

Easter Issue 2015



2 A Message from  
John Anderson



2 121,667 plates of hope!

3 "I'm learning to be a  
new person!"

# Bay Area HOPE

A Publication of the Bay Area Rescue Mission

2114 Macdonald Avenue • P.O. Box 1112 • Richmond, CA 94801 • [www.BayAreaRescue.org](http://www.BayAreaRescue.org)

## Jessica needed "a safe place"

When her living situation fell apart, Jessica moved from couch to couch, house to house, feeling very worried about her future. **She was pregnant, but had nowhere she could call home.**

"There were no family members willing to take me in," she remembers. "But being from the Bay Area, I knew the Rescue Mission was here."

When Jessica called, it was a huge relief to find out there was a spot in our Women's Recovery Program. "I had a safe place to go that wasn't just for a night," she says. "I knew it would give me time to figure out my situation."

Through counseling and classes in the Rescue Mission's year-long program, Jessica has had the guidance to help her work through the issues that led to her instability and prevent it in the future.

She's also grown spiritually here through Bible studies and chapel.

"I was looking for a more spiritual path," she says. "I've definitely gotten the opportunity to make a deeper connection with God here."

**With the love and encouragement of the people here, Jessica feels like she not only has a safe place to live – but a whole new family.** "I've had a tremendous amount of support from the women here," she says. "It's all been a blessing."

That support has gotten her through a huge life change – the birth of her son!

"When I had him, it was very overwhelming," Jessica says with a smile. "But I have women here who are willing to step up and help."

As Jessica looks forward, she hopes to fulfill a goal she's had since she was a child. "I've always wanted to do culinary arts," she says. "So it was a bonus when I saw they had a program here!"

"If it wasn't for the Rescue Mission, I really don't know where I would be," Jessica says.

"They've given me so many opportunities to have time with my baby and to grow spiritually. **I'm grateful for the Rescue Mission and everything they do here!**"





## Celebrating 50 years! YESTERDAY, Today & Tomorrow

To celebrate 50 years of service to the Bay Area, here's a look back at the beginnings of the Bay Area Rescue Mission.

When America joined in World War II in the early 1940s, Richmond's waterfront became home to four shipyards. Tens of thousands of job seekers descended on the town, looking for work. Many were African-American, and entering the workforce for the first time.

The town became a bustling hub of production during that time; shops like Penny's and Woolworth's sprang up downtown. Temporary housing for the workers filled the area.

By the 1960s, the wartime boom was long over. In the years after the war, many workers left the area, and much of the temporary housing for the shipyard workers was torn down, leaving less available housing in the area.

As the population declined, the city became more depressed and the residents more in need of human services like meals and overnight shelter.

That need compelled people of compassion to found the Bay Area Rescue Mission in 1965. Using the ground floor of an old hotel, the Rescue Mission launched its care for the homeless by offering 12 beds for men and serving 35 meals every day.

From the beginning, the Bay Area Rescue Mission provided meals, shelter, clothing and work training for homeless men.

In the early 1970s, the Rescue Mission was able to purchase the entire hotel, which allowed them to greatly expand services to women, children and families.

By the end of the decade, the Rescue Mission had reached capacity and the need for more space was a clear priority. In 1980, a new building was completed that included a chapel, a kitchen and dining room, and additional rooms for men in the long-term New Life recovery program.

Then in 1984, the Rescue Mission expanded its services once again by adding an emergency shelter for women and children. By 1987, the women and family shelter was able to provide emergency shelter for 162 family members.

**Next time: The Rescue Mission continues to grow & expand its outreach to Richmond and the Bay Area**

## Serving up 121,667 heaping plates of hope!

You've probably seen people on the street holding cardboard signs. "Will work for food." "Hungry Vet." "Homeless. Please help."

But there's one sign you probably haven't seen. It's the one that says, "I need hope. Will you help?"

Because hope truly is the most basic need of people who are hungry, homeless and hurting.

Hope begins with meals, and we need your help to provide over

121,667 of them in the next 30 days.

Hope grows with shelter, classes and counseling.

Whatever form hope takes, it begins with YOU.

Whether you use the enclosed slip, or give securely online at **BayAreaRescue.org**, your gift of \$2.05 will provide a hot meal and the hope for a brighter tomorrow.

Just imagine how much a gift of \$25, \$50 or even \$100 has the potential to do for men, women and children in our Bay Area community!

Please make a special Easter gift today to feed and bring hope to the lives of as many people as possible.

In the Apostle Peter's letter to persecuted Christians in what is now modern day Turkey, he talks about a "hope that never dies," a hope that will be with people even if they have "sorrow and all kinds of tests." Peter encourages them to endure, knowing they will enjoy the blessings that God promises!

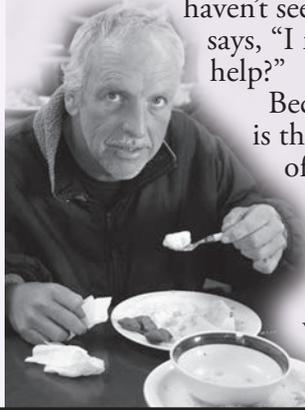
This hope that Peter spoke of nearly 2,000 years ago is the same hope we offer those like Jessica and Donald, who come to the Bay Area Rescue Mission.

Finding hope takes longer for some than for others. It's hard to be hope-filled when you're sleeping on the streets, or hungry every day, or trapped by an addiction to drugs or alcohol.

So, thanks to the generosity and support of partners like you, first comes help – meals, a bed, counseling and classes. Only then can lives that were hopeless become hope-filled!

Thank you for all you do!

Rev. John M. Anderson  
Executive Director



# "I'm learning to be a new person!"

Donald's problems with alcohol started when he was just a kid. His dad, his grandmother and many of his extended family members were alcoholics. "During family parties, I would sneak drinks off of the table," he says.

