

ROOM IN THE INN

2018

OUR 8TH YEAR

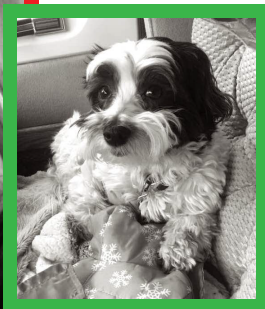
Abundantly  
More...

...than we could **HOPE** or **IMAGINE!**



*Oh my goodness! You don't know how badly I needed this! I feel so LOVED!*  
-- Juanita

*Thank you for blessing us all in this way. God Bless you!*  
-- Thomas



Juanita is the kind of woman who makes you want to be a better person. She is living life to the full and finishing strong. I have no doubt that Jesus is waiting to tell her "well done my good and faithful servant." Juanita is 77 years old - spending her career as a nurse until seizures forced her to retire early. After losing her husband to cancer, she sold her home and hit the road in her van. When she found Church@thePark, she slowly moved from an attender, to helping with meals, to planting a garden, to participating on our leadership team. She joined us at Room in the Inn with her service dog and van that she sleeps in. She has been a part of our Church@thePark congregation for the past two years, but she and her service dog Bella joined us for their first Christmas. She usually goes South for the Winter, but she wanted to spend this Christmas with her "Family."

## Guest Snapshot

This past Christmas: for 3 days, 2 nights, and 5 meals we hosted a population of situationally and chronically homeless individuals living on the margins of our City - friends in relationship with our team of volunteers and advocates. Each has a unique story and can be better understood in the context of one of three life experiences:

The first group (about 80 people) most closely identify with what we would call **generational poverty and chronic homelessness**. They are experiencing scarcity in their ability to find a safe place to sleep, regular meals to eat, and relationships to find belonging. Many of these neighbors have pets for companionship, acceptance, and security.

The second group (around 60 people) most closely identify with what we understand to be **situational poverty**. They include couples and families living in their cars and motorhomes that have experienced a crisis in the past year, which has disrupted their housing, and left them with tenuous shelter and transportation. These neighbors move from parking lot to parking lot looking for safety, resources, and opportunities.

The third group (about 70 people) have moved into housing since we started working with them eight years ago. These neighbors have stabilized their housing through assistance programs or jobs. They still join us for Room in the Inn to meet their needs of belonging and acceptance in a family. Most of these guests would now fit the category of **working class poverty**.

What a wonderful way to spend Christmas. I feel so blessed to have such a beautiful, warm, loving church family. I've been coming to Room at the Inn for 8 years now and I can't imagine spending Christmas anywhere else. Thank you so much, D.J. and Gabby and all the wonderful volunteers. -- John & Misty

## A Year in Review...

Faith and Science have come together to help us understand how HOPE drives the life of our guests to greater ABUNDANCE. The first step involves really listening to the stories of our guests to find opportunities to affirm their assets and motivations. We have trained our ears to hear and clarify the next achievable goal. We have both studied and partnered with organizations and people in our community who can provide pathways to those goals. These pathways have included help with housing, jobs, recovery and several trips to the DMV to restore licenses. In one instance the guest had three offers to drive for their company immediately upon the renewal of his CDL.



**This has been an incredible year of growth in our Church@thePark team.**

1. We have been raising up leaders from among us and our Church community through a leadership training cohort.
2. We have expanded our outreach and deepened our focus on transforming lives moving from 1 meal a week to 3!
3. We are seeking to move people of compassion from assistance to advocates of hope. We have a weekly food pantry run entirely by people experiencing homelessness!
4. Developing practices of leadership inclusion and meaningful service for those who are traditionally only receiving assistance. We are joining the Warming Center Network this year and plan to open the Jaceey Building 30-40 nights for up to 30 people a night.
5. Shift the focus of poverty alleviation from assistance to advocacy at city, agency and church-based outreaches. We are exploring the possibility of building permanent tiny houses on the current Jaycees property.

  
**ROOM IN THE INN**  
and  
**Church@thePark**  
are ministries of the  
Salem Missional Community Network

**D.J. Vincent**

**Pastor, Salem Missional Community Network**

[Facebook.com/SalemMCNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/SalemMCNetwork)

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Thank you isn't half enough for all that you guys do for us - but it is all we have to give. Merry Christmas! -- Irene

## Come & See...

### Church@thePark Meals:

At the Oregon Jaycee Building - 2410 Turner Rd SE  
each Sunday at 10am, Tuesday at 11am, and Thursday at 5:30pm

### Church@thePark Community Garden:

At the Oregon Jaycee Building - 2410 Turner Rd SE

### Learning Cohort on Incarnational Mission:

2nd Tuesday evenings - gathering for reflection & discernment;  
2nd Sunday evenings - training space for new thoughts & concepts

