



# VENTURA COUNTY Rescue Mission

An Outreach ministry of



June 2011

Changing Lives for Good

## Donors, the Backbone of the Ventura County Rescue Mission!

Without the generosity of our donors, the Ventura County Rescue Mission would find it difficult to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless. The mission receives no state or federal funding. Therefore, we are absolutely dependent upon YOU. We recognize the two different types of donations. The first is what we call In-Kind. These are items you donate such as furniture, clothing, televisions, or even a car, boat, or R.V. The other donation is monetary; donors, like you, give their hard earned money to support the work of the mission.

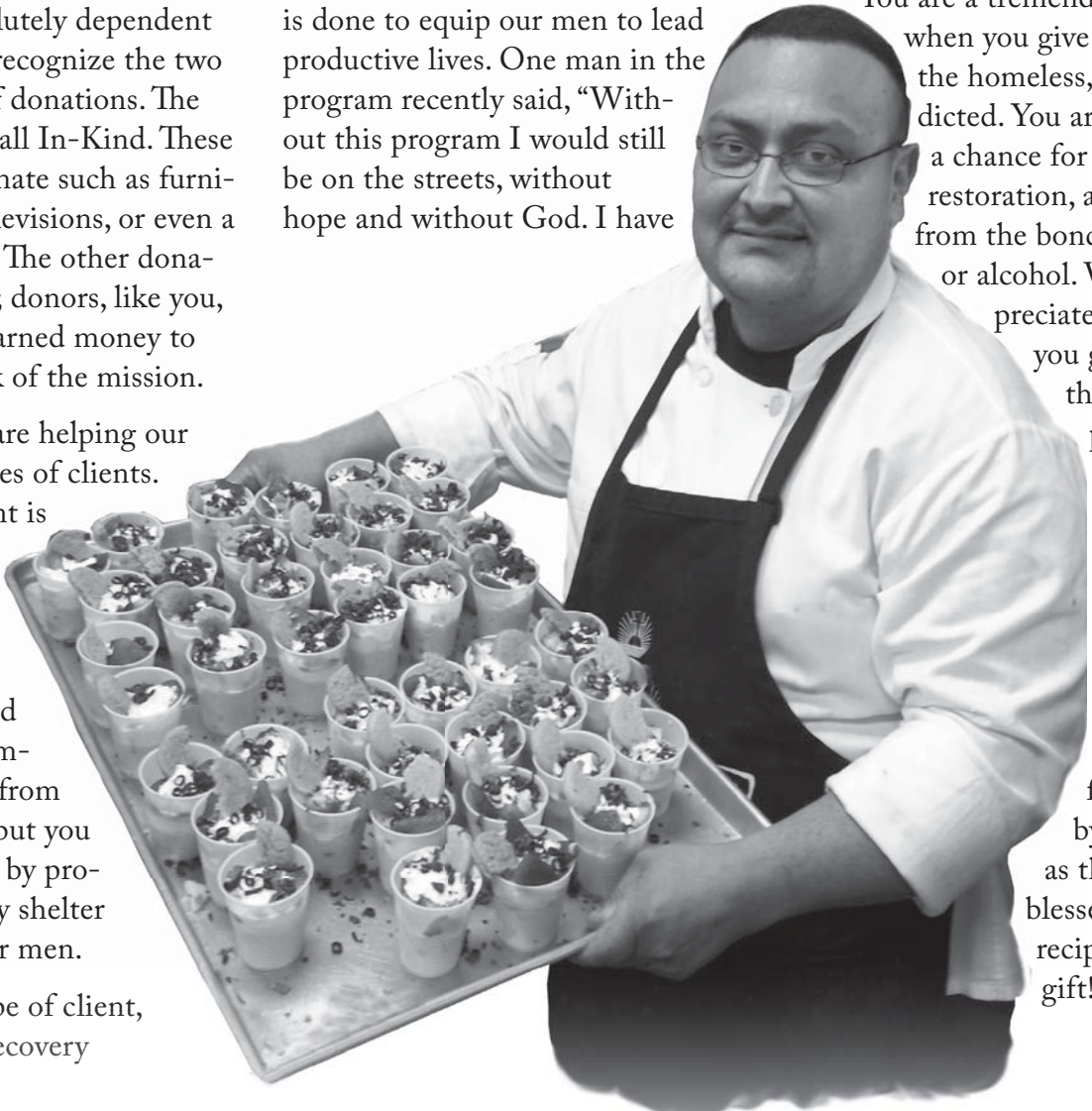
As a donor, you are helping our two different types of clients. One type of client is the person who comes to us for a meal or shelter. Your donations not only help feed hungry men, women, and children from our community, but you give a safe haven by providing emergency shelter at the mission for men.

For our other type of client,

the men in the recovery program, your donations provide food and shelter for ten full months! This is so the men can safely wean from their addiction, learn good work ethics, and improve their mental capabilities. All this is done to equip our men to lead productive lives. One man in the program recently said, "Without this program I would still be on the streets, without hope and without God. I have

not only learned to overcome my addiction, by the grace of God, but, I am learning a skill in the culinary program that I can use to support myself when I graduate."

