

Don't miss...



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Join Our Campaign



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"The Rescue Mission gave me a second chance."



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Our Thanksgiving Needs

Fall ISSUE 2021

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)



**GRATEFUL  
THROUGH IT ALL:**  
**Raul is especially  
thankful for YOU!**

Your compassion &  
support change lives.





“  
The Rescue  
Mission  
gave me a  
**SECOND  
CHANCE  
AT LIFE.**  
”



Raul's heart was torn as he made his way to the store to buy alcohol. He didn't want to drink anymore, but he was in bondage. "I started drinking at 14... I became dependent. Eventually, I needed alcohol to function."

Over the years, his addiction cost him everything he held dear – his relationships with his children, his jobs, his home. "I had nothing," he says.

As he walked to the store that day, his desperation drove him to reach out to God for help. "I was so depressed and fed up with my life," he says. **"I prayed, 'Please help me change. I don't want to drink anymore.'"**

Two weeks later, Raul was hospitalized for kidney failure. "The doctor told me I would be on

dialysis for the rest of my life, but my kidneys recovered. Only God could have done that," he says.

It was the catalyst Raul needed to change. God had answered his prayer. When he was discharged, he entered our Men's Discipleship Program, where Bible studies and chapel services led him to faith.

**"I found out who Jesus is and surrendered my life,"** he says.

Our counselors have helped Raul find emotional healing, as well. "I didn't like myself or think I could accomplish anything, but now I have a lot of confidence."

Raul graduated from the program and is staying here while he receives construction training at RichmondBUILD Academy. "After

*"I was lost, but  
now I'm saved."*

I finish, I can join a union and start working," he says, happily.

His relationships with his children have now been restored and he's looking forward to getting his own place where they can stay. "They see a different me and they're proud."

**As Raul celebrates this Thanksgiving, he feels incredibly thankful for your compassion and support – and how it's given him a fresh start.**

"The Rescue Mission gave me a second chance at life."



## GIVING THANKS FOR ALL GOD'S BLESSINGS

It might surprise you that in another year filled with hardships and uncertainty, the overwhelming messages I hear are ones of gratitude and hope.

Despite the challenges we still face as a community – or perhaps because of them – we remain connected to each other in a spirit of love and generosity. ***Your care and compassion have never been more evident here at the Bay Area Rescue Mission than right now, as we prepare for the Thanksgiving season.***

You have stepped up to help our hurting neighbors as God has called us to do. Provided nourishing meals. Safe shelter. Life-restoring guidance. More than that, you've prayed for our ministry and guests. Encouraged others to join our mission to transform lives. Your love has made it possible for hearts to be restored and lives rebuilt. Now that's something to celebrate!

As we count our blessings this Thanksgiving, you and other faithful friends are at the top of my list. As you enjoy the holiday season with your loved ones, both near and far away, I pray God will fill your heart with joy, peace and the comfort of knowing that lives have been changed thanks to your kindness.

I am grateful for you... today and every day. God bless!



Bram Begonia  
President/CEO

## 2021 THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN

***It's been another challenging year for so many of our neighbors...***

**202,500**  
**Meals Needed by Thanksgiving**

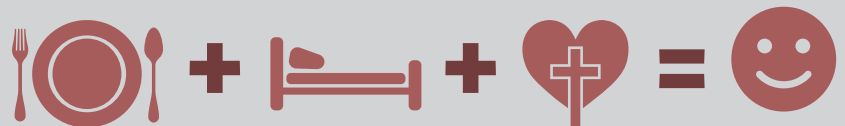
Many of our neighbors are still struggling... trying to get back on their feet... trying not to lose hope. Today, YOU can help them!

For just \$2.09, you can provide a nourishing meal for a hungry neighbor this Thanksgiving season. And that meal opens the door to so much more...

- Safe, welcoming shelter
- Warm clothing, coats & shoes
- Classes & job training to help them get back on their feet after another tough year
- A chance to experience God's love that changes lives



### YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE AN IMPACT!



Please – help us be ready to serve thousands of meals to our homeless and hurting neighbors during the busy holiday season!

**Rush your 2021 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today.**

✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.

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

**READ RAUL'S STORY  
TO LEARN MORE!**



**Psst... don't miss out!**

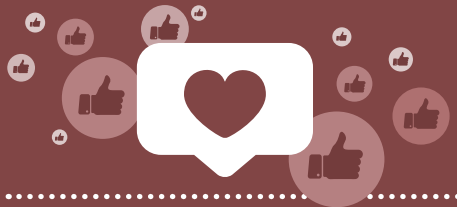
*Follow us! Like us!*

*Be in the know!*

Ever read an email or a post that made your day? Then you should **follow us on social media!** It's a great way to be lifted up by seeing how your partnership transforms lives.

Another great way to see your impact is to **sign up for our emails!**

You'll stay up-to-date on our urgent needs, special events and more. Please tell your friends about us too, and encourage them to be part of the celebration this Thanksgiving!



**BayAreaRescue.org**



# OUR THANKSGIVING NEEDS LIST

There's still so much to do to get ready for the Thanksgiving season! Please consider shopping or hosting a food drive for these critically-needed items.

*Turkeys*

*Hams*

*Cornbread stuffing*

*#10 Canned vegetables:  
corn & green beans*

*Cranberry sauce*

*Pies (variety of sweet pies)*

*Dinner rolls*

*Napkins*

*Compostable (city  
requirement): forks, spoons,  
knives, dinner plates, salad/  
dessert plates*

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.**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING!**

## Calling all VOLUNTEERS

Put your God-given talents to work at the Rescue Mission to help serve and care for the men, women and children who will turn to us this fall. **You can even volunteer remotely!**

Contact us today to see how you can help... Call: **Raul at (510) 215-4864.**

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

