2014 VETERAN OF THE YEAR

“I’m a pretty proud man, and being homeless is terrible. But this place, the Mission, saved my life. They gave me a hand up, not a hand out. They’ve been good to me and that makes all the difference.”

I wish you all could have the opportunity to get to know Art, Boise Rescue Mission Ministries’ 2014 Veteran of the Year. In spite of the dark times he has come through, he is a man who is full of joy and compassion, and that, in large part, is thanks to donors like you.

While he and I talked, I was reminded of Isaiah 9:2. “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.” Donors like you make it possible for us to shine a light every day in the darkness of homelessness and addiction. Art would tell you that your generosity saved his life.

When Art was in high school, he hated the war in Vietnam. He says with a smile, “I was a child of the sixties; peace, love, all of that.” Then, at eighteen, he was drafted. He chose to follow in his father’s footsteps and joined the Marines. Just five days after he finished basic training, he got orders to ship out to Vietnam.

Art finished two tours of duty in Vietnam, with two of those years spent in the jungle. He tells me he started using heroin while he was there and says, “At the time, I think it allowed me to do what I had to do, but I came back to the States all messed up. I was a drug addict and an alcoholic.”

Like many of our Vietnam vets,
2014 VETERAN OF THE YEAR (CONT.)

>> Art’s memories of the war are still painful and raw, and he struggles to talk about his experiences. “I was young and naïve when I went over. I was a kid. There were so many kids there, and we saw a lot of traumatic stuff, terrible things! It changed my view of the world.”

That is the most he can bring himself to share about that time in his life. He tells me he stills feels guilty that he came back alive.

But what he returned to in the States, in some ways, made things worse. Instead of a hero’s welcome, Art says people hated him. “When I first came back, one woman actually spat on me.” He was hurt and angry and leaned even heavier on alcohol.

Art gets choked up when he tells me his thinking was so confused that he shut off communication with his family, believing somehow that he was doing them a favor. He says he did not realize that, over the years they didn’t hear from him, his two sisters had been searching for him, worried that he was dead, or in jail.

He says, “When I came to the Mission, I returned to God, my heart opened back up and, honestly, I got lonely. I am an older man and I realized that family means everything. With the VA's help, I found my family back, I love it”

Art tells me that he had been able to get clean and sober once before for a stretch of about seventeen years. But when he started drinking again, he quickly lost control of it. Within three years, he had been arrested twice for driving while under the influence of alcohol. The second arrest was the one that got his attention.

“I hit a parked car and, in that moment, I realized it could just as easily have been a person.” He knew he needed to find a place that would help him stay sober.

“I came to the River of Life Rescue Mission because I knew it would be a safe environment; a safe haven that would help me put my life back together.” He says once he was here, some of the first needs that were met for him were very practical. “When I came to the Mission, my dentures were broken and I didn’t know how to get new ones. They helped me get them replaced through the VA, and helped me get glasses too.”

Within the security of the Mission, Art says he was able to develop a new mindset. He says, “I’m not a social drinker, I’m an alcoholic. For me, one drink is too many and a thousand is not enough. With God’s help, I will never take another drink! My mind is clear and my family has been restored to me. I have compassion for others again. Life is good, I’m not going back to what it was.”

Art tells me the Veterans Ministry Program was exactly what a proud man like him needed to get back on his feet. He says, “This community, the Mission, loves vets. Rev. Roscoe, being a vet himself, understands and cares. He wants vets to find their self-respect again, that’s what it is.”

He says, “It humbles me to know that I was here, that I needed this much help. It shocks me to know that there are a lot of people that actually care.” Most of all, Art tells me that he is grateful to be reconnected with his Savior. “Drugs and alcohol took me away, but, in spite of that, He has truly blessed me. Through the Mission, I found a beautiful church family. I am sober now and the Mission helped me save enough to get my own apartment. I have nothing but praise for this place, for what they have done for me. They gave me a hand up, not a hand out. That’s all I needed.”

Scan here or go to http://vimeo.com/108292023 to watch more of Art’s interview.
Dear Mission Friends,

Thank you for your support and partnership with us at the Mission. It is a true blessing to be able to assist so many needy people, to feed hungry kids and provide safe, clean shelter to people who are homeless. I thank God for you and pray that He blesses you and yours everyday. Together, we truly are helping to restore faith, hope, and family.

As a veteran (US Army, Vietnam service) and the brother of three other vets (USMC; US Navy; US Army), I have a personal interest in helping veterans to overcome the problems and trouble in their lives. When I left the service in 1972, Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) was yet to be diagnosed or treated. Today it is recognized and treatment is available, but it is also a major cause of veteran homelessness. A safe and stable place to live is usually the first step in recovery from PTSD and many other psychological and physical ailments.

Five years ago, the Mission entered into a partnership with the Boise Veterans Administration (VA) to provide transitional housing for homeless veterans when they are discharged from the Boise VA hospital. We set aside and remodeled 18 single-occupant rooms at our River of Life Rescue Mission in Boise exclusively for that purpose, and agreed to provide case management, clothing, meals, laundry facilities, transportation and to facilitate the veteran's connection to the VA and other community based organizations that provide services for them. We have a part-time retired military officer who serves as chaplain to our vets, and many volunteers who assist in serving them.

