



Holiday Issue 2011

Bay Area HOPE

A Publication of the Bay Area Rescue Mission

“Building a Solid Foundation for Our Family”

Leticia had been to the Bay Area Rescue Mission before. Because they had no food in their apartment, she came to receive an emergency food bag for Thanksgiving. But now, it was nearly Christmas and she and her baby were facing eviction.

She needed to make a choice... would she try to survive on the streets with her baby or would she come to the Rescue Mission? Leticia knew that living on the streets would mean losing her baby to Child Protective Services, so she and baby Arianna came to the Rescue Mission.

Leticia shares, “before my baby was born, I was running the streets, involved in crime and drugs. Somehow, God helped me

to stop using drugs when I became pregnant. Now, I hoped He would help me to change my life for good.”

At the Rescue Mission, she picked up a Bible and started reading. “I didn’t know God or Jesus. I never grew up in a church-going family. But I knew that I couldn’t run around the way I did before.”

Arianna’s first Christmas was celebrated right here at the Rescue

“I’m so grateful for everything the Rescue Mission has done.”

Mission’s Family Center. There was a Christmas party with little toys for all the kids. Then, a Christmas miracle happened. Leticia’s husband had

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entered the recovery program for men here at the Rescue Mission to “get his life together,” so Arianna was able to spend some Christmas time with her daddy, too.

Today, the family is taking advantage of the Rescue Mission’s Transitional Living Program. They’re receiving counseling and guidance from the Rescue Mission’s staff, looking for work and saving the money they need to get a place of their own.

Leticia has gone back to college at Contra Costa College where she hopes to major in criminal justice, a very different route from the path her life was taking before she came to the Rescue Mission.

Thanks to your support, one more family is on the road to self-sufficiency, gaining the tools that will lead to long-term success!





“God Is Not Dead; Nor Does He Sleep”

As we begin what may be our busiest Christmas season ever, I think of my two favorite holiday songs. “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” reminds me that while we all long to be with family and friends, this yearning is even more heartbreaking for the thousands of homeless, hungry, hurting people who will be coming through our doors in the next couple of weeks.

In my favorite hymn, “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day,” the composer writes of his despair that the world no longer honors God or Christ. Yet in the final verse, his faith is restored as he hears the bells “more loud and clear,” telling him that “God is not dead; nor does He sleep.”

So often, the men and women, boys and girls you help us to serve also come to this realization: They need more than a meal, more than shelter; they need to let God change their lives!

That’s why your prayers, support and volunteerism mean so much to us.

Debra and I wish you and yours the merriest Christmas and the happiest New Year... and we thank you for helping the homeless.


Rev. John M. Anderson
Executive Director

Thanksgiving & Christmas Needs



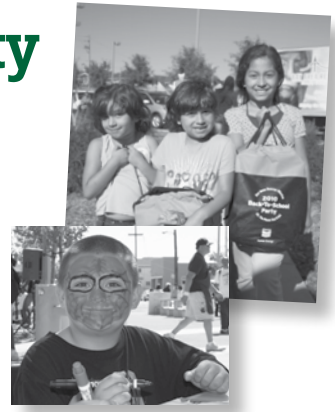
Turkeys
Hams
Ground Beef
Sweet & Baking Potatoes
Stuffing
Canned Vegetables, Soups, Fruits
Canned Protein (tuna, ham, chicken, etc.)

Cooking Oil & Margarine
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Milk
Cheese
Eggs
Healthy Grains & Beans
Whole-grain Pasta & Rice

Donations can be dropped off at 123 Macdonald Ave., Richmond.
Call (510) 215-4887 or visit www.BayAreaRescue.org for more information.

Back to School Block Party

Over the summer, we held our Back to School Block Party. Over 1,300 people enjoyed a wonderful day of games, face painting, snow cones, popcorn and a delicious picnic – topped off with old-fashioned root beer floats. The highlight of the event was each child receiving a grade-appropriate book bag filled with school supplies.



We are excited for the children of Richmond to reach their potential academically. With deep gratitude, we are proud to partner with Chevron for this annual event.

To learn more about the Rescue Mission’s annual events, visit www.BayAreaRescue.org.

“The Very Best Christmas...”

What is the very best gift you can give someone who is hungry or homeless?

Here at the Rescue Mission, there are as many ways to help as there are people in need.

Volunteer. Lend a hand at the Distribution Center. Organize a drive to collect food and clothing. E-mail DaveK@BayAreaRescue.org or call (510) 215-4865 for more information.

Donate. Our shelters need blankets, sheets and pillows. The Food Pantry and Kitchen need hams, turkeys and other holiday goods, plus cooking oil, milk,

cheese, eggs, ground beef, healthy grains, beans and canned vegetables. Call (510) 215-4887 or drop donations off at our **Food Pantry & Distribution Center, 123 Macdonald Avenue, Richmond.**

Give a gift. Use the enclosed envelope to send a gift to provide meals and more. Donate by check, credit card or online at www.BayAreaRescue.org.

Pray. Pray for this ministry and the men, women and children who come here during their time of greatest need.

Thank you for helping make this the very best Christmas!

Odale's On a Journey...

Following a Path Laid Out by the Lord

Odale came to the Bay Area on vacation. But when he got into trouble and was arrested and jailed, there was no family to bail him out.



