



Fall Issue 2010

Bay Area HOPE

A Publication of the Bay Area Rescue Mission

“I Used to Live Just Down the Street!”

Danica is no stranger to the Rescue Mission. For several years, she lived just down the street and supported our work through her donations. But she always wondered just what we did in our shelter.

Today, she and her husband, Dale, know just what a blessing the Rescue Mission can be!

Out of work with no job prospects and having lost a home to foreclosure, the couple turned to their church. “When they couldn’t help us, the Rescue Mission opened their arms,” says Dale. “They extended their love and kindness to us.”

“Being here is such a joy!”

Being at the Rescue Mission was a real “eye-opener” for the couple.

“They didn’t just give us food; they actually offered us a place to

live!” Unlike many shelters where husbands and wives or even families are separated, the apartments in the Rescue Mission’s Family Center enable families to stay together, supporting each other through their most difficult times.

Their room is “comfortable and cozy” and being with other families gives them a feeling of safety and security.

“I know the Lord brought us here!”

“You get three meals a day, a warm bed, and they actually feed you with the Gospel. I give God honor and glory for all of this,” says Dale, “I know He brought us here.” And because they want to “give back,” Dale has been “doing little chores” like cleaning the play yard and trimming bushes.

In addition to finding help and a home at the Bay Area Rescue



Mission, Danica and Dale were about to be blessed with their first child when they arrived.

“We felt like Mary and Joseph,” says Danica. “The clothes I’m wearing were provided by the Rescue Mission,” adds Dale. “And the food is more than enough. It’s just been an honor to be among the people that are here. I am overwhelmed.”

Thanks to your support and the parenting and financial classes they took while they were here at the Bay Area Rescue Mission, Danica and Dale were well-prepared for the newest addition to the family, a son.

This Issue

A Message from the Director.....2

“I Want to See My Kids Again”.....3

Camp Timberwolf 2010...4

A Message from the Director



Overcoming Life's Greatest Challenges

It's easy to praise the Lord when things are going well and life is good.

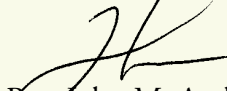
But remembering God's presence when there are challenges is sometimes much more difficult.

Each day here at the Rescue Mission, we and those we serve face seemingly insurmountable challenges. It's all part of the process of taking people who are hungry, homeless, abused and addicted and building them back up so they can succeed.

The stories you'll read in this issue of *Bay Area Hope* are truly miraculous testimonies to the challenges faced by clients like Matthews, Dale and Danica, and to the power of God to transform lives.

They are also proof positive that the programs we offer can and do help people make amazing changes in their lives each and every day!

Bless you for continuing to help men, women and children in need overcome some of life's greatest challenges through your partnership with and support of the Rescue Mission.


Rev. John M. Anderson
Executive Director

Turkey in the Tent

The week of Thanksgiving is filled with excitement as we host our annual "Turkey in the Tent" festivities. All week long we serve nutritious meals under a large tent. We would love to have your assistance. Please contact Dave Kachurka at (510) 215-4865 or visit our volunteer page at www.BayAreaRescue.org.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Food drives
- Stocking and organizing our Food Pantry
- Thanksgiving Food Bag distribution to needy families
- Serving "Turkey in the Tent" Thanksgiving Dinner to the disadvantaged
- Serving Thanksgiving Dinner to the elderly and homebound



Kitchen Needs



Milk
Eggs
Rice
Beans
Spices
Canned foods
(soup, fruits, vegetables)

Donations can be dropped off at the Rescue Mission's Food Pantry & Distribution Center at 123 Macdonald Avenue, Richmond, CA 94801. Call (510) 215-4887 or visit www.BayAreaRescue.org for more information.

Get Ready. Get Set. Pray.

It's only September, but we're getting ready for the holidays.

We'll need more than 2,500 turkeys and 10,000 pounds of potatoes for our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner. In the days and weeks before Thanksgiving, we'll need hundreds of volunteers.

And, we need your prayers. Prayers that the food we need will be provided, and that we'll have enough room for all the new folks coming our way.

Most of all, prayers that those who join us for a meal or shelter for

the night will stay on and enter the programs that can get them into a right relationship with God, family and friends, and back on their feet!