As an adult, Donald started using crack cocaine, a habit that completely took over his life and left him spinning, alone and full of despair. **"I had a void in my life, and I was searching to fill it."**

In and out of jail for years, Donald wanted to break his pattern of using drugs and alcohol. But on his own, he felt helpless and stuck. "I didn't want to go back to prison, or go back to drugs and crime," he says. **"I knew I had to change my life."**

That's when he found the Rescue Mission.

"When I came here, I was so spiritually broken," Donald remembers. "I was spiritually bankrupt, and I had low self-esteem."

But right away, he was overcome by the love of our staff and their concern for him. He joined our year-long Men's Recovery Program, which helps rebuild lives from the ground up, starting with Bible study, life-skills classes and job training, and spiritual counseling.

God had never been a big part of Donald's life. "I'd bought a Bible years ago, but never opened it," he says. But when he finally did, he realized what he'd been searching for all along.

**"I believe that void was a relationship with Jesus**

**Christ. But I don't have that void today."**

Donald also has big plans for the future. "I'm getting an AA degree in Health and Human Services, which will help me do drug counseling and social work in the future."

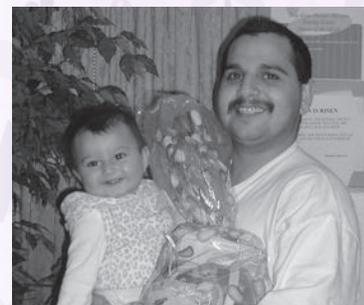
He's also reestablished his relationships with his entire family, including his son – something he could never imagine just one year ago.

"If I'd stayed out there using drugs, I'd be dead or on my way back to prison. So I'm not only learning how to stay off of drugs, but I'm learning how to be a new person."

He's so grateful for the healing and transformation he's experienced in his life – and the people who gave him that chance by supporting the Rescue Mission.

**"They saved my life...and now, they're giving me the chance at a new life,"** Donald says, with tears in his eyes. "It would take the rest of my life to describe how joyful and grateful I am to the Rescue Mission."

## Fill an Easter Basket for a child in need



Easter Sunday is April 5 – just around the corner!

We're planning to give out over 200 Easter baskets to children living in our shelter or who have a parent in our residential recovery programs, and the youth in our Outreach Program.

You'll bring a big smile to a child or teen's face on Easter morning when you decorate and fill a basket!

To find out more, or to donate, call (510) 215-4555 or visit [BayAreaRescue.org](http://BayAreaRescue.org).



**Please help!  
Here are the  
basket items we  
need most:**

- ✓ Children's/Youth books on the meaning of Easter
- ✓ Healthy snacks (granola bars, dried fruit, pretzels)
- ✓ Crayons/markers & coloring books/art pads
- ✓ Small stuffed animals
- ✓ Toothbrushes & toothpaste
- ✓ Chapstick

Drop off items at 123 Macdonald Ave., Richmond.  
For a complete list, visit [BayAreaRescue.org](http://BayAreaRescue.org).

# Sunrise

## Easter Service & Breakfast

Celebrate the joy of new life with us at our Easter sunrise celebration! Join us for worship at 6 a.m. in the parking lot of our Food Pantry & Distribution Center.

After the service, stay for uplifting fellowship and a delicious breakfast including ham, pancakes and hashbrowns.

We'd love to worship with you and share a meal on this glorious morning! To learn more, call (510) 215-4555 or visit [BayAreaRescue.org](http://BayAreaRescue.org) and click on "Stay Informed."

### Here are a few of our most urgent food needs:

- ✓ Pancake mix
- ✓ Eggs
- ✓ Ham
- ✓ Bacon
- ✓ Sausage
- ✓ Coffee
- ✓ Sugar (white & brown)

Drop off at 123 Macdonald Ave., Richmond.

For a complete list, please visit [BayAreaRescue.org](http://BayAreaRescue.org).

# Building our Bridge of Hope | SPRING UPDATE

## A capital campaign to create hope and a home for women & children

We're grateful to all those who have helped us reach the \$2 million mark! Our goal of \$6,000,000 to build our new Bridge of Hope Center for women & children in need is getting closer, thanks to your generous pledges of support. To learn how you can get involved with this special project, call (510) 215-4555 or e-mail [johna@bayarearescue.org](mailto:johna@bayarearescue.org).



# 20th annual New Life Golf Tournament

## Sign up today!

Grab your golf clubs and hit the green with us for a great cause!

On Monday, May 11, join us at Rossmoor Golf Course for our 20th annual New Life Golf Tournament.

All proceeds benefit the Rescue Mission during our summer months, a time when donations are scarce, but people in our community still count on us for a helping hand.

To find out more about this event, to donate or to sign up, please contact Mimi Wells, Tournament Coordinator, at (510) 215-4869 or at [MimiW@BayAreaRescue.org](mailto:MimiW@BayAreaRescue.org).



Last year, 124 talented golfers played to benefit the Rescue Mission's programs, helping to raise desperately needed funds. Please support this life-saving event by signing up to play or donating today!

## John, I want to turn hunger into hope for people this Easter:

- \$16.40 to feed and care for 8 people
- \$26.65 to feed and care for 13 people
- \$53.30 to feed and care for 26 people
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as much as possible
- My special \$50 gift to celebrate the Rescue Mission's 50th anniversary.
- Please send me information on the Rescue Mission's **Bridge of Hope** campaign.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

- Check enclosed     Bill my credit card
- VISA     MasterCard     DISCOVER     American Express

CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

Donate online at [www.BayAreaRescue.org](http://www.BayAreaRescue.org), or call (510) 215-4555.

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