

Don't miss...



2 Celebrating rebirth
this Christmas



2 Your gift goes
twice as far!



3 "I was thankful not to
be on the streets."

Holiday ISSUE 2020

Bay Area

HOPE

A Publication of the Bay Area Rescue Mission

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



THANK YOU FOR BRINGING
GREAT JOY
TO HURTING PEOPLE

You changed Shameeka's life



“I WAS VERY THANKFUL NOT TO BE ON THE STREETS.”

Shameeka is a woman of great heart and spirit, sensitive to the Lord’s call to help those in need.

When a home healthcare position opened in California, she knew it was His will for her, so she quit her airline job in Houston and headed west. “I was so excited,” she says.

She’d be staying at her employer’s home until she found her own place, but when she arrived, she discovered the woman was a hoarder. Her home was in shambles.

Shameeka was undaunted. She was going to make it work, but after a week the woman told her to leave. **“I was here alone. I didn’t have anyone to lean on but the Lord,”** she says.

She prayed for guidance, and through a 211 referral, the Lord led her to our Center for Women and Children, where she found

safe shelter, nutritious meals and the encouragement of our loving staff. “I was very thankful not to be on the streets,” she says.

With her physical needs met, Shameeka was able to focus on getting back on her feet. She entered our Women’s Discipleship Program, where chapel services, Bible studies and Christian counseling strengthened her faith. **“I have a deeper knowledge of the God I serve and a deeper understanding of His Word,”** she says.

Shameeka has shared her faith and compassion with other hurting women in the program and realized that God brought her here to bless others’ lives as well as her own.

Meanwhile, job skills training and vocational classes have prepared Shameeka to reenter the workforce. After graduation, she plans to follow the Lord’s lead to

her next ministry opportunity. “I believe God has good things in store,” she says.

This year, Shameeka will be celebrating Christmas filled with the great joy of God’s love. “I thank God for this experience. It made me a better person. I’m more mature in Christ.”

“My purpose here is to encourage.”

Celebrating rebirth this *Christmas*

As we celebrate the Christmas season and the miracle of Jesus' birth in a lowly manger, we must keep in mind the ending... That He gave His life on the cross so you and I could be reborn as children of God.

You know that the guests of the Bay Area Rescue Mission have had a tough time before they come through our doors. Poverty, addiction, homelessness, hunger, violence... you name it. ***But what's so incredible is not their past stories, but how their lives are completely transformed thanks to you.***

You believe that change is possible. More than that, your generous support gives these men, women and children the very services and support they need to be restored and reborn. You give them the most incredible gift there is this Christmas: the chance to find peace, purpose and a new life filled with God's blessings.

As you celebrate this joyous season with loved ones, I hope you'll remember your neighbors who still need healing. After this difficult year, my prayer is that God will move in mighty ways in hearts and communities across the country. May you be filled with peace and love, and continue to share His love with others.



Rev. John M.
Anderson
Executive Director

It Starts With You... You make transformation possible!

This has been a hard year for everyone, especially for your neighbors in the Bay Area who lost jobs or experienced unexpected difficulties due to the pandemic. But they have hope thanks to YOU!

Your compassionate support provides:

- Safe shelter and clean clothing
- Life skills classes and practical guidance
- The message of God's life-changing love



Just \$2.05 provides a meal and care for one person... and could be the first step toward lasting transformation.

Please Send Your Gift Today!



\$2.05
for 1 hot meal



a night
of safe shelter

**CAN GIVE
SOMEONE**



**A new life healed
by God's LOVE**

READ SHAMEEKA'S STORY TO LEARN MORE!

YOUR GIFT TODAY... = GOES TWICE AS FAR!

DEADLINE TO GIVE: DEC 31

Great news! **Any gift you make will be matched through the \$150,000 challenge grant** from a generous group of partners to become \$300,000 to provide food, shelter and care! *This is truly a double blessing.*

Your year-end gift will provide **twice the hope** for your neighbors who are struggling to get back on their feet due to the pandemic!

And thanks to the recently passed CARES Act, your gift today could qualify for a greater tax deduction. Please check with your tax adviser for more information.

- ✉ Add your special year-end gift to the reply card and send it today.
- 💻 Give online anytime at **BayAreaRescue.org**.

THANK YOU
for blessing
others through
this year-end
challenge!

Share your Blessings this Christmas

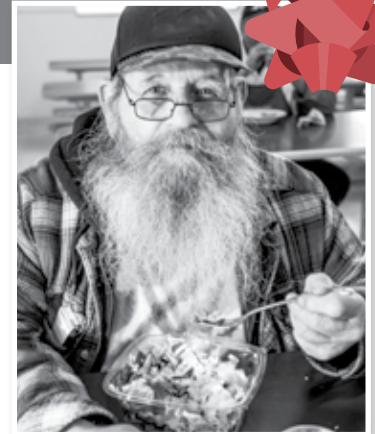
FILL THE TABLES



Donate these foods for the thousands of meals we'll serve throughout the holiday season.

Please deliver them to 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.

turkeys & hams * boxes of stuffing * bags of potatoes * canned fruits and vegetables
coffee, creamer & sugar



December 1 GIVING TUESDAY

Please remember your hurting neighbors by joining together as a community to support **Giving Tuesday**. On this special day, your gift to the Bay Area Rescue Mission will provide basic essentials and guidance that can transform lives.

This has been an especially difficult year due to the unexpected hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic. Your help is needed now more than ever for our neighbors trying to rebuild their lives. Thank you for caring!

☑ Mark December 1st on your calendar and don't forget to give at **BayAreaRescue.org**.

GIVE GIFT CARDS



Gift cards to these merchants allow us to purchase holiday gifts and year-round necessities for our guests. Simply mail or deliver them to **123 Macdonald Ave., Richmond**.

Walmart * Target * Safeway * Amazon

MEET URGENT NEEDS



These items are a vital part of the Mission's everyday operations and the comfort of our guests. Please drop off your donations at **123 Macdonald Ave., Richmond**.

garbage bags * paper towels & toilet paper * laundry detergent
underwear * socks * towels * blankets * pillows

THANK YOU FOR HELPING!

John, please use my Christmas gift to bless my struggling neighbors who have had such a challenging year:

- ☐ \$20.50 to feed & care for 10 people
- ☐ \$51.25 to feed & care for 25 people
- ☐ \$75.85 to feed & care for 37 people
- ☐ \$92.25 to feed & care for 45 people
- ☐ \$_____ to help as much as possible

Plus, my Challenge gift to provide double the help: \$_____

This really helps!

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

☐ CHECK ENCLOSED ☐ BILL MY CREDIT CARD

☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ DISCOVER ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS

CREDIT CARD #

EXP. DATE

PHONE #

EMAIL

Donate now! ☎ (510) 215-4873

☑ **BayAreaRescue.org**

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



Loving Tribute

LOVING TRIBUTE GIFTS GIVEN FROM 2/26/2020 THROUGH 8/4/2020



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GIORGIO BARBERO
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