From the outset, the Mission could have qualified for funding for this program through the VA, but we decided that we would maintain our policy of not receiving any government funds. We have always put our trust in God and His people to provide support for our services and He and you have never failed to help.

Today, we offer the same program at the Lighthouse Rescue Mission in Nampa, and we are serving female veterans at our City Light Home for Women and Children. More than 140 veterans have participated in our program and over 120 have made the successful transition from homelessness to independent living. Many have found faith in God or renewed their relationship with Him as a result of their stay with us.

The program has expanded now to include veterans in the justice system (Veteran’s Court) and those who come in through the general shelter population. Our veterans are shown the respect and appreciation that they deserve for their service to our country, and they

---

**CHECK OUT THE NEW BOISERM.ORG**

We are excited to introduce you to our newly redesigned website and hope you find it easy to navigate and full of information about upcoming events and the great work we are able to do at Boise Rescue Mission Ministries with your help. If you run into any problems using the new site, please let us know. Contact Ryan, ryanb@boiserm.org, or 208.343.2389.

**HELP US MEET HOLIDAY NEEDS**

- **FOOD NEEDS:**
  - Ground Coffee
  - Frozen Turkeys (10 -12 lb)
  - Stuffing
  - Canned Vegetables (12 - 16 oz cans)
  - Cranberry Sauce (8 oz cans)
  - Canned Yams & Sweet Potatoes
  - Canned Pumpkin
  - Cake, Cookie & Brownie Mixes

- **OTHER NEEDS:**
  - Aluminum Pans (Large, 6 in deep)
  - Commercial Grade Foil
  - Commercial Grade Plastic Wrap
  - Prefilled Salt/Pepper Shakers
  - Sugar and Creamer Packets
  - Plastic Silverware
  - Napkins
  - To Go Boxes

**DONATION DROP OFF LOCATIONS:**

**BOISE:**

Ministry Center  
308 S 24th St, Boise  
208 389-9840

**NAMPA:**

Lighthouse Rescue Mission  
304 16th Ave N, Nampa  
208 461-5030

---

**GIFTS IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY**

The holidays are a great time to consider honorary or memorial giving to the Mission as a way to mark a special occasion, to honor someone special, or to express bereavement.

These charitable contributions can be made in lieu of gift-giving or sending flowers and cards.

For more information on giving In Honor or In Memory, contact Melanie at 343-2389 or send an email to melaniem@boiserm.org.
Our Mission

Boise Rescue Mission Ministries reaches out to the community by teaching the Word of God and providing food, shelter, clothing, and opportunities to recover from homelessness to men, women, and children in need.

CITY LIGHT

HOME FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN
1404 W. Jefferson St.
Boise, ID 83702
208-368-9901

RIVER OF LIFE

RESCUE MISSION
575 S. 13th St.
Boise, ID 83702
208-389-9840

MINISTRY CENTER

WAREHOUSE & ADMINISTRATION
308 S. 24th St.
Boise, ID 83702
Admin – 343-2389
WH – 368-0824
Hours for donations:
M to F, 9am to 5pm

NAMPA

LIGHTHOUSE

RESCUE MISSION
304 16th Ave. N.
Nampa, ID 83687
208-461-5030

VALLEY

WOMEN & CHILDREN’S SHELTER
869 W. Corporate Lane
Nampa, ID 83687
208-475-0725

BRMM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Vikki Chandler, Chair
Tony Greer, Vice Chair/Secretary
Don Anderson, Treasurer
Roger Batt
Jody Buckner
Adelaide Fredriksen
William Laska
Jim Mitchell
Rick Thomas
Craig Verdi
Don Brandt, Emeritus
Sandy Dalton, Emeritus
Dave Hills, Emeritus
Gerald Salisbury, Emeritus
Harold Thomas, Emeritus

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, CONT.

>> respond with a renewed sense of self-respect and personal pride that instills hope for the future. One of our vets recently said “I thought that I came to the Mission to die, but instead I’ve started to live.”

As we celebrate Veterans Day this November 11th, please remember and offer a prayer for the homeless veterans in our country and in our community. Pray they will find the place of refuge and recovery that they need; pray that those who are in our community will find their way to the Mission and give us an opportunity to offer them our friendship and our services. Pray that every homeless vet will encounter one of God’s messengers who can share with them the love and compassion that He has for them. And please remember when you encounter that old, weary man or woman with a sign that says “Homeless Veteran” that they were soldiers once and young; that they took a vow to protect and defend this country, often putting their own life on the line. They should never become castaway people.

I’d love to show you our veterans services and living arrangements. Let me know if you would like to visit. My email is revbill@boiserm.org and the office number is 208-343-2389. Thank you again for your generous support.

In His Service,

Rev. Bill Roscoe
President/CEO

Rev. Roscoe had the honor of speaking at services held last month at the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall. And, while the traveling wall was in town, our vets from the Lighthouse Rescue Mission were proud to stand guard through the night. Vets from River of Life Rescue Mission, including Art, took over during the early morning hours; not only providing security, but also standing in memory of those who lost their lives during the Vietnam War, as well as in support of our Vietnam veterans still recovering from injuries received during the war.