You can help by donating food or making a gift to purchase it by using the enclosed envelope or online at www.BayAreaRescue.org. Or, bring your family or group to volunteer, especially **before** the holidays. And please pray – for our staff and for those in our community who need help to find better lives.

"I Want to See My Kids Again..."

The good news is that today, Matthews is clean and sober.

The bad news is that his former addiction to marijuana, crack cocaine and heroin cost him dearly – including the loss of his four children.

Matthews had a place in Daly City, but was "kicked out" of the apartment he was living in because of his marijuana use. He came to the Bay Area Rescue Mission to stay in the shelter, but instead found eternal shelter in Christ!

"I came to Chapel and the message blew me away," Matthews says. He dedicated his life to Christ then and there and joined the Rescue Mission's Men's Recovery Program. Matthews says the best part of the program is that he can "be himself" for the first time in his life.

"We all have the same goals here – to better our lives."

"I've found real friends here...support and fellowship with my brothers in Christ...a place I can call home that is special to me."

Matthews' family is proud of his progress too, especially his father with

whom he talks every month. "He's really proud of me... especially that I'm doing something about my life with Christ."

Now nearly finished with our 14-month program, Matthews starts his day early. "I get up at 4:30 a.m. and help prepare all the breakfasts and feed all the people." In addition to serving at the Rescue Mission, Matthews is also learning valuable culinary skills that he will be able to turn into a job in a restaurant when he leaves. He also takes other classes: life skills, anger management, computer training and Bible study.

"I've found real friends here."

Matthews' favorite part of the program is not the classes. It's having friends again, "real friends." "Nobody cares what kind of car I drive or where I come from. These people are real friends...and after we finish the program, we're going to keep in touch. That's something nice to have."

As much as Matthews is gaining from our Men's Recovery Program, his goal is to leave as soon as he graduates and get a job so he can start paying child support and regain his

right to see his children.

"The Mission will write letters to the court letting them know that I am fixing my life," says Matthews, "so that I can see my kids again."

In the past 12 months, thanks to your support, more than 200 people have successfully completed one or more phases of our recovery program. By removing the obstacles which have kept them in bondage – addictions, anger, destructive behavior, lack of a job and life skills – the program gives them the resources they need to live independent, self-sufficient lives and return to their homes and families.



Changing Lives for Years to Come

As the end of 2010 approaches, many people will be looking at their financial plans, and no financial planning would be complete without reviewing estate plans. By including the Bay Area Rescue Mission in your will, you could help to endow the ministry of the Rescue Mission for years to come.

Did you know that now is the perfect time to consider a Charitable Gift Annuity to benefit you and the Rescue Mission? The rates increased as of July 1. For more information about this and other estate planning or to make a special year-end gift, please contact Don Hall at (510) 215-4889 or DonH@BayAreaRescue.org.

Annual Banquet

It's not too late to sign up for our Annual Fundraising Banquet on October 1 at 6:00 pm. This year's banquet will be held at Hilton Concord Hotel, 1970 Diamond Boulevard Concord, CA 94520.



For reservations and complimentary tickets, please contact Jill Davis at (510) 215-4021 or JillD@BayAreaRescue.org.

Send for Your 2011 Mission Calendar

Without the gifts, volunteer time and prayers of friends and neighbors like you, the Rescue Mission would not exist. As a token of our gratitude for all you do, please accept this 2011 Mission calendar as our way of saying "Thank you!"



To receive your FREE 2011 Rescue Mission calendar, please check the special box on your reply card and mail it today. Your calendar will be mailed at the end of October.

Come and Visit!

We'd love to have you visit us online at www.BayAreaRescue.org.

There's no need to call first; you can stop by anytime and read about your help in action, check out our volunteer needs and read about our upcoming events.



www.BayAreaRescue.org is your online source for information about the Rescue Mission and how your help is changing lives!

Camp Timberwolf 2010

Over the summer, staff and youth from the Rescue Mission's King's Club spent five days camping in the Plumas County National Forest at Camp Timberwolf.

This was a special escape for the at-risk

kids who participate in our after-school program during the year. They enjoyed swimming, hiking, relay races, arts and crafts and especially learning more about God in a loving, nurturing environment.

To learn more about the King's Club and how you can help make a difference in the life of a child, call Marshelle Wilburn at (510) 215-4552 or visit www.BayAreaRescue.org to fill out a volunteer application.