You are a tremendous blessing when you give to the poor, the homeless, and the addicted. You are giving men a chance for recovery, for restoration, and release from the bondage of drugs or alcohol. We so appreciate the fact that you give knowing they can never pay you back. Our men might never know you, but God does and He will honor your gifts. We hope you feel as blessed by your giving as the men feel blessed to be the recipient of your gift!



## How your donations are making a difference.

I want to share just a couple of areas where the Ventura County Rescue Mission has been blessed by your donations. Without you, these programs would not be possible.

**Our Culinary School** is a six-month program within the recovery program for men to earn a certificate demonstrating their grasp of the culinary arts.

Some of our graduates have secured jobs on the oil platforms due to the wide reputation of excellence our culinary school has earned.



The **Auto Department** teaches men the basics of auto mechanics, a skill that can enable some of our men to find employment in the auto industry. All the cars are donated for us to sell. This accomplishes two things; first, it provides affordable transportation for the poorer members of our society, secondly, all the proceeds from the sale of the autos go directly to benefit the poor, hungry, and homeless.

## Did You Know?

Congress has just extended the IRA Charitable Rollover. This law allows people who are 70.5 years or older to make tax-free gifts of up to \$100,000 a year from their IRAs.

The recent renovation of our **Learning Center** was made possible by a generous donor. Upgraded workstations, chairs, and audio/visual equipment are just part of the improvements that positively affect the training process for our program participants...training that prepares them for productive, independent lives.



## Our financial integrity

As a donor, we understand your interest in our financial responsibility. We are firmly committed to the highest standards of financial and institutional integrity. We are reviewed and accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. We also maintain a "Certified Excellent" status with the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions. Therefore, you can completely trust your donations to be used wisely to assist the poor, needy, and homeless.

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**PhilanthroCorp**

# LIGHTHOUSE

## FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN

### It's Because of You

This newsletter theme is one of my favorites: Stories of businesses and organizations that are invaluable to the Lighthouse. This month there are only two stories in the newsletter – but there are scores of stories that could be in here. I can't even begin to list the organizations and businesses that truly are the life blood of the Lighthouse -- some with cash, some with donations of goods and services, and some with both. The first group I'd like to mention is very personal to me.

For as long as I can remember, my mom has been involved in her sorority. So, when I met a member of a sorority that donated to the Lighthouse, at an event where I set up our display to share about the Lighthouse, I was intrigued. Delta Theta Tau is a service sorority that raises money solely to give it out to organizations in the community. I'm now blessed to be a

member myself. And you can find my sorority sisters at almost every special event we have. They served meals when we hosted a national event; they drove, decorated, dressed up, and gave out candy at our Trunk or Treat Event; they filled a table at our Annual Join the Journey Banquet, etc...



Diane, from Delta Theta Tau Sorority, is Cleopatra at our Trunk or Treat Event.



Alpha Kappa Alpha helping with a food drive on Martin Luther King day.

And they certainly aren't the only sorority that loves and supports the Lighthouse! Alpha Kappa Alpha supports us annually as well. Women who want to give back and choose to give back to our women and children are vital to all we do!

The next story is shared by an individual who started giving personally. Now she, her husband, and their insurance company give as well.

# From Giving to One Family to Being a Part of Our Family

I was first introduced to the Lighthouse shelter four years ago when I was asked to adopt a family for Christmas. I received a wish list for four children and a mother. The things they asked for were just normal needs of items for every day living. It just broke my heart that all they wanted was a coat, shoes, socks, and under garments. I became interested in the families right away. So, the next year, I volunteered to organize the whole Christmas list for four of the houses. I started learning more about the way the shelter funds itself. I was especially surprised to learn that they are not run by the government. They get their funds through a thrift shop, radio show, the local churches, and private donations such as mine. I love this!

I also learned the women go through an extensive program to rehabilitate them back into society and become self sufficient.

This is a wonderful positive program of support and love for these women who need a safe place to live. At the same time, they learn about themselves, protect their children, and thrive as they work to be a better person. They have devoted themselves to God and service to one another. It's so beautiful to watch them grow into beautiful people and families. I have gotten to know some of the women and watched them graduate the program. It's been such a joy to be part of this organization. I hope to continue helping the Lighthouse and donate as much as I can.

~ Wendy, Lighthouse Donor



The kids love Wendy!

**Beyond our daily needs are bigger items that would greatly enhance our programs. If you can help, please contact us at 805-240-1644. Thank you!**

- New twin size mattresses
- Portable plastic shelving units
- Tall dressers for the emergency shelter
- Conference tables for the classroom
- Lifetime tables and chairs for our dining rooms
- New computers
- Individual emergency evacuation kits for each facility
- Portable storage units
- File Cabinets – lateral
- Projectors for mounting in conference room and classroom
- Flat Screen TV's for the conference room and classroom
- 11- 15 Passenger Van
- Ergonomically correct Office chairs and furniture
- Metal Storage Cabinets (3' x 6')
- Storage Units/Sheds



Wendy and friend Gail Delivering Christmas Gifts.