



NEWS

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We get people Off the bench



& Back in the Game

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Bottoms Up! Is Change Possible?

By Chuck Colson 12/15/2006

When it comes to controlling alcoholism among the homeless, one Seattle group is charting new territory. Last December, the Downtown Emergency Services Center opened a highly controversial facility, known as 1811 Eastlake, in order to house seventy-five of the city's most inebriated homeless.

Taxpayers had grown weary of shelling out up to \$50,000 a year per homeless citizen to pay for visits to the emergency room, jail, and recovery facilities. So, the city decided to redirect some of its funds—over \$11 million to be exact—toward permanent housing for these hard-core alcoholics.

But here's the catch—residents are allowed to drink to their heart's content! While 1811 does not discourage sobriety, it does not require its residents to enroll in any sort of recovery program. Bill Hobson, the program's executive director, says that the community needs to face the so-called "fact" that the most chronically intoxicated will likely remain that way. Hobson offers an example of a resident who was drunk ten minutes after spending sixty days in a detox facility. Referring to the worst drunks like this, he says, "Once you're an alcoholic, you're always an alcoholic."

Well, the reasoning goes, if an alcoholic can't change, instead of racking up taxpayer dollars to pay for jail cells and treatment, why not fund less expensive

housing? Just keep them off the streets.

It might be cheaper, but it's also immoral. You see, the idea that people

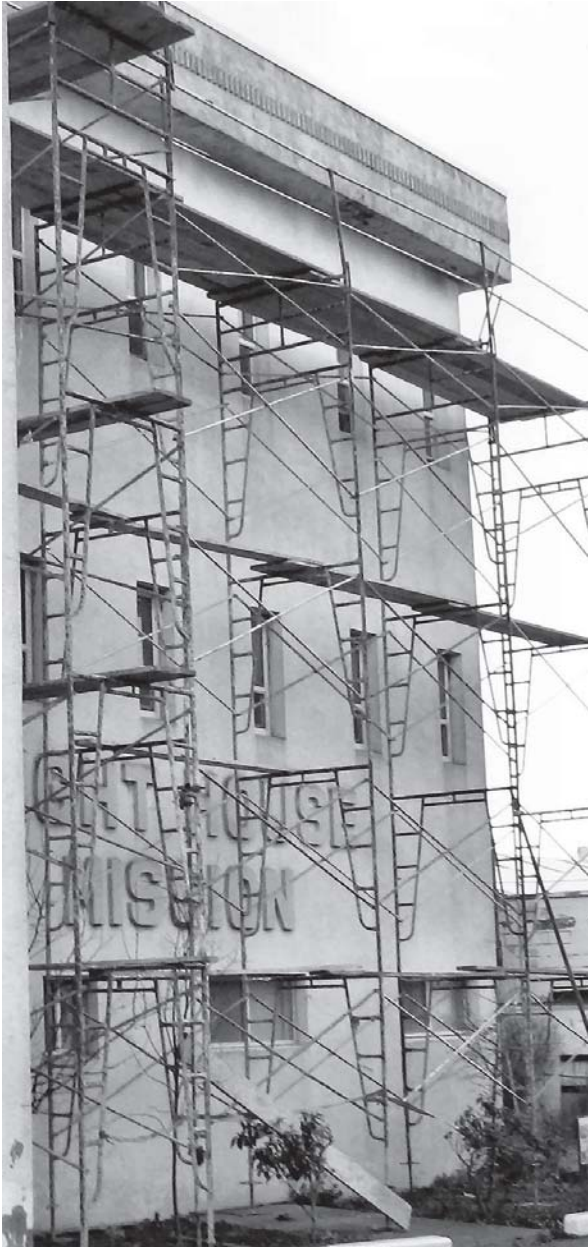
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We don't give up on people

Randy came to the Lighthouse Mission after several years of repeated homelessness. He was abused as a child. He was continuing in that cycle by abusing himself with drugs and alcohol. He had been in and out of many shelters and had attempted recovery several times. Randy is an example of chronic homelessness.

