

Rescue Mission News

Ventura County Rescue Mission

CHANGING LIVES FOR GOOD IS OUR ONLY BUSINESS

You Gave... You Served... Lives Were Changed for Good in 2010!

Showing Love Through a Hug



Norm Pussehl, IT Director for Rescue Mission Alliance gives one of our guests a big hug.

“How many people are fortunate enough to not only work at what we are good at, but also be able to give to those we are working for” says Norm Pussehl, IT Director for the Rescue Mission Alliance, “I am truly a fortunate and blessed man.”

Recovery and Restoration...



Lance Brown - March 2010 Recovery Program graduate.

I was sleeping in my car. In my desperation, I thought a room on wheels was OK. One painful day, the police impounded my car and I was homeless. Having been at the mission, I now know that Jesus loves me. I no longer fear the past or the future.

Valued Volunteers...



The Martinez family – Cassie, Tony, and Julie – are regular volunteers at the mission.

The Martinez family serves meals and diligently works in the dining room twice each week. They have become part of the mission family. Mom (Julie) says, “I love coming to the rescue mission because the people here make you feel good. I can tell they really appreciate us. Serving others makes it worthwhile and it’s a great family time for us.”

Because of Your Generous Partnership, the Following was Accomplished in 2010:

- 120 came to know Jesus Christ as their Savior
- 44 men graduated the 9-month Life Recovery program
- 39,761 warm, safe beds were provided
- 249,970 hot meals were served and enjoyed
- 25,552 articles of gently used clothing were distributed
- 12,297 Volunteers donated 199,125 hours of service

2010 Stories That Touched Our Heart...

The Mission Rescues a Mother's Hope

With tears of gratitude, Casey's mom, Shirley, relates this heart-warming story. "I would not; I could not give up. As long as my son was alive, there was hope. While Casey was still living at home, my world was shaken when we discovered he was using and abusing drugs. My son was using cocaine regularly, as well as abusing pain pills because of injuries sustained racing motocross." Sadly, Shirley asks, "What did I do wrong; what mistakes did I make raising my son? We sent him to a private Christian school and raised him in a Christian home."

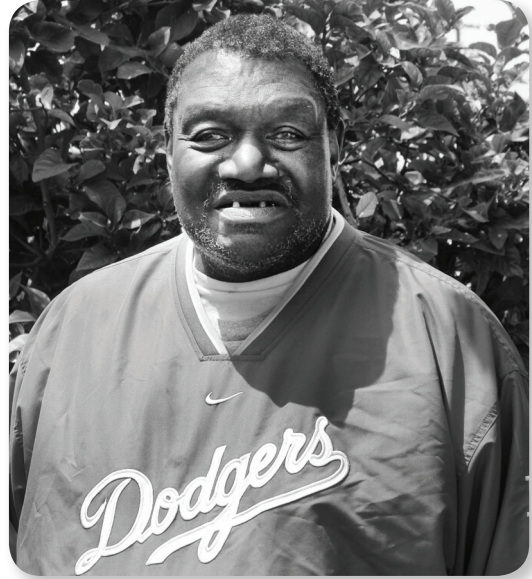
Casey stated, "I had wonderful, loving parents, but stopped putting Jesus first. I reached a point where I'd rather get high than anything else. At times, I had many different doctors prescribing me pain pills. I was sick of my life. My dad talked to me about a recovery program and, to pacify them, I agreed to go. It was at the mission that God got my attention. I prayed earnestly that the Lord would reveal himself to me and help me follow His ways. It wasn't easy, but certainly worth it, because I am now reunited with my family and my son."

All the time Casey was on the program, his mom and dad prayed for him, became involved in serving at the mission, and supported the mission in many ways. Mother's Day 2010 was a day of renewed hope and special joy for a red-eyed, but smiling, mom. Shirley says, "Thank God that He can do more abundantly above all we ask or think." (Ephesians 3:20)



The Clark Family Reunion (l-r – Chaplain Dennis, Cassie, Casey, and Shirley)

Former Professional Athlete Defeats Alcoholism



James makes the greatest comeback of his life.

James had a wonderful and full life, playing football in high school and earning the awards of All County and All League. Graduating with honors, he was drafted to play AAA baseball for the Albuquerque Dukes. In his prime of AAA ball, he got drafted into the Army where he spent 11 years as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne during the Viet Nam conflict. On one mission, James stepped on a land mine and severely injured his leg. James said it was God who kept him from being killed that day, most who step on mines lose their leg, at the very least. Looking for relief from the pain, he turned to drinking.

After the Army, James went back into baseball, then to college, and on to teaching High School and coaching sports. James coached youth sports for 44 years. On the surface, his life looked like the "American Dream," however, the anger and drinking was taking its toll. When he came to the mission, it was for a good meal and a place to find God. James found open arms and hearts with the people he encountered here. The help given to him was not only in beating his alcohol addiction, but gave him a place to belong. He found the hot meal alright, but he also found peace, hope, and the courage to continue; he found God.

