



NEWS

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For the glory of God,
Lighthouse Mission Ministries
desires to minister to needy
men, women and children
through the provisions of
compassionate resources and
services in the
Name of Jesus Christ.

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www.thelighthousemission.org

Transform the life of a mom... Change the world for a child!

Who are the increasing numbers of women and children on the street? Real people with enormous potential for good right here in Bellingham.

People like Tammy* who fled from an abusive husband. Or like Angela* who turned to drugs and alcohol to numb the pain and bitterness of childhood sexual abuse. Others suffer from mental illness.

Without immediate help, the children of moms like these often grow up too fast in a world of worry and shuffling from home to home or hotel room to hotel room. Some end up in the care of a relative or in foster care.

On any given night, the Mission's Agape Home for Women and Children is filled to capacity. These families receive food, shelter, clothing, and other physical help. But just as importantly, they receive personalized care to help them make good choices and break the cycle of homelessness.

Here is a prayer written by one of the Agape Home guests:

"My Prayer

**Out of all the things I see and do.
All are good that comes from you.
The last few days I can't believe.
All the things through you I have achieved.
You have given us a warm and blessed place to be
A place where no one will hurt me.
Surrounded in prayer.
I know that you are there.
Bless the people that make this possible.
When just last week it all seemed so impossible.
The rules are great; they help me get my life in order.
My long struggling days are now fun and shorter.
Time it goes by so fast.
Lord I pray let this blessing last.
To see the smile on Justin's* face.
I know this truly is God's place.
By Tammy****



*Names have been changed to protect privacy.

Rescue Mission *versus* Homeless Shelter

Have you ever thought about the difference between a homeless shelter and a rescue mission? It might not occur to you until someone brings it to your attention. Perhaps you assume that they are similar and haven't put much thought into their distinctions. Their differences are the most important part of what they are!

Lighthouse Mission Ministries is in fact a rescue mission. You might say, "Well yeah, it does have *mission* in its name!" But besides that, the Lighthouse Mission provides some similar services to a homeless shelter. I like to think of it as providing for one's basic needs. In that respect, the Lighthouse Mission is a homeless shelter. So what makes Lighthouse Mission a rescue mission?



Mark - living a new life

Homeless shelters provide for needs, whereas a rescue mission aims to change lives as well as providing needs. A shelter gives people the basics to get by, but fails to provide them with resources to flourish. People can find food in many different places, but change is much harder to come by.

A rescue mission does not allow people to continue dabbling in drugs and alcohol, which are common on the streets. Instead it seeks to help break people of these destructive habits in a loving manner. After all Jesus did not just feed people fish and bread, He healed and restored the most disdained people of His time. Rescue missions follow in Christ's footsteps and give hope, transformation, and love to many who have been deemed a lost cause.

The difference turns out to be quite important to recognize. Lighthouse Mission Ministries seeks to not only give people their basic needs, but has the desire to give them hope that they are capable of more than what their current situation offers. The Mission also works to help people gain meaningful relationships, as well as to restore former relationships that were broken in the past. We want our firm, yet loving attitudes toward those in need to be a metaphor of God's grace and love toward His Children.



I'll leave you with a quote from Mark, a graduate of our New Life Program: "Rescue Missions, especially Lighthouse Mission, make it possible to recover when life happens to take a turn for the worst. The Mission and Agape Home make resources available, and in doing so, bridge a great chasm that could not otherwise be accomplished by individual efforts."

By Rachel Tinnell, WWU Intern

Recycle your cell phone and raise money to help the homeless



Lighthouse Mission Ministries announces the used cell phone collection drive, so clean out your closets and recycle your cell phone to help the homeless. This ongoing program can raise thousands of dollars for much needed services provided by Lighthouse Mission and Agape Home.

Local businesses are encouraged to initiate collection campaigns with their employees, customers and vendors. Cell phone collection boxes are currently established at some congregations and businesses in Whatcom County. There are no fees; Lighthouse Mission volunteers provide the collection boxes and will pick up the used phones.

Locations will be listed at www.thelighthousemission.org. There is also a collection box at the Mission at 910 West Holly Street, Bellingham.

