



ROOM IN THE INN

2017

OUR 7TH YEAR

Abundantly More...

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



Thank you for a wonderful Christmas Holiday! Merry Christmas & Blessings!
-- Hawkeye, Krystal & Baby Grace

Thank you for making my Christmas special! -- Misty

Guest Snapshot

This past Christmas: for 3 days, 2 nights, and 4 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 70 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 50 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**.

Last year Hawkeye and Crystal were pregnant and without a home when I met them at our city Warming Center. I was able to personally invite them to the Room in the Inn retreat at Aldersgate over Christmas. We were given the gift of hearing their story and dreams for the future. We were then able to connect them with the Salvation Army Light House shelter for the remainder of the winter season. Baby Grace was born into the world both healthy and housed. This Fall Hawkeye enrolled in Chemeketa Community College to study for a business degree. They returned to Room in the Inn this year to celebrate Christmas with their support community. We had the privilege of dedicating baby Grace to a life of faith and adventure on Christmas Eve.

Your gifts this season are truly appreciated and the love with which they must have been given is surely recognized and heart-felt! Merry Christmas! Thank you Jesus!
-- John

I can't believe you all do this for us...this is the most wonderful Christmas I've had since I was a kid. Thank you so much for making time for all of us. We are so thankful for the love you show us.
-- Irene

We had a wonderful time here with you all! Thank you to everyone that gave so much to help us all, and a special thank you to all the churches that made this so special! Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year! Thank you all & hope to see you next year. We would love to help out!
-- Bunni & Family



Innkeepers,
Thank you for your care & concern. You may as yourselves: Does all this make a difference? Yes, IT DOES! Thanks for the "everything's". Merry Christmas! LORD, Thank you: The grace and love you have given me daily, which I do NOT deserve - I thank you for. Praise the Lord with song, voice, drum, timbrel, lute, brass and all manner of jubilee. All praise the Lord. Father, Thank you for always going before me and making crooked paths straight. In Jesus Name, Amen.
-- Mikey & Thomas and Sue-Sue (dog)

This Christmas has been super amazing. My husband and I have been shown so much kindness and generosity these few days that we have together been blessed so much. We appreciate everything - all the volunteers have done such an amazing thing and job. I can't thank you guys enough for all the amazing gifts and kindness. Please have an amazing Christmas & holiday.
-- Antara & Kris

The lady we collect cans from sent us here. All we expected was some help with food and maybe gas. I never expected to be able to stay! It's so nice to be inside and warm to rest. We haven't been inside for a long time.
-- Camelia

Thank you so very much for another special holiday weekend. No words can express the appreciation we have for all you do to make us feel LOVED. Happy Holidays to you & yours and best wishes for an incredible 2018! God Bless you ALL!
-- Joan & Dean

To Everyone-- Thank you very much and Merry Christmas! God bless you all.
-- Mark & Jolinda

Volunteers and all who sacrificed their own Christmas to be with us - Thank you so much this is my first time and this little piece of Heaven is just what I needed! May all of the blessings of the coming year be many! Thank you & God bless us all!
-- Dana



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

Lightning Rod, Salem Leadership Foundation

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Come & See...

Church@thePark Sunday Meals:

Cascade Gateway Park (June through September) or at the Oregon Jaycee Building at 2410 Turner Rd SE (October through May) each Sunday at 9am

Thursday Mobile Meal Delivery Team:

sharing donated meals with those living in vehicles each Thursday @11am

9-Month Learning Cohort on Incarnational Mission:

2nd Tuesday evenings - gathering for reflection & discernment;
3rd Sunday evenings - training space for new thoughts & concepts