In jail, with time on his hands, Odale started doing "some Bible studies." And just before he was due to be released, he found a small cross...one he cleaned up, put on and still wears four years later.

His next stop was a bus stop where a gentleman said, "I've got a place for you to go."

That "place" turned out to be the Bay Area Rescue Mission where Odale walked in the door and was greeted by men saying, "Bless you, Brother."

Still, Odale wasn't "too sure" about this place, but decided to stay for a few days in our emergency shelter. And, because he didn't want to just "sit around and do nothing," he volunteered in the kitchen.

"The guys there kept talking to me about 'the program' [the Rescue Mission's long-term Recovery

Program], and since I had no money and nowhere else to go, I decided to go ahead and sign up."

During his time in the program, Odale decided to read the Bible – from Genesis to Revelation! And, along the way, he started asking questions and finding answers.

"The Rescue Mission showed me how to go forward. Today, my life is about giving back."

Odale's time in the kitchen reawakened a love of cooking, which led him into the Rescue Mission's Culinary Arts Program, run in collaboration with Contra Costa College.

Between reading his way through the Bible and cooking, Odale learned how to give up his old ways and be "a new man." He got his GED here at the Rescue Mission and mended bridges with his family.

When Odale's mother was diagnosed with cancer, one of the Rescue Mission's program graduates bought him a ticket back to Detroit so he could be there for her final days.

Odale's mother didn't live to see him graduate, but he says, "Spiritually, I know she's

watching me." And she must be mighty pleased with what she sees!

"Ma, look what I've done!"

Odale's at the top of his class at Contra Costa College with a 4.0 grade point average! He's had several job offers, but he's turned them down to stay here at the Rescue Mission. "It's not about the money," he says. "It's about giving back."

"I think the Culinary Arts Program could use a person like me," he says with a grin. "I'm dedicated. I love what I'm doing, and I think I can show the people coming through this program what it takes. I've done what God wanted me to do."

Visit Us Online!

Get to know us better, learn about volunteer opportunities, read about the latest news and events and donate securely at www.BayAreaRescue.org.



Legacy Giving

Consider these reasons for including the Bay Area Rescue Mission in your will.



1. Your will is a statement that you believe in the Rescue Mission.
2. Your will enables you to give a more substantial gift than you could during your lifetime.
3. Giving through your will is a faithful way to provide for ongoing ministry long after you're gone.

To learn more, visit www.BayAreaRescue.org and click on "Ways to Help."

Reserved for you:

2012
Mission Calendar

Thank you for your gifts of volunteer service, prayer and financial donations. Without your support, the Rescue Mission would not exist. As a token of our gratitude for all you do, please accept this 2012 Rescue Mission calendar as our way of saying "Thank you!"



To receive your FREE 2012 Rescue Mission calendar, please check the special box on your reply card and mail it today.

Your calendar will be mailed in early December.

Christmas Turkey in the Tent

We will be providing mouth-watering Christmas dinners all week in the big circus tent in our parking lot. We would love to have your help to prepare and serve meals, set up, clean up and decorate. We need volunteers from December 19 through December 24.

If you would like to volunteer, please visit our website at www.BayAreaRescue.org and click on "Ways to Help/Get Involved" to fill out an online application or call Dave Kachurka at (510) 215-4865.



Join us



Christmas Toys Needed

Each year at the Rescue Mission, we distribute gifts and toys to thousands of needy children and homeless adults during the Christmas season. Not only do these children receive gifts that their

families cannot afford, but each and every person who visits the Rescue Mission receives the priceless gift of the true meaning of Christmas. Please consider donating some of the items from the shopping list below:



Elementary School Girls

- ZuZu Pets
- Bratz Dolls
- Nail Polish
- iCarly (anything)
- Hannah Montana (anything)

Elementary School Boys

- Action Figures (Batman, etc.)
- Legos
- Transformers
- Remote Control Vehicles
- Star Wars (anything)

High School Girls

- Musical Devices
- Headphones
- Body Spray/Wash
- Jewelry
- Nail Polish

High School Boys

- Musical Devices

- Headphones
- Axe Cologne Sets
- Sports Equipment

Appropriate for all

- Children/Teen Bibles
- Scarves, Hats, Hoodies (pullover hooded sweatshirts)
- Gift Cards to: Movie Theaters, McDonalds, Jamba Juice, Game Stop, Starbucks

Homeless Adults

- Clipper Passes (bus and train passes)
- Gloves & Scarves
- Socks & Underwear (men/women/children)
- Blankets & Towels
- Study Bibles
- Bottled Water
- Hygiene Items

Please deliver gifts to the Rescue Mission by December 16, 2011. For more information, call Carey Kachurka at (510) 215-4863 or Bill Jones at (510) 215-4760.

Here's my gift to feed, shelter and care for those in need at Christmas and beyond:



- \$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
- Please send 2012 Mission Calendar.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

- Check enclosed Bill my credit card
- VISA MC AMEX DISC

CREDIT CARD # _____

CIV/SEC # _____

EXP. DATE _____

PHONE # _____

Donate online at www.BayAreaRescue.org, or call (510) 215-4555.

Bay Area Rescue Mission
P.O. Box 1112
Richmond, CA 94802-0112

