

Fall Issue 2014

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Bay Area HOPE

A Publication of the Bay Area Rescue Mission

2114 Macdonald Avenue • P.O. Box 1112 • Richmond, CA 94801 • www.BayAreaRescue.org

"I never knew this other life existed"

Robert started drinking when he was only nine years old. "In my family, we were allowed to drink," he says. "My parents used to have parties and leave alcohol laying all over the place."

Though Robert's drinking continued throughout junior high and high school, he went on to college, secured a job, married his childhood sweetheart, bought a house, and had three children. Then he started using methamphetamine, and he lost it all—his job, his home and his family.

Robert wound up living on the street, eating from garbage cans, and sleeping behind dumpsters. "I never had such an empty, lonely, hopeless feeling," he says. "**Meth consumed my life completely.**"

Meanwhile, meth had weakened Robert's heart. He had four heart attacks in three years, but on the last visit to the ER, something was

different. "I surrendered, not really knowing to whom. I just said, 'I give up,'" Robert says.

His daughter encouraged him to get into a recovery program and he called the Bay Area Rescue Mission. Though a part of him wanted to leave after his arrival, something greater made him want to stay. "I couldn't believe all the love around this place," he says. "I started saying, 'I want some of what they've got.'"

Robert began attending Bible studies and, in the third week, found what he was looking for. "I turned my whole life over to Jesus and I was saved," he says. "**I've had so much peace and joy since that day.** It's better than anything I've ever had in my life."

Since then, Robert has been giving his all to the Men's Program and seeing miraculous results. "I no longer crave alcohol or



methamphetamine...My health's getting better...Even my family is coming back to me," he says. "**This place has given me another chance to live – to be reborn.**"

Robert hopes one day to be used by God to help others find the life he has found. "He's given me a meaning and a purpose," Robert says. "I never knew this other life existed."

A Message From Rev. John M. Anderson



Family Matters

You know that feeding a family is a big job. Now, just imagine more than 3,500 people gathering around your table each day!

That's how many hungry, homeless men, women and children we're expecting every day during our week of Thanksgiving meals.

With your help, they'll enjoy wholesome meals surrounded with care and love...a true family event. That family spirit can be life-changing for the people who join us; many times, I've heard from men and women who say that **the new family they found here at the Rescue Mission changed their lives.** It wasn't what brought them here, but it was a big part of what kept them here.

So today, I want to send you a very special thanks for helping to extend our reach and create a family for those who don't have one this holiday season.

Through you, our circle of compassion expands to bring hurting, lonely people into a loving new family.


Rev. John M. Anderson
Executive Director



END OF SUMMER UPDATE

Summer has been an exciting time for our Bridge of Hope project!

Right now, we're at the \$975,000 mark. This summer, more than \$160,000 has been donated or pledged toward building our new Center for women and children that adds 146 additional beds.

Just imagine: that will be nearly 150 more women and children off the streets each night!

The need for safe shelter just keeps growing in the Bay Area. The Rescue Mission is regularly forced to turn away women and children because we are at capacity almost every night.

And it's not just housing! Our

**We've
raised
\$975,000!**



new Center will also provide life-changing services like classrooms for education, counseling areas, a culinary arts job-skills training center, a medical center – plus a safe rooftop recreational area and fitness center.

We encourage you to find out more about the Bridge of Hope project – **including how you can move the thermometer toward our goal!** – at our Bridge of Hope website, BridgeofHopeBARM.org.

A special gift to thank you for your support.



Thank you for feeding people who are hungry.

Thank you for making sure homeless people have safe shelter.

Thank you for your prayers on behalf of those in need.

Thank you for offering hope and new life!

As a tangible way of showing our gratitude, I'd like to send you a very special 2015 calendar.

Please check the box on your reply slip. Your calendar will be mailed at the end of November.

218 tons of food!

362,500 meals. That's 435,000 pounds of food – nearly 218 tons! That's how much food the Bay Area Rescue Mission will provide to hungry men, women and children this Thanksgiving season.

I know that seems impossible. But with your help, it will happen.

It costs just \$2.05 to feed one hungry person. Just \$2.05 to provide an entire meal of wholesome, home-cooked food...a meal that may not only help that person end a life of homelessness, but a meal that may be the start of a new and better life.

Your gift today to our 2014 Annual Thanksgiving Campaign will go a long

way toward filling the Rescue Mission's pantry and providing the care hungry, homeless men, women and children in the Bay Area will need this Thanksgiving season and beyond.

