MISSION
SHELTER - RECOVERY - MINISTRY



Here's how you can help the most this Christmas:

1/ Pray for the Mission, and ask the Lord to lead your giving to best serve Him and His people

2/ Give online at fairhavenmission.org

3/ Give by mail by sending your gift & reply form in the provided envelope

4/ Scan the QR code with your phone to give

**Because so much giving happens at the end of the year, a gift right now can have an extraordinary impact. Your December donation is not just "another gift" — it's part of a critical surge that helps ministries like Fairhaven meet their annual budget and serve through the winter.*



Scan here
to give

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