



IGNITING CHURCHES TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES

Church Champions Newsletter



Fall 2015

FROM BARM COMMUNITY RELATIONS

What are Church Champions?

from Volunteer Services

It is amazing how quickly this year has flown by and here we are just on the verge of the holiday season and in the last quarter of the year. With that in mind, we thought we would update you on our reason for coordinating the Church Champions' Collaborative (CCC) before the busyness of wrapping up the year is upon us.

Just as a reminder, the idea of the Bay Area Rescue Mission becoming a catalyst for unifying churches through the CCC was introduced by our former Vice President of Community Relations and Operations, Gary Kingsbury. As of the end of September, Gary ended his time with BARM and accepted the challenge of overseeing the Antioch Shelter Project as Co-Project Manager. We ask that you keep his new season of ministry in your prayers. Gary's hope was that we would continue on with building community and support amongst churches to greater impact the Bay Area with the unified presence and power of Jesus Christ.

So let's recap what Church Champions are. Church Champions are designated persons of influence and members of local church bodies throughout the nine main Bay Area Counties with a passion to inspire others to share Jesus through missional service.

Kingdom Connects are an opportunity to join forces and gain greater understanding of how to be intentional in uniting our efforts assisting churches to "come out of their walls", becoming more missional and engaging in their communities.

During our first Kingdom Connect, which is the quarterly gathering hosted by BARM for churches to come together, Bay Area Rescue Mission staff contributed information about opportunities to partner in service through volunteerism in support of the programs and services for the homeless and needy. All of these activities are a means of churches igniting a fire in their members to serve. The objective of this collaborative effort is to unify God's Body and maximize our efforts for **EXPONENTIAL KINGDOM IMPACT**.

We have been undergoing organizational transformation over the past two years and our desire is to be more inclusive and catalytic, while faithfully serving the needy and the impoverished. This is also the Mission's opportunity to express our gratitude and give back to the community of faith who so graciously gives to us.

We value your time and service to us, but would also like to be a part of assisting in your church's impact on the territory and ministries entrusted in your care, as well as providing opportunities for you to serve with us. Come and enjoy fellowship and motivating information to learn how you and others can work together to build God's Kingdom together **SATURDAY, OCT. 17TH @ 10AM at Willow Spring Church**

Remember to invite others to join us!

Your church events, prayer requests, ideas for topics, information & activities are welcomed & needed to share at future events and in newsletters. Email today to: Volunteers@BayAreaRescue.org

Upcoming BARM Events

SAT, October 17 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Church Champions Kingdom Connect at Willow Spring Church, Moraga.

Join us for our quarterly gathering for building relationships and discovering how the community of faith together can impact the Bay Area. Focus on Ministry Outreaches, Emergency Preparedness and the Holiday Season.

Holiday Food Drive from Oct-Dec / Gift Drive Nov-Dec

SAT, October 31 10:30 AM - 03:30 PM
Harvest Fest Outreach for Children at BARM123 Macdonald Avenue, Richmond

We need churches to bring the light of Jesus to the community at this Fall Carnival & Lunch Outreach where we will partner in sharing Christ and kick off our Fall Food Drive. The Body is needed to create carnival games and booths with biblical themes, wear the most authentic biblical costumes, and make a fun afternoon event for the children. This is a great opportunity for youth groups, young adult ministries and any else who would like to lend a hand to reach out to families to invite them to your church and events. Bring your church info to share. Email Volunteers@BayAreaRescue.org to sign up with your hours of availability and what assignment you are interested in.

TUES, November 03 01:00 PM-04:30 PM
Faith-Based Readiness Seminar at Richmond Civic Ctr 440 Civic Center Plaza (Basement Multi-purpose Room)

Faith-based organizations are invited to learn more about being prepared to be a part of the solution to crisis in its community by becoming a part of the Emergency Shelter Operations Plan. Hosted by the City of Richmond and Red Cross.



COME SERVE WITH US!

Ministering to the homeless in Berkeley's Peoples Park. It is great to share the same heart of compassion for the homeless and also to share approaches on meeting the needs of those on the street. #MobileOutreach



Volunteering to support BARM Programs & Services

- Office Support
- Junior Chapel Service for Children
- Facilities and Maintenance
- Food Pantry Distribution Center (Warehouse Donation Center)
- Garden & Organic Farm
- Information Technology and Systems/ Computer Skills
- Mentoring and Discipleship
- Outreach Events
- Programs for men and women (class facilitation, tutoring, & mentoring)
- Special Events

Feed My Sheep

Host a lunch or dinner by purchasing, preparing, serving & sharing a meal with our homeless and needy guests in our Dining Hall or for an Outdoor Community Outreach. Or join our Culinary Team in preparing and serving meals to over 300 of our shelter guests and residents three times daily.

Mobile Outreach (HOT – Homeless Outreach Teams)

Hit the streets with our Mobile Outreach in **H**omeless **O**utreach **T**eams to share the Good News of the Gospel, **Fresh&UP** Care Packages and other supplies as available with the homeless throughout the Bay Area and learn how to create **HOT Ministries** in your community which identify **HOT Spots** and engage the homeless.

Bridge of Hope Hosts

Host a lunch or dinner at your church or home to provide an opportunity for others to learn more about our efforts to increase help for homeless moms and kids.

SUPPORT OUR CHURCHES

Upcoming Church Events

MORAGA VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Annual I-Can Food Drive Project for Preschoolers and Families

Supporting the Bay Area Rescue Mission
On-going until 11/13 @ MVPC- Contact Kathy Veitch
10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga, CA 94556 (925) 376-4800

WILLOW SPRING CHURCH

Annual Gifts for Needy Children of Richmond
Expanded Gift Drive and Wrapping Event
Date to be Announced - Contact Sherry Diestler
1689 School Street, Moraga, CA 94556 (925) 376-3550

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCHES

Prayer Requests & Praise Reports

ROCK HARBOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Additional Pastoral Leadership

CHRIST CHURCH OF THE TRI-VALLEY

Searching for another facility for Worship

ALL CHURCHES OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

Unity in faith and boldness in Christ, compassion and love in the challenging times of today's world.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Ephesians 6:18

DID YOU KNOW?

There are 50,000 veterans homeless each night by Sue Rosenfeld, AGRM Rescue Magazine

For thousands of veterans—stepping back onto American soil isn't the end of the battle for them. Instead, returning home means the beginning of another kind of battle: A battle for stability in housing, finances, health, and support systems that can all too easily end in homelessness. Consider these facts:

- On a single night in January 2014, out of the 578,424 people experiencing homelessness
- 49,933 were veterans according to *The 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress Point-in-Time Estimates*.
- Almost 10 percent of those veterans (an estimated 4,722) were women

Today's veterans span generations, with older veterans from World War II through the post-Vietnam era alongside younger veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. They entered the military at a wide range of ages, with and without independent living responsibilities prior to the military. Duties, ranks, and pay grades varied. As pay grades varied, so did income and pensions after discharge from the military.

Health issues like anxiety, depression, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder related to combat experiences—which previously did not get a lot of attention and often went undiagnosed—are now being identified, studied, and researched. While studies differ on quantifying a direct, causal link of these areas to homelessness, many attribute these as risk factors. The document *Veteran Homelessness: A Supplemental Report to the 2010 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress* by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) indicates that veterans are more likely to enter the shelter system from jail, prison, a medical or mental health facility, or a substance abuse center.

To join or learn more about Church Champions Collaborative, contact us today at Volunteers@BayAreaRescue.org

BAY AREA RESCUE MISSION

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www.BayAreaRescue.org