Just a reminder:

The Rescue Mission receives NO government funding. So we really do need your help to cook and serve more than 362,500 meals. Please, give generously.

Thank you!

“We exhausted all our options”

Nikki’s husband abandoned her and their son alone in the house, with no running water and no lights. “We had to fend for ourselves,” she says sadly. Thankfully, Nikki’s brother offered her and her son a place to stay.

But having a young child in her brother’s house wasn’t a good fit. So Nikki and her son began moving from place to place as she looked for a job. She filled out applications, followed up with phone calls, even took courses – but nothing panned out.

Soon, Nikki says, “we exhausted all of the options of where we could stay. So my brother said, ‘You need to go to the Bay Area Rescue Mission.’ He knew that I would be safe there.”

When she walked through our doors, “I was scared and shaking about being in a shelter.” But her fear melted away as she was warmly greeted by our staff. “It’s as if I was a long-lost daughter of theirs and **they greeted me with kindness and love,**” she remembers.

Nikki joined our Women’s Recovery Program – a 14-month intensive program of recovery classes, life-skills training and spiritual renewal. “I’m in the Victory phase of the program, where you can see how you’re growing and making better decisions for yourself. The classes are wonderful because they’re Bible-based,” she says. “And they really work!”

“I appreciate what the Rescue Mission did for me,” Nikki says. “They didn’t have to do it, they could’ve turned me away, but they came to me with love. I want to be able to show someone else the love they showed me.”

As she finishes the program and prepares for graduation, Nikki has plans to get her GED, then go to college and get a degree to work with kids who have behavioral problems. “I want to work with them and their parents to help make their lives better so they can be a better family.”

“All of us staying at the Rescue Mission are very thankful for everyone who gives, even if it’s just a little bit,” Nikki says. “It means a lot to us – **and we appreciate every last bit that we are given.**”

Just 2 weeks left!

Just a reminder: Our **49th Annual Fundraising Banquet** to say THANK YOU for all that you do for the Rescue Mission is coming up fast!

Date: Friday, September 26
Place: Hilton Concord,
1970 Diamond Boulevard
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Gifts and offering received will go toward helping to build the Bridge of Hope Center.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact **(510) 215-4555** or e-mail **mimiw@bayarearescue.org** by Wednesday, September 10th. Thank you!

Connect with us online!



[Facebook.com/BayAreaRescue](https://www.facebook.com/BayAreaRescue)



[Twitter.com/BayAreaRescue](https://twitter.com/BayAreaRescue)



[Youtube.com/ BayAreaRescueMission](https://www.youtube.com/BayAreaRescueMission)

2014 Annual Thanksgiving Campaign

362,500 meals
22,080 nights of shelter

Hungry for Change?



National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week, Nov. 16-22.

Check out our collection drive "how-to" guide:

**BayAreaRescue.org »
Get Involved »
Organize a Collection Drive**

We all want to end hunger and homelessness.

Here's your chance to bring together your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, people from your church, school or civic group to lessen the hardships that hungry, homeless men, women and children face each day.

- » Help with meal service here at the Rescue Mission
- » Organize a drive
 - o Canned food
 - o Clothing, especially coats & jackets as temperatures drop at night
 - o Hygiene items
 - o Socks & underwear
 - o Sheets & blankets
- » Skip lunch & donate the money to the Rescue Mission

For more information, call (510) 229-2116 or e-mail Marshelle at marshellew@bayarearescue.org. Thank you!

A Week of Caring!



It was an awesome **Week of Caring** at the Rescue Mission, topped off by our Back-to-School Block Party with carnival games, food and thanks to your help, **1,000 packs of school supplies for kids in need.**

Special thanks to Chevron Richmond volunteers, who assembled school supply packs for our party, served meals to our guests, and even helped ready barrels for our upcoming Christmas Food/Toy Collection Drives. Thank you for your kindness & generosity to others!



What an incredible week of service! To find out more, or see photos, visit our Facebook page or simply type in the hashtag **#WeekofCaring**.

A Legacy of Giving

Planning ahead, especially when it comes to leaving a legacy, will make sure your wishes are carried out.

For example, 70% of Americans who died last year without a will didn't think they needed one. Their families know better. When a person dies without a will, it can cost thousands in taxes and fees, and the family experiences frustration and hassles that wouldn't have happened with a will in place.



