

Don't Miss...



2 How You Restore Hope



3 "I've learned to love myself again."



4 Annual Easter Campaign

Easter ISSUE 2019

Bay Area

HOPE

A Publication of the Bay Area Rescue Mission

2114 Macdonald Avenue • P.O. Box 1112 • Richmond, CA 94801 • BayAreaRescue.org

A Beautiful
NEW
BEGINNING

Matt's life is being restored in ways he never imagined.

On Page 3: Read how your support is giving Matt a reason to celebrate this Easter!

Easter 2019
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

“

I didn't want to live anymore.

NOW, I'VE LEARNED TO LOVE MYSELF AGAIN.

”



“On the outside, everything looked picture-perfect. On the inside, I was dying.”

Matt lay in the park, his coat pulled tightly around him, shivering in the December cold, wondering how his life had come to this.

He'd been a diligent young man, happy to work alongside his close-knit family in their brokerage business. But, when he was 27, a motorcycle accident set his life on a destructive course. “I developed an addiction to pain pills, but I thought nothing of it because they'd been prescribed to me.”

It wasn't until the doctor stopped refilling his prescription that Matt realized the gravity of his addiction. “I became really sick and went to the street to get my pills,” he says. “No one knew I had a drug problem.”

Over time, Matt's addiction grew stronger, and he couldn't hide it anymore. “I lost myself and everything I held dear, not just material things, but my family,” he says.

Eventually, he wound up homeless, sleeping in the park, two blocks from his childhood home. “I was suicidal. I didn't want to live with myself anymore.”

It was then he came to the Bay Area Rescue Mission and, through our Life Transformation Program, encountered God and His grace. “The hardest thing for me was self-forgiveness, but now I believe that Jesus has forgiven me, so I need to forgive myself. That's what I've learned to do.”

His family has forgiven him, as well, and their relationship has been restored. “It's a miracle and a blessing,” Matt says.

He's passed on that blessing at our front desk, answering phones, sharing his testimony and inspiring others to seek healing here at the Rescue Mission. After graduation, he plans to stay in our transitional housing, find work and save money for a home. “I'm looking forward to a fresh start, free from bondage,” he says.

This Easter, Matt will be celebrating the beautiful new beginning in his life – made possible by your generous support. “I've learned how to love myself again.”

VISIT BayAreaRescue.org to read stories of hope, learn more about our ministry & securely donate anytime.

Let's be friends!



Easter 2019

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Here's how your gift provides comfort & care over the next month!



62,354 nourishing meals



6,691 nights of shelter



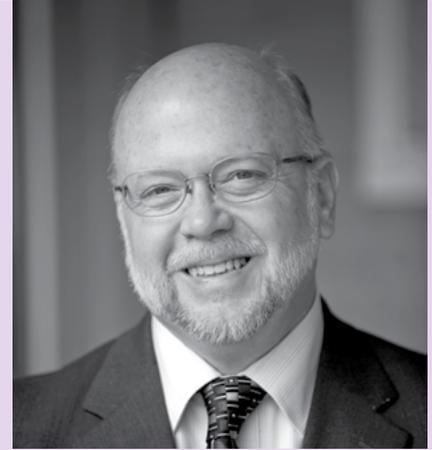
120 men & women cared for in our discipleship programs



729 hours of education & counseling

A Message from REV. JOHN M. ANDERSON

YOU RESTORE Hope



When we pass a homeless person on the street in the Bay Area, it's often easier to avert our eyes to our phones rather than engage with that person's very real pain.

That way, we don't have to hear their cries... or see how broken their lives are... or feel how much they suffer.

But their pain is real, even if we look away.

We have a God who stands beside us in suffering and boldly engages with our pain. He sees our struggles, hears our cries, takes on our pain as His own – and then, redeems it.

Easter is our celebration of that new hope!

Your generous gifts demonstrate that you **turn toward** those who are hurting – and want to offer them healing and restoration through God's love.

Because of you, people like Matt are celebrating HUGE changes in

their lives. Matt's story is on page 3, and I hope as you read, you're inspired by how your gifts can turn a life filled with pain into a beautiful new beginning.

By God's grace, and your support, many like Matt are experiencing hope restored. On behalf of each person in our care, thank you for reaching out to them with the love and kindness that helps restore lives this Easter.

Rev. John M. Anderson
Executive Director

PLAY A ROUND | CHANGE A LIFE!

Save the Date

24th Annual
New Life Golf Tournament

Monday, May 13
Rossmoor Golf Course
Walnut Creek



It's that time of year when golfers gather with their clubs and compassion to raise money for the Rescue Mission's programs that bring healing and hope to those in need in the Bay Area.

It's our 24th annual New Life Golf Tournament!

Join us for a day of fellowship on the links, delicious lunch and dinner, and the satisfaction of knowing you're changing lives through your participation.

Whether you take part as a golfer, a volunteer or a sponsor, you'll help make the event a success. We can't do it without you! For more information, visit BayAreaRescue.org.

Preparing for Easter...

AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!



Sunday, April 21: Easter Sunrise Service from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m.

Will you help set more places at our tables for hungry people this Easter?

**Just look at our needs this Easter season:
62,000+ meals for men,
women & children.**

And there's no way we can provide them without you!

Donate food: Please consider hosting a food drive or donating these needed items by **Friday, April 19:**

- HAM, BACON, SAUSAGE
- EGGS
- PANCAKE MIX
- FRESH OR CANNED FRUITS & VEGETABLES
- COFFEE & CREAMER
- SUGAR (WHITE & BROWN)
- LIP BALM
- CRAYONS, MARKERS, COLORING BOOKS, ART PADS
- CHILDREN'S/YOUTH BOOKS ON THE MEANING OF EASTER
- SMALL PLUSH TOYS
- TOOTHBRUSHES & TOOTHPASTE



Drop off donations at the Rescue Mission, 123 Macdonald Ave. in Richmond, 7 days a week. Thank you!

Don't have time to shop?

Donate now!

(510) 215-4555

BayAreaRescue.org



**DAVID HAS A REASON
TO CELEBRATE!**

Meet David! He came to the Rescue Mission believing all hope for his life was gone. Your support provided the hot, nourishing meal that changed everything – and gave him hope for a new life through God's love.

Today, you can help more people like David with your gift to feed, shelter and share God's love during our Annual Easter Campaign.

A meal is just \$2.05... and the hope it provides in the lives of homeless and hungry people is truly a reason to celebrate!

GIVE NOW using the enclosed reply card & envelope.

GIVE ONLINE anytime at **BayAreaRescue.org**.

Thank you for the new hope you make possible in hurting lives! Happy Easter!



Volunteer: You can help from now until Easter Sunday!
Contact Marshelle Wilburn: **(510) 215-4865**