Randy entered the year-long, three phase, New Life Program at the Lighthouse Mission. One of the basic lessons of the program is the understanding of love. He is taught that "Love seeks the good of the object loved." This new definition has Randy struggling with the idea that someone could love him. He struggles with it daily because those that should have loved him actually hurt him and he remembers this. His hope comes from the realization that Jesus loves him. He sees this in the staff that minister to him here at the Mission. Randy's recovery and healing will not come easy. Recovery is a process that takes time. Take the time to pray for Randy and the other men on the New Life Program. They are going through changes in behavior as their new beliefs take hold. These men are beginning to understand the healing power of love.

Mission gets ready for fresh paint



It's a big job, but after 25 years it's time for the Mission's exterior to be repaired and painted. The repair phase has been completed. We hope to have it painted as soon as weather permits.

This Mission building was completed in 1975. The stucco was added to the outside in 1982.

Over 23,000 nights of lodging were provided in the 910 Mission in 2006. Countless men, women and children have stayed here since it was occupied in June of 1975.

Our sincere thanks to all who have been faithful to provide safe shelter to the local homeless.



Just a thought . . .

Ronald Buchinski, Executive Director
rbuchinski@yahoo.com

As we approach this Mother's Day I am reminded of who the heroes in Washington really are. They're not football, baseball or basketball players. The heroes are the Moms who are heroically fighting to keep their families together and food on the table.



A year ago I wrote an article for Mother's Day about my own mother and her battle with cancer. Many of you asked me about her and I am grateful for your concern. I talked with her yesterday and she is in another round of chemo, trying to keep her cancer from spreading any further.

Pat and I are very appreciative of your prayers for Mom during this phase of our lives.

Your Prayerful Support Has Provided These Services

January - February 2007

BEDS PROVIDED

<u>The Mission</u>	4,049
<u>New Life Center</u>	436
<u>Agape Women's Home</u>	515
Total Beds	5,000

MEALS PROVIDED

<u>The Mission</u>	7,024
<u>Agape Women's Home</u>	1,545
<u>Community Meals</u>	4,096
Total Meals	12,665

All donations to the Mission and Agape Home are used to help local homeless and needy men, women and children. Acceptance and participation are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, or sex.

MY SPRING GIFT

Yes, Ron, I want to help those in need during these wet spring days and throughout the year. **Here is my gift of:** _____

Name: _____

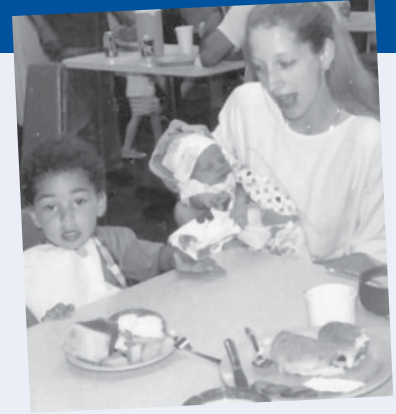
Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Please accept my credit card donation: (please print)

Card Type _____ Exp. Date _____ / _____

Account # _____



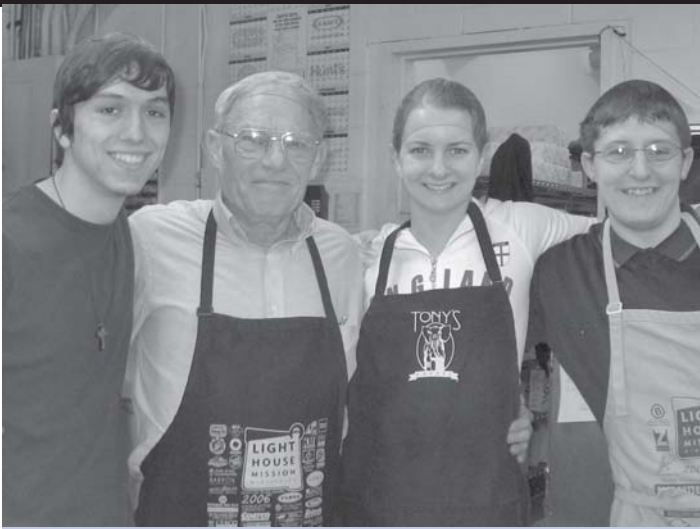
NLM7

I am interested in learning about including Lighthouse Mission Foundation in my estate planning.

