



Don't Miss...

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A Message from  
John Anderson

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"It's been nothing  
but a blessing."

4

The perfect gift?  
Look no further!

HOLIDAY ISSUE 2017

# 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)



## A weary heart REJOICES.

Ryan was exhausted from his struggles and  
searching for a way forward.

Today, Ryan feels the thrill of hope in his life – because of YOU!  
READ HIS STORY ON PAGE 3.



“This place has always been here for me, and I’m very

**THANKFUL.**



Ryan was raised by two loving parents. “Life was good at home,” he shares. “I didn’t want for a whole lot.” However, when he was in junior high, Ryan wanted to gain some independence – he became rebellious. It was innocent at first: He started skipping class. But his bad choices snowballed and started him down a very dark and lonely path of substance abuse.

Ryan eventually became homeless. “On the street, there’s no fun. There’s no laughter. There’s no smiles... There’s no friendships. There’s nothing. Just drugs,” he says. This lasted for many years, until Ryan ended up with “no money, no car, no place to live and was out of options.”

That’s when Ryan saw a beacon of light, shining out in the darkness. The Bay Area Rescue Mission was Ryan’s safe haven.

He had been to the Rescue Mission before, but when he arrived on our doorstep last year, it was as a man finally ready to change inside and out.

**“IT’S A WONDERFUL PLACE HERE.”**

In our Discipleship Program, Ryan found healing from his rebellious past. He credits the chaplains for all his growth at the Rescue Mission. “I do my best to be as open as I can possibly muster.” Ryan considers them role models for his own life and aspires to live as they do. “I look at the way the chaplains conduct themselves – the way they treat people. And, though I fall short, I do my best to do the same.”

**“IT’S EASIER TO SHOW OTHER PEOPLE GRACE AND LOVE, AND HAVE A GIVING HEART AND SPIRIT WHEN PEOPLE SHOW YOU THE SAME.”**

Today, Ryan has almost completed the program and is excited to start working again. Ryan says knowing God is using everything in his life for a purpose makes it easier to deal with the disappointments.

When he sees his life today and compares it to being on the streets, Ryan is thrilled by his transformation thanks to God’s love in his life – and your support. **“There’s a positivity and there’s a joyfulness that even when things don’t look that bright, God’s got it.”**



## Bring **HOPE** to weary hearts

The birth of our Savior. Special moments with loved ones. Celebrations around the world.

Christmas is truly a thrilling time of year.

It's a time to share love. A time to raise hopes. A time to be joyful!

I think the Christmas carol "O Holy Night" puts it best: **A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices.**

But for some of the weariest among us, the men, women and children who make their home with us here at the Rescue Mission, Christmas can be **a very difficult time** of year.

While it feels like the world is rejoicing around them, most of our guests would tell you it's hard to keep their focus on the real reason to rejoice at Christmas. Many are apart from their families, separated from spouses and children. Their hearts are weary from their struggles with homelessness or other desperate situations.

It's your gifts that **make it possible for our guests to be reminded of the reasons we all have to rejoice this season – Jesus Christ was born to save and give rest to weary souls!** As we share this good news, those who are hurting will surely be filled with the thrill of new hope.

Special meals. Decorations. Small gifts. And above all, a celebration of that very first Christmas... a reminder for them – and for all of us – that miracles do happen and prayers are answered!

As you keep the Bay Area's hurting and homeless in your prayers, I pray you'll share the joy of the season through a gift that transforms lives forever... filling people with joy and new hope.

This then is my wish for all who join us here at the Rescue Mission during Christmas, and for you and those who are near and dear: **Let weary hearts experience the thrill of hope through our Savior, the God of hope!**

  
Rev. John M. Anderson  
Executive Director



# 101,250

MEALS BY DEC. 25

OUR GOAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Each meal you provide today is so much more than a plate of food. It's a chance to end someone's hunger or homelessness – and offer them the gift of a thrilling new life this Christmas.

 GIVE NOW

using the enclosed reply card & envelope.

 GIVE ONLINE

anytime at **BayAreaRescue.org**.

*Thank you*  
for sharing your blessings & bounty!

SHARE

# *The Thrill* OF **HOPE**

THIS CHRISTMAS WITH PEOPLE IN NEED!



**101,250**  
MEALS



**1,740**  
FOOD BOXES



**10,200**  
BEDS

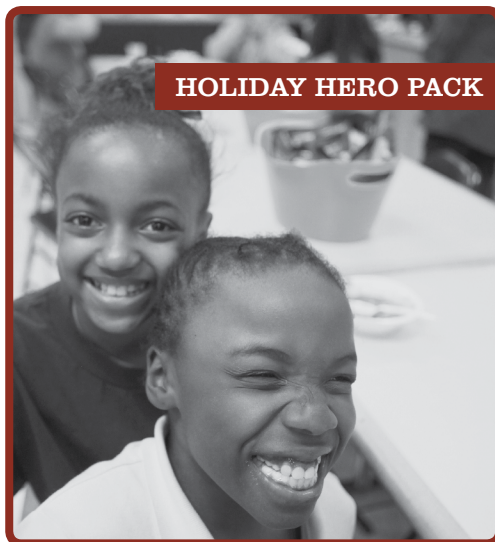
# The perfect gift? Look no further!

Give meaningful gifts this holiday by shopping our Holiday Gift Catalog – it's full of ways to save and change even more lives!

SHOP OUR GIFT CATALOG NOW!

 [BayAreaRescue.org/GiftCatalog](https://BayAreaRescue.org/GiftCatalog)

Or, send your special Christmas gift today in the enclosed envelope to bring meals, shelter, care and hope to homeless people this Christmas.



**HOLIDAY HERO PACK**

**\$55**

Our Holiday Hero pack includes 10+ hot meals, 2+ nights of shelter & access to clothing, medical care & discipleship programs!



**NOURISHING MEALS**

**\$25**

Provide 10+ meals with your gift! A hot meal at the Rescue Mission may be people's only meal of the day.



**SAFE SHELTER**

**\$50**

For just \$50, give 5 nights of good rest! It's so much more than a bed! During winter, it's protection from hypothermia, frostbite & worse when temperatures drop.

These holiday gifts are representative of the needs of people served by the Bay Area Rescue Mission. Donations may be used to support the area of ministry where the need is greatest.

**CONNECT WITH US**

 [BayAreaRescue.org](https://BayAreaRescue.org)







# Loving Tribute

LOVING TRIBUTE GIFTS GIVEN FROM 3/4/2017 UNTIL 8/22/2017

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WILLIAM AND WADIE BELL  
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newsletter. To make a tribute gift, call or visit our website.  
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