



Thanksgiving Issue 2013

Bay Area HOPE

A Publication of the Bay Area Rescue Mission

A Personal Word from the Executive Director

This Thanksgiving I am thankful for so much!

I'm thankful that the homeless and hungry receive shelter, meals and long-term help that changes their lives.

I'm thankful that the Food Pantry has distributed more than 907,500 meals to impoverished families and shut-ins so far this year. And that we have served more than 412,500 meals in our dining room.

I'm very thankful that we will be sharing Thanksgiving and Christmas meals with more than 20,000 hungry people this year, too.

I'm especially thankful for your support, your prayers and your compassion for helping people who are in desperate need.

And yet in the midst of all that we have to be thankful for this season, there are still thousands of other people in the Bay Area who need our help, too. Over the past 12 months, we have had to turn away more than 3,000 men, women and children because we simply did not have beds and room enough for them. And that is why I hope you will continue to pray for us and support the work that we do.

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"We came straight to the Rescue Mission."

Jeanette was young when she got married. "I was so impressed with this man. He worked hard. He told me that he loved me and for a while, everything seemed good. We even started a family and had a son."

"But it was all a façade."

Jeanette discovered that her husband had been lying to her from the beginning. He was using drugs and cheating on her. When Jeanette discovered this and confronted him, he became abusive. "To protect my son and myself, I knew I had to leave."

"I left everything," Jeanette shares quietly. "All my son's toys, our furniture and our clothes." They came straight to the Rescue Mission, where "we were welcomed and given everything that we needed: food, clothing and safe place to stay."

Most importantly, the Rescue Mission invited Jeanette to attend Chapel services where she discovered

God's deep love for her. "**I was on my knees, praying to Him** and asking Him to change me in every way. And He did!"

With the love of God – and our staff – changing her inside and out, today, Jeanette is a proud graduate of our program and has full custody of her son. She doesn't forget that many people have been part of her journey. "**I'm so thankful to those who support the Rescue Mission for loving us and supporting our steps with Christ.**"

Our Home of New Beginnings program, a transitional home that allows women time to attend college or work while continuing life-skills classes and Bible study, has allowed Jeanette the chance to continue her education. "I got a lot of support to go back to college," she says. "I'm working on two associate degrees in health

& human services and in physical training."

It's work that Jeanette is passionate about because of the Rescue Mission – and work she hopes to continue right here. "I want to work for the Rescue Mission...**I want to spend the rest of my life here, helping others.**"



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Of course, the thing that I am most thankful for this Thanksgiving and Christmas season is the fact that we share the love and hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with everyone who comes through our doors, and as a result thousands of lives are miraculously changed!

Bless you and thank you,

Rev. John M. Anderson
Executive Director

New website



Visit our new and improved website, BayAreaRescue.org, to stay connected, learn about upcoming holiday events, special announcements, opportunities to support the Rescue Mission and much more!

National Hunger & Homelessness

AWARENESS WEEK

Did you know one out of seven Americans lives in poverty? You may not see them every day in the Bay Area, but they are here, and the Bay Area Rescue Mission is working hard to help them.

November 17-23 is National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week – a time set aside for every American to help fix the problems of hunger and homelessness. Your support is one of the best solutions. So make this your special time to volunteer, organize a food or clothing drive, or make a special donation.



Together, we can eliminate hunger and homelessness – one person at a time!

STAND UP! STAND OUT! VOLUNTEER!

This holiday season, consider giving the Rescue Mission the gift of your time and talents as a volunteer!

Your help makes a huge difference during our busiest time of the year. Serve a meal. Speak or lead worship at our Chapel

services. Put your special skills (electrical, plumbing) to work as a High Voltage Volunteer. Tutor children and teens at our Youth Outreach Center. Organize

a collection drive at your school or church.

For more information call (510) 215-4865 or visit our website at BayAreaRescue.org.



Updating your Will

As our lives change, it's important that we periodically review documents such as wills to make sure our plans are up to date.

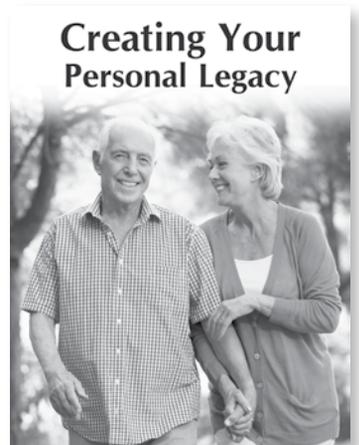
Changes in these areas could mean that your will may no longer reflect your current wishes:

- Marital status
- State in which you reside
- Birth of a child or grandchild

- Inheritance
- Appreciation in the value of your assets
- Death in the family
- Change in preference regarding your executor

Our free guide, *Creating Your Personal Legacy*, is a great guide to creating or updating your plans. To receive a copy by mail, please call (510) 215-4887, or

request a copy by visiting BayAreaRescue.org.



Mark Your Calendar!

Turkey in the Tent

During Thanksgiving week, more than 21,000 breakfasts and



lunches will be served at our annual Turkey in the Tent event at our Food Pantry & Distribution Center.

With so many meals to serve, we need your help!

Gather your family, your church group or organization and volunteer

to set up, serve or clean up. You can also donate food – you'll find a list of our most immediate needs on our website.

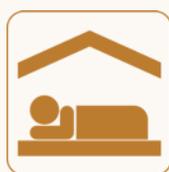
For more information, or to volunteer, please call (510) 215-4555 or visit BayAreaRescue.org.

See you under the tent!

Feed the need or fix the problem?

In the next couple of months, your mailbox will be filled with requests from all kinds of organizations asking you to "Feed hungry people at Thanksgiving."

We think that's wonderful. But, why just at Thanksgiving? And why just food?



People who are hungry and homeless need more than a meal. They need shelter. Clothing. Job training. And most of all, they need **life-changing** programs that will

not only address the causes of hunger and homelessness, but work to overcome them!

Addiction, hunger and homelessness can be fatal. Your support provides the year-round, all-day-every-day food, shelter, loving care and counseling that save lives. Your gifts bless individuals with the ability to transform their lives through services like our Men's and Women's Recovery programs.

Your gift today to the Bay Area Rescue Mission will do so much more than feed the need. You will help fix the problem. Thank you!