73 year old James Johnson is a graduate of the Recovery Program and lives in the mission's transitional housing. He plans to enroll in Barber School.

LIGHTHOUSE

FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN



An Answer to My Emails . . .

An Answer to My Prayers

Before coming to the program, I was living in Guadalajara with my 20 year old son, my aunt, and some cousins. My life has always been miserable, nothing ever seemed to go right. I had a friend who I partied with all the time, we got along so well because we were both alcoholics... I got so tired of my messy life.

My friend and I tried to sober up, but he was mean and miserable and we split up. I thought I had always cared about myself and my kids I learned I didn't really. All I had cared about was the alcohol. I realized I needed a real change in my life and started looking for someplace to go. I sent emails out all over the United States. I really didn't care where I was going... I was just convinced I needed a change and some help.

Tina Glass, a staff member at the Lighthouse, was the first one to answer my emails, she was an answer to my prayers as well. I checked out the Lighthouse online and had a good feeling right away. I love this program – I love the structure of it. This is exactly what I needed. I needed to learn about God and be able to focus on Him. I also needed to learn more about life living skills. Now that I'm here, I have everything I need. I'm finally learning all the things

I didn't understand before. I am more and more grateful everyday with God, the Lighthouse and everything around me. I'm also taking care of my physical problems.

I hope to graduate the program and be able to help others in the future. My life is now much better and I see a wonderful future for me, my kids, and my family.

Everyday, I remember that God exists, He's my Savior, and He is taking care of me. I don't have to fear anything anymore. I can relax in His love. I have more confidence and I'm sure God has something better waiting for me always. Now I'm learning to think in a positive way and that makes life better! I've realized I'm blessed all the time.



~ Praise the Lord! Alma

Me Too!

Each time I sit to put together the stories of the women, I'm touched at their bravery and courage in spite of what sometimes seems like insurmountable circumstances. I hit 50 this year. I also hit an all time high weight wise. I took the recovery book that we walk the clients through and went through it myself. To date I've lost 30 pounds. I did it for my health. I did it to better be able to relate to the girls and the materials they use. And I did it because of the courage they gave me as I relate their stories in these newsletters. There are no dollars you will ever spend as well as the dollars you donate to the Ventura County Rescue Mission. These women have inspired me to change my life and God has given me the strength to follow through. But you are the one that provides this opportunity for these women. If I could hug you all I would!



Cassie Sorenson

I Almost Lost Hope

I lost my job in September of 2009. I lost my apartment soon thereafter. At 47 years old, I was jobless, homeless, by myself, and usually drunk. I lost any hope to survive, I just wanted to die. The only thing I had was a blink of hope that God loved me enough to get me another job. I was living in my car and it was only by the Grace of God that I didn't get in trouble with the law.

Finally, I called my father in California. He told me to go to the Salvation Army but they were full, so he sent me gas money to come home. All along the route from Arkansas to California, I would drive, ask for money to help with "gas," drink it off, and drive again. I was so afraid I would get picked up at every stop.

I finally made it to my Dad's house in San Fernando Valley. He kept telling me that I had to quit drinking – that nothing good would come of it. I could not stop! One day when I was begging for change in my Dad's trailer park, a man asked me if I knew Jesus. I told him I did when I was a child. He asked if I would be interested in going to Oxnard where there was an excellent program for recovery. I agreed, he made a call, and I was

in Oxnard not much more than 20 minutes later.

I went to the shelter first. It was very safe, clean and the staff was very helpful. The staff offered me the one thing I had run out of – HOPE. They offered me hope that I could get back on my feet. They fed me, let me shower and got me fresh clothes. They told me about the Life Recovery Program. I was ready!



I've been in the program for a month. My health is getting better. I am much closer to God. I'm learning to understand His will

for me – instead of relying on my will. God's grace is awesome. My future is looking up not down. The difference in my life is hope and God because I can do all things through Christ. I now have a new attitude of wanting to help others like I was helped. I want to return the favor someone gave me – SOBRIETY IN SOCIETY. I'm proud to say I've found a new life being sober. God forgives! ~ Amy

DONATIONS NEEDED

100% of all proceeds help feed, shelter, and clothe the homeless

Automobiles • Boats

• RV's • Trailers

• Fleet Vehicles

• Clothing • Furniture & MORE!

**For Pickup CALL
(800)417-5678**



NEEDS LIST

Some of our most urgent needs are listed here. If you can help, please drop off your donation Monday–Friday, 8am to 5pm, at the Lighthouse. Thank you!

- Cheese
- Canned Meats
- Lunch Meat
- Paper Plates
- Paper Bowls
- Plastic Silverware
- Paper Towels
- Paper Cups
- Toilet Paper
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Feminine Hygiene Products

for more Lighthouse news log on to www.rescuemission.org

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