Partnering with Shelter Alliance, functional phones will be reconditioned and reprogrammed before being sold. Phones that cannot be resold are dismantled and recycled. Recycling phones reclaims valuable materials, including copper and precious metals. Recycling is the best alternative instead of adding to the landfills.

For information, or if you would like to place a collection box at your business, club, or church, call Susan at (360) 671-1562.

Because You Care January - February 2008

BEDS PROVIDED

<u>The Mission</u>	4,840
<u>New Life Center</u>	439
<u>Agape Women's Home</u>	770
Total Beds	6,049

MEALS PROVIDED

<u>The Mission</u>	8,135
<u>Agape Women's Home</u>	2,348
<u>Community Meals</u>	5,596
Total Meals	16,041

MY GIFT TO THE HUNGRY AND THE POOR

Yes, Ron, you can count on me to help those in need during this spring season 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 # _____



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

NLM8

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.



Just a thought . . .

Ronald Buchinski, Executive Director
rbuchinski@yahoo.com

Mother's Day 1823

A recent performance at Bellingham High School of the wonderful Broadway play, **Les Miserables** (The Miserable) got rave reviews. It's my favorite work of fiction and music. I have been fortunate enough to see the play twice – once on Broadway in New York. I especially like the 1930's black/white movie version of the novel.

One of the main characters is Fantine. In 1823, alone and burdened with an illegitimate child, she entrusts her daughter to an innkeeper and his wife. Fantine finds a job in a factory and earns a livable wage due to a kind employer. Unfortunately she is fired and, at the same time, must meet increasing financial demands for her daughter. With no financial options, Fantine turns to prostitution. Tormented by a local man, she defends herself and is arrested. Only a forceful intervention keeps her out of jail. She catches a fever, however, and her health deteriorates dangerously, resulting in death.

During the musical, a highlight is Fantine singing "I Dreamed A Dream." The last stanza ends with Fantine saying:

*I had a dream my life would be
So different from this hell I'm living,
So different now from what it seemed...
Now life has killed the dream I dreamed...
(Claude-Michel Schonberg)*

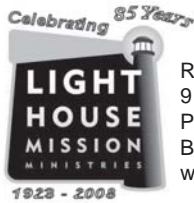


The song is very powerful and deeply moving. I despair of seeing Fantines and their children at our Mission; I so wish we weren't needed! But I am so happy we are there for them in the name of Christ. It's not a perfect situation since there are so many needs, limited resources, and so many in need; but it is a safe place for those in a crisis. The love of Christ

shared at our Agape Home is a safe alternative and option for those in desperate need.

Many young mothers today have no marketable skill, no committed father for their children, no family support at all and available social programs often promote bondage and not independence. Where does help start? It starts at a point of need at a place like our Agape Home or Single Women's Shelter--thanks to you. You are helping keep young women off of the streets and their children safe and warm until the crisis passes.

For them, thank you. A blessed Mother's Day to you.



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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.

John Stendal
Herald A. Sterk
Gerald "Jim" VanDiest
Harvey Van Heukelom
Kailey Walter
Gertrude Westhoff

A Tribute to:
Annette Gardiner
Judy Johnston

**"As a mother
comforts her child,
so will I
comfort you."**
Isaiah 66:13

January - February 2008

Memorial:

David Ashton, Sr.
Peter John Bovenkamp, Sr
Marion Burgraff
Raynard John "Ray" Dykstra
David Eggen
Robert "Bob" Clark Friend
Linda Gallagher
Richard Joyce
Cory Johnson
Mary K. Kink
Maxine Kraft
Marguerite Snow Manley
William J. O'Neil
Ysobel & Melvin Oberg
Louis Harrison Parberry, Jr.
Edna Pike
Steve Poteet
Kathleen A. Schwandt
Irene Shirley

Pick up an extra . . .

for Lighthouse Mission

Mayonnaise

Ground Meat

Diced/Stewed Tomatoes

Tomato Sauce

Canned Fruit

Canned Vegetables

**SMALL CHANGE CAN
MEAN BIG CHANGES!**



Spare change and dollar bills can help local homeless men, women and children. Lighthouse Mission is looking for locations to place our coin boxes. Would you be willing to place a coin box in your store, church, or office? Helping can be that simple! For more details or to sign on, call Marky at (360) 733-5120 ext. 107 or e-mail her at lmv@inbox.com