

Don't miss...



2 My Heart of Thanksgiving for You!



3 "I'm the person God created me to be."



4 Thanksgiving Needs

FALL 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](http://BayAreaRescue.org)

MARCUS WANTS TO

*Thank You*

Marcus's heart is full of thanksgiving because of God's love & your generosity!





**“I’M THE  
PERSON  
God created  
me to be.”**

**W**hen he was a little boy, Marcus longed to spend time with his mother. “She was a drug addict and never really there for me, so I grew up at my grandmother’s,” he says. “It broke my heart because I loved my mom.”

Marcus was just 13 when he began numbing his pain with alcohol, the beginning of a 25-year struggle with addiction that cost him jobs and his family. “I wasn’t there for my wife and kids so my marriage broke up,” he says. “Being away from my two daughters was the hardest thing.”

He was determined to keep them in his life, but over time he grew distant. “I’d tell myself I was going to call them on their birthdays, then I wouldn’t,” he says. “One night, I realized I was putting them through what I’d gone through. I said, ‘I’m done doing this to my kids!’”

It was then Marcus entered our Men’s Life Transformation Program, where Bible studies and chapel services led him to recommit his life to the Lord. “I’d put God on the back burner, but at the Mission, I realized He’d always been there for me,” Marcus says. “Now I’m dedicated to my walk with God 100 percent.”

He’s also found emotional healing through Christian counseling. “There are great mentors here,” he says. “I’ve processed a lot of problems. Now I’m clear minded and have peace and a sense of self-worth.”

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♥

*“I have joy in my soul.”*

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♥

Marcus plans to graduate from the program and live in our transitional housing while he works and saves money for a place of his own where his daughters can stay. “They’re so happy to see the changes in me,” he says. “Now I can be there for them when they need me.”

**Because of your generosity, Marcus’s heart has been filled with thanksgiving... and God’s love!** “Before I came to the Mission I was lost, but now I’m the person God created me to be.”

*My heart of  
Thanksgiving for you!*

Each time I think of you, my heart overflows with thanksgiving. Your generosity to our homeless neighbors reminds me of the story of the Good Samaritan. During his journey, he stopped to help a man beaten and left for dead by robbers on the road – a victim others had walked right by.

Jesus then asks a simple question:

*“Which... was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”*  
(Luke 10:36 & 37, NIV)

**Many who come to the Rescue Mission have been beaten down by life... they long for a Good Samaritan to reach out and help them.** This Thanksgiving season, I encourage you to take Jesus’ challenge! The nourishing meals and safe shelter that your gifts provide are simple ways to give them a hand up. I want to thank you for showing mercy to our neighbors who others often pass by. Your compassion helps our hurting guests recover and heal, and often opens their hearts to God’s love today... and a transformed life forever!



*JA*  
Rev. John M. Anderson  
Executive Director

2019  
THANKSGIVING  
CAMPAIGN

MEALS NEEDED!

*Help us get  
ready now!*

YOU can make a difference in the lives of homeless and hungry neighbors. By giving today, **you’ll help us prepare for some of the 202,500 meals we’ll provide** from now until Thanksgiving Day.

LOOK AT WHAT YOUR GIFT WILL PROVIDE!



**\$2.05**  
for 1 hot meal



**\$5.86**  
for 1 night of  
safe shelter

*and often  
leads to*



A chance to share  
**GOD’S  
LIFE-CHANGING  
LOVE**



Please share your heart of thanksgiving by giving your **2019 Thanksgiving Campaign gift now.** Our hurting neighbors will find the help and hope they need for a new beginning in their lives!



Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.



Give online anytime at **BayAreaRescue.org.**

THANK YOU

AGAIN FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY  
DURING THE THANKSGIVING SEASON.

## BE A VOLUNTEER.

With thousands of people to serve this fall, we really need YOUR help!

Call:  
Marshelle Wilburn at  
**(510) 215-4865**

Email:  
**volunteers@BayAreaRescue.org**

Or visit **BayAreaRescue.org** to find out more or sign up now!



## Thanksgiving Season Needs

Please bless our homeless and hungry neighbors with a special Thanksgiving by donating any of these food items.



Turkey	Pepper
Potatoes	Brown sugar
Carrots	Honey (for turkey brine)
Onions	Potato peelers
Celery	Plastic tablecloth rolls
Bell peppers	Napkins
Canned vegetables	Compostable (city requirement): forks, spoons, knives, dinner plates, salad/ dessert plates
Sausage (for dressing)	
Cornmeal (for dressing)	
Butter	
Sage	

Drop off your donations at the Bay Area Rescue Mission Food Pantry at 123 Macdonald Ave., Richmond, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday – Thursday; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday.

## Visit Our New Website!



Our website has had an Extreme Makeover! Check it out at **BayAreaRescue.org**. You'll find stories of inspiration, upcoming events and the latest reports on how your gifts are helping change the lives of those we serve.