Fed. Tax ID # 91-0659437 Lighthouse Mission Ministries -- PO Box 548, Bellingham, WA 98227 -- (360) 733-5120

All donor information is confidential. All gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

WWU students find joy helping the homeless



David Day, Bob Bertsch, Erin Jacobson, Andrew Roberts

Students from Catholic Christian Ministry (CCM) at Western Washington University, help prepare and serve meals at the Mission, every Tuesday evening.

They assist Bob, one of the Mission's cooks. When David, Erin and Andrew were asked what they like about helping here, they all exclaimed, "We love Bob!" Bob's response was, "They're a great bunch of kids."

Andrew shared that he had been looking for a place like this where he could help out. Erin said that it's a good escape from school. And that it's great to see the people smile when you give them a plate of food and smile at them. David simply said, "It's a blast!"

These young people are a blessing to the Mission and all who come through these doors looking for help.

Over 200 meals are served to hungry men, women and children, each day of the year, at the Mission and Agape Home. If your group or family would like to learn about how you can **Adopt-A-Meal**, please call Marky at 733-5120, extension 107, or email at LMV@inbox.com. We appreciate everyone's help.



Pick up an extra . . . for LMM

- Men's Pajamas
- Women's Pajamas or Nightgowns
- Jam & Jelly
- Stewed Tomatoes
- Tomato Sauce



Ron Buchinski, Executive Director
910 West Holly Street
PO Box 548
Bellingham, WA 98227-0548
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Helping the homeless since 1923

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Bottoms Up! *continued from page 1*

can't change is the result of a naturalistic, deterministic worldview. If people are truly the result of random evolution and their environment, and only the fit can survive, then indeed, homeless drunks don't have a chance. Give them a bottle, wish them well, and just keep them out of trouble.

But Christians know better. In thirty years of prison ministry, I've witnessed time and time again the transformation of the most incorrigibly hardened criminals imaginable—drug addicts and alcoholics among them. And believe me, it costs taxpayers far less to promote the transformation of prisoners than to simply warehouse them and hope they won't return to a life of crime. That's why six states have now welcomed the InnerChange Freedom Initiative® (or IFI), a faith-based program launched by Prison Fellowship, which has proven to drastically reduce recidivism among prisoners.

Ironically, as many of you know, a federal judge has ordered the IFI program in Iowa shut down, charging that it violates the separation of church and state—this, while taxpayers in Washington state are financing a homeless shelter that practically enables addictive behavior all to save, so they say, a few dollars.

But so much more is at stake than taxpayer dollars. Hope is. The director of 1811 Eastlake says that we need to face the reality that some people will never change. Well, he's wrong. Any society that just writes off a class of persons can someday put groups of people gently to sleep. The Nazis proved that so.

As Christians, we know that hardened criminals can be radically transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ. We don't write off anybody, including so-called "chronic inebriates."

From BreakPoint, December 15, 2006, reprinted with permission of Prison Fellowship, www.breakpoint.org.



A Mother's Day Memorial/Tribute card has been included with your newsletter.

If you would like to make your gift In Memory Of or as a Tribute To your mother or a special woman in your life, just fill out the card and include it with your donation. Their name will be listed in our next newsletter.



When the time comes to honor a loved one, why not remember those who are in need. A monetary gift to the Lighthouse Mission in memory of your loved one who has passed away, or in honor of a loved one, is an appropriate way to do this. We will send a card of notification to the family, or individual, if requested.

January - February 2007

In Memory Of:

Eva Garcia Barragan
Lola Bell
Darlene Joyce Burgess
Phillip Burk
Jim Eberhardt
Rose Finnson
Ervin Hanson
Carol Hesselgrave
Frances Hughes
Dick Kaiser
Jean Kaufman
Robert Nonhoff
Jim Sullivan
Norma Vaughan
Kailey Walter
Bob Weme
William "Willie" Westhoff

A Tribute To:

Robert Blake
Suzanne & Henry Holleman
Judy Johnston
Myung Hee Muller