



BOISERESCUE
MISSION
MINISTRIES

Boise Rescue Mission Ministries

Lighthouse Rescue Mission
City Light Women and Children's Home
River of Life Rescue Mission
Front Street Mission

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rev. Bill Roscoe, executive director

Office: 208-343-2389

Cell: 208-841-5078

E-mail: revbill@boiserm.org

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Last year, it was reported in the media that the Intermountain Fair Housing Council filed fifteen housing discrimination complaints against the Boise Rescue Mission on behalf of people claiming to have been treated differently on the basis of gender and religion. What happened with those complaints?

- As required by the Fair Housing Act, the Enforcement Branch of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") thoroughly investigated all of the complaints. HUD recently informed the Rescue Mission that it now has dismissed all the complaints.

Why did HUD dismiss the complaints?

- Of those dismissals where HUD issued a written decision, HUD determined that there was "no reasonable cause" to believe that the Boise Rescue Mission engaged in housing discrimination. For example, HUD determined, from its investigation, that the Rescue Mission did not require emergency shelter guests to attend religious services in order to receive shelter services. HUD also determined, from its investigation, that pat-down and bag searches of women at the City Light Shelter were reasonable in light of there being children at that facility, and that the Rescue Mission provided reasonable accommodations to disabled guests where appropriate.
- The Rescue Mission is pleased that HUD investigated the facts of the complaints and spoke with the complainants directly. HUD's investigation confirms what people familiar with the Rescue Mission already know – that the Rescue Mission simply does not engage in unlawful discrimination.

Now what will the Rescue Mission do?

- The Rescue Mission will continue to provide hot meals, safe nights of shelter and other emergency services to anyone in need without regard to gender, family status or religious affiliation. Homeless men will be served at the River of Life Shelter in Boise or the Lighthouse Shelter in Nampa. Homeless women and children will be served at the City Light Shelter in Boise.
- Voluntary religious services will still be available to all emergency shelter guests.

Hot meals will continue to be provided to guests who choose to stay at the Interfaith Sanctuary Homeless Shelter.

Our Mission: Restoring Faith, Hope and Family.