

New Life Mission

New Life Mission (NLM) is a faith-based social agency that assists the poor, homeless and substance-dependent in Kamloops. Founded in 1980, the Mission is open seven days per week and offers more than twenty programs through its three facilities, such as shelter, drop-in, legal, dental, clothing, hot meals, and more.

NLM's residential recovery program (second stage) provides sixteen beds for men and seven for women. Residents may stay for up to one year while they return to school, begin job training or transition towards permanent housing.



In 2000, 95 percent of NLM's budget was funded by donations and grants. Today, their social enterprise activities and partnership contracts with different levels of government comprise 80 percent of their \$1.5 million budget. One of their enterprises is a dental service that serves low-income community members. The cost of the clinic's supplies and overhead is underwritten by providing dental services for full fees to individuals in the community who have dental coverage through their private dental plans.

NLM's thrift store generates \$200,000 per year and they have also opened a new café. Both businesses act as pre-employment programs, which mix community volunteers with people recovering from addictions. The Mission is in the process of corporate restructuring so that it may open several more businesses in the coming year.

Cheryle's Story

Cheryle's life started out tough and at age 13, she ran from her alcoholic home, started drinking, and began using cocaine. For twenty-odd years, she managed to keep herself in housing and to start a family, but in 2001, at the age of 36, she added heroin to the list of substances she took to self-medicate.

In December 2003, her 13-year old daughter organized an intervention, thru Alateen. Post-intervention, Cheryle struggled between being clean and using until late 2004, when she found herself

in prison for three months. When released, she spent three-and-a-half months at New Life Mission's House of Ruth residential recovery program, and while there began working in the pre-employment program at Ruth's Café. When Cheryle's employment at the café became full time, she and her daughter moved out of the House of Ruth and into their own apartment. Cheryle has been clean and sober for more than a year now, and while she still continues to address challenges from the past, she has a great start on a new life.

New Life Mission "gave me the foundation to learn how to live and to get back into becoming a productive member of society. They gave me a family. The first family I had. Now I'm able to be alone in my own skin and find the tools I need to stay clean and sober."

Cheryle's daughter started back to school in September, having taken a year off to cope with her mother's addiction and incarceration. "She's been acting as the mother and we're in counselling to reverse the roles," says Cheryle.

Cheryle now regularly speaks at Narcotics Anonymous, has told her story for the New Life Mission and Kiwanis House Society, and is involved with people in recovery at hospitals and other institutions.

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