



ROOM IN THE INN

2019

OUR 9TH YEAR

Abundantly  
More...

...than we could HOPE or IMAGINE!



*Kelly* has been willing to share both her story and her life with us at Church@thePark this past year. We met just last Christmas and her story of transformation has been nothing short of awe-inspiring. While attending a Women's Conference with Corban intern Alexis Gonzales in May of 2019, she surrendered her broken heart to God. Kelly and several other women from the park then formed a weekly support and prayer group. Kelly started helping with meals, Foodshare deliveries, and the clothing closet. She is still living in a tent not far from our Church@thePark ministry building. With the launch of 90 days of the warming center she serves most nights as a team lead, directing 5 other volunteers who care for over 30 people seeking shelter.

## Kelly's Story

### What do you want or desire?

A home, four walls and no water leaks. To make sure the other people in my life are okay.

### What do you wish people knew about you?

It has been a terrible life and I have terrible family. I am sure there are people out there who had it worse. My son was murdered in 2016 and it tore my family apart. I have not been able to pick myself up since then. February is a bad month for me - my son's birthday was the 10th and he was killed on the 22nd. My two daughters don't talk to me or each other any more. When I found Church@thePark, it literally saved my life. The people here have saved my life several times.

### What do you wish people knew about Homelessness?

It is not a disease, it is not a choice. We are not awful people. There are hard working and good people out here trying to get our stuff together. It is hard to stay positive when others are putting us down and pushing us around. Every meal is a moment of hope. I wish the City would get a clue about what happens when they clear people's camps and then only offer housing that takes months. What are people supposed to do?

### What would you like people to pray for you about?

I don't die tomorrow and I get a chance for a new life. I am not done here yet. For once in my life I think the people at the Church would miss me if I were gone. Please be kind to the people who are homeless - they need support. Kindness goes a long way to making it through the day.

# From Scarcity to Abundance

We discovered this December that when you are apart of something truly good and beautiful the idea has a way of expanding past what you could ever hope or imagine. The beauty and awe of this year's effort started when I received three different unexpected calls from friends in Portland. The first call was from Pastor Kelly, who has served his congregation in St Johns for many years, and I have even taking ministry groups to serve his neighborhood. This year it was different, Kelly's congregation felt called to raise funds for people they have never met at Room in the Inn. The second call was from Pastor Russ who has been leading the church as they have been running the largest food pantry & meal site in Gesham for the past seven years. Members of his team had decided **a year ago** to request and gather boots from Danner, until they had enough for every attendee. They ended up delivering over 300 pairs of new or returned boots! The third call was from my friend Nic who wanted to bring his friend Blake to Salem to document the beauty of the community that is Church@thePark. This led to days of taking portraits and sitting with the stories of our community. With their help we have created an exhibit and book called "The Humanity of Homelessness." These are examples of the kind of abundance Jesus has in store and only start to tell the story of what happens when 25 different faith communities join efforts to love and extend relationship to our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

## It's Been an Incredible Year



- 1 Raising up leaders from among us and our Church community through a leadership training cohort.
- 2 Expanded our outreach and deepened our focus on transforming lives moving from 3 meals to 5 each week - and now offer a day for showers, pet care, haircuts and foot care.
- 3 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 partnering with the Warming Center Network to open the C@tP Building for 90 straight days of shelter January 1st – March 31st.
- 5 Seeking to move people of compassion from assistance to advocates of hope. We are launching a portrait and story project called the **Humanity of Homelessness**. Find out more about the exhibit & book: [Church-at-the-Park.org](http://Church-at-the-Park.org)



*D.J. Vincent*

Founding Pastor, Church@thePark

[www.Church-at-the-Park.org](http://www.Church-at-the-Park.org)

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## Come & See ...

The feast of Luke 14 began in the Park twelve years ago and continued at Room in the Inn this year. We celebrated family and the table extended this Christmas with those who needed boots & belonging, meals & meaning, clothes & compassion, shelter and a savior. Church@thePark is an invitation to come, sit at the table with those experiencing homelessness and see with fresh eyes the humanity we so easily turn away from. Take a moment to invite the humanity of homelessness into your home, into your family, into your community and discover yourself at the table in a whole new way.

### Shared Meals:

At the Church@thePark Building - 2410 Turner Rd SE  
each Sunday @10am, Monday, Tuesday & Thursday @ 5:00pm

### Showers, Haircuts, Check-ups & Pet Care:

At the Church@thePark Building - 2410 Turner Rd SE  
each Thursday 9:00am to 5:30pm

### Church@thePark Warming Center:

<https://salemwarming.weebly.com/>

