

Portland Rescue Mission

Chief Executive Officer

carterbaldwin
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About **Portland Rescue Mission**

Portland Rescue Mission is a faith-based nonprofit organization serving individuals experiencing homelessness, addiction, and poverty in the Portland, Oregon area. Founded in 1949, the Mission has seven locations and offers a range of services that address both immediate needs and long-term recovery.

Mission

Since 1949, Portland Rescue Mission has been tirelessly committed to breaking the cycle of homelessness, addiction, and despair in the lives of hurting people in need. This is done by a group of highly relational, Christ-centered, joyful servants comprised of 90 staff and 1400 volunteers who shine a light by providing the following:

- All services are offered in a highly relational manner
- A wide range of integrated services and programs so they can meet people at their point of need and provide a path forward.
- Supportive, caring communities in all programs.
- Transformation in the lives of the men, women, and children that they serve.

History

It was 1949 when John Van Diest, Sr., looked with compassion at the hungry, destitute men struggling on the streets of Portland and shared his lunch. It happened so often that his wife, Tress, began making extra sandwiches for him to pass out to broken men.

They then began serving soup out of their car...

This eventually evolved into a simple soup kitchen on Burnside Street. John and Tress purchased the groceries themselves to make a pot of soup to share. Afterward, John would share with them about God's love.

From those humble beginnings, Portland Rescue Mission was born. By 1954, that kitchen had grown and moved to its current location at 111 W. Burnside Street.

Today, the Mission serves men, women, and children in: Burnside Shelter, The Harbor, Shepherd's Door, three community homes, and their Drive Away Hunger location.







Services and Programs

1. **Emergency Services** - The Mission provides food, shelter, clothing, and life-sustaining services through facilities such as the Burnside Shelter in downtown Portland and the Hope Vans, which serve the surrounding area. Nutritious meals are served twice daily, and overnight shelter is available for men.
2. **Addiction Recovery Programs** - *The Harbor* (for men) and *Shepherd's Door* (for women and children) are long-term residential programs offering spiritual support, addiction recovery, life skills training, and vocational development to help individuals achieve lasting transformation.
3. **Transitional Support** - Graduates of recovery programs can access after-care services that promote self-sufficiency. These include regular alumni meetings, transitional housing, job readiness training, and support in securing employment and independent housing.
4. **Vocational Training -** Program participants gain job readiness at all of Mission facilities, developing job skills as they serve alongside staff in various roles. They can also receive job training at the social enterprises – Fresh Start Catering and Drive Away Hunger.

Yearly Impact

244,813
Nutritious meals provided

67,812
Nights of safe shelter provided

24
Hour access to bathrooms for health and dignity

165
Tons of food, clothing, and goods donated

The **Opportunity**

Portland Rescue Mission invites nominations and applications for the role of Chief Executive Officer (CEO). This is a rare and consequential opportunity to lead one of the Pacific Northwest's most respected and Christ-centered ministries serving individuals facing homelessness and addiction. Reporting directly to the Board of Directors, the CEO will serve as both the spiritual shepherd and executive strategist of the Mission, stewarding a vibrant organizational culture rooted in compassion, discipleship, and excellence.

The next CEO will join a highly committed, award-winning team and guide the organization into its next era of growth, innovation, and Kingdom impact. This pivotal role calls for a spiritually mature, mission-driven leader with a visionary mindset, relational wisdom, and a deep passion for gospel-centered life transformation. As PRM's chief ambassador, the CEO will advance the Mission's redemptive work locally and beyond, strengthening partnerships, expanding its reach, and ensuring enduring faithfulness to its founding purpose.



Duties and Responsibilities

Board Engagement and Strategic Oversight

- Partner with the Board to refine and execute PRM's strategic vision (Global Ends) within the framework of policy governance.
- Serve as a trusted advisor to the Board, providing regular updates, data-informed reporting, and insight to support decision-making.
- Prepare and present annual budgets; manage expenditures in alignment with Board-approved financial plans.

Organizational Leadership

- Provide executive oversight of all programs, staff, and ministry operations.
- Recruit, evaluate, and retain a strong leadership team aligned with PRM's mission and values.
- Develop a sustainable employee compensation plan and ensure a healthy, Christ-honoring workplace culture.
- Oversee financial administration, real estate, insurance, and procurement of assets.

Fundraising and External Relations

- Serve as the Mission's primary advocate, strengthening visibility, influence, and public trust.
- Lead major donor engagement and philanthropic strategy in collaboration with Advancement staff.
- Champion a culture of generosity through church, foundation, and corporate partnerships.
- Oversee public communications, ensuring alignment with PRM's message and ministry identity.
- Actively participate in community speaking engagements and represent PRM to key external audiences.

Community and Volunteer Engagement

- Promote volunteerism and cultivate meaningful relationships across all levels of community involvement.
- Support the development of church and civic partnerships that extend PRM's reach and impact.



Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Proven executive leadership experience within a ministry or nonprofit of similar scale.
- Demonstrated success in major gift fundraising and donor cultivation.
- Strategic thinker with strong organizational and operational acumen.
- Effective communicator and relational leader with a collaborative style.
- Technologically proficient and adaptable to digital ministry strategies.
- Deep understanding of and alignment with Christ-centered, discipleship-based ministry models.

Essential Qualifications

- A personal relationship with Jesus Christ, marked by spiritual maturity and gospel commitment.
- Alignment with PRM's Statement of Faith and Code of Ethics.
- A passion for serving those experiencing homelessness and addiction, rooted in the compassion of Christ.
- Bachelor's degree required; advanced theological or organizational leadership training preferred.
- Willingness to travel and serve as a visible representative of the Mission.

Applications **and Nominations**

Applications will be accepted until a new CEO is appointed. Candidates should submit application materials consisting of a CV and a letter of interest addressed to the Portland Rescue Mission CEO Committee. Confidential inquiries and questions concerning this search may be directed to:

carterbaldwin
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Bill Peterson
Partner
678.619.0771
bpeterson@carterbaldwin.com

Matt Minier
Consultant
678.515.5832
mminier@carterbaldwin.com

Tatum Preston
Director of Research
tpreston@carterbaldwin.com

Allison Cohn
Search Consultant
acohn@carterbaldwin.com