Don't be unprepared. Our free guide, *Creating Your Personal Legacy*, can help you create or update your will. To receive your copy, call Woody T. at (510) 215-4889. Or visit BayAreaRescue.org and click on "Ways to Help," then "Legacy Giving."

Loving Tributes

In Honor of:

Rita Allen
Miss Janet Louise Allen

John and Debra Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley G. Ginn

Nannie L. Asgari
Mrs. Vernice Louise Scott

Pauline J. Benton
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore C. Jay
Mrs. Ardith B. Thompson
Trinity Evangelical Free Church

Patrick Bybee
Nancy M. Bybee

Cherie & Bob, Jack and Gene
Mrs. Mary L. Cann-Borello

Brian Cristman
Mr. & Mrs. Denver Reeves

Ernest Del Simone
Mrs. Doris H. Alexander

Anna Doria
Mr. Anthony H. Doria

Henry Flippen
Mr. & Mrs. Freddie L. Robertson

Robert Freed
Debbie A. Clemmons

Bill Gilday
Mr. & Mrs. Walter K. Gowen, III

Rory L. Green
Florence Green

Milan and Reba Gilmore
Ms. Ozell Gilmore

Lois J. Kail
Mr. & Mrs. Walter D. Rogers

Victor Klim
Sandra L. Davis

Bill Krawetz
Mary E. Gladish

Eric Hendrickson
Mrs. Judy Tinsley

Weldon and Jeanette Lee
Mr. & Mrs. James W. Lee

Vona Lorenzana
Mr. & Mrs. Hwa C. Torng

Barry and Anita Mann
Kendall Financial Services

Mitchell Martinez
Naomi W. Martinez

Robert D. McCall
Mrs. Jessemae McCall

Sharri L. McNeal
Mr. & Mrs. Marty Coman, Jr.

Lowell and Lois Nail
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis L. Nail

Kai Pedersen
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond S. Pederson

Richard Reid
Mr. Dennis E. McKee

Mark T. Routt
Mrs. Evelyn Routt

Jean Sanderson
Mr. & Mrs. Alan S. Koenigsberg

Seattle Magic Wheels Motorcycle Club
Mr. Darrell Williams

Francis Silva
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald L. Cachopo

William and Genie Spooner
Mrs. Suzan Van Tassel

Valley Bible Church
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore R. Ho

Wayne Weiner
Michelle M. Milford

In Memory of:

Joni Adams
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Perich

Gary Agopian
Rev. & Mrs. John M. Anderson

John Barclay
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred A. Kaufman
Dear Friends

Bertram Capus
Mrs. Doris B. Phillips

Randy B. Clemmons
Debbie A. Clemmons

Charles D. Cox
Rev. & Mrs. John M. Anderson
Carol Mitchell

Jill Davis
Dear Friends

Florence Galliano
Mrs. Evelyn Routt

Fred Galliano
Mrs. Evelyn Routt

William J. Gibbon
Mr. & Mrs. Walter D. Rogers

Morry and Jammin Hsu
Pastor and Mrs. Joseph S. Tien

Ron Lawson
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Jacobs

Jerry McCuan
Mrs. Carolyn R. Leopold

Mary E. Moore
Jennifer Moore-Skallerud

Faye G. Poveda
Mrs. Dixie Lee Andrews

Margaret Routt
Mrs. Evelyn Routt

Partap Sadarangani
Mr. & Mrs. Lal C. Sadarangani

Margaret Sampson
Linda J. Ertel

Judith A. Spilman
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Spilman

H. Statler
Mr. Donald P. Vargas

Lou Trembath
Mr. & Mrs. Walter D. Rogers

Frances Triplett
Betty Lou Huppert

Yung To
Kam Li

Amelia Velazquez
Mr. & Mrs. Francisco Velazquez

Clifford J. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy D. Weatherton

George L. Williams
Mrs. Doris H. Alexander

Eloise D. Winn
Bishop K. Hurricane Winn, Sr.

Edmund R. Young
Mr. Paul E. Stark

Loving Tribute gifts given from April 9, 2014 – July 29, 2014, 2014.

A Loving Tribute

Simply fill out this form and send it along with your gift. Please be sure to include all information and we will send a special card in the mail to acknowledge your generous gift. We will publish a seasonal list of honor and memorial gifts in our *Bay Area Hope* newsletter and on our website.



In Memory of: _____ Amount _____

In Honor of: _____ Amount _____

Send appropriate card to: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donor's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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