

Don't miss...



2 Our Thanksgiving Campaign has begun!



3 "Now, I'm part of God's family."



4 Help Us Get Ready!

FALL ISSUE 2022

# 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)

## MIKE IS GRATEFUL & BLESSED THIS THANKSGIVING *because of your support*

You've given him hope and  
new life this holiday!





**“I was lost,  
but now  
I'M PART  
OF GOD'S  
FAMILY.”**



**M**ike was a little boy with a heart to please. But he had a learning disability, and no matter how hard he studied, his grades were poor and his parents were angry. “I got a lot of verbal abuse and not much love,” he says. “I felt rejected and unworthy to be their son.”

By the time he reached high school, Mike was so far behind that he knew he'd never graduate or earn his parents' love. “I started using drugs to suppress my feelings of rejection.”

Over the years, his addiction escalated, leaving him isolated and homeless, living on the streets. He was miserable, and one evening, sitting alone on a park bench, he cried out to God. “I said, ‘God, I need help right now!’”

The Lord led him to the Rescue Mission, and through our Men's Discipleship Program, Mike discovered that, unlike his earthly father, his heavenly Father's love is unconditional. “I found out that all He wants is a relationship with me, that He just wants my heart, that He says, ‘You're my son.’ And now I can accept His love.”

With God's guidance and the counsel and compassion of our staff, Mike has finally begun to heal from his childhood trauma. “I'm no longer that hurting kid who feels rejected. I can accept love from others and give it away, as well,” Mike says.



**Now, I like who I am.**



He plans to graduate from the program and become an intern here, helping others find the healing he's found in God. “I want to lift up other men in the program and give back everything God has given me at the Rescue Mission.”

**Mike's heart is overflowing with gratitude this Thanksgiving because YOUR loving support gave him the confidence and support to rebuild his life.** “Before I came here, I was lost, but now I'm part of God's family. I know who I am.”



# Celebrating Thanksgiving Every Day of the Year



## A Message from BRAM BEGONIA

Here's a wonderful Bible verse for this season of Thanksgiving: *"This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."* (Psalm 118:24) During Thanksgiving, we gather to thank God for blessings of family, food and health.

*But what if we kept that same, abundant spirit of the holiday in giving thanks every day of the year?*

Each day at the Rescue Mission, I see people who are thankful for the gift of new life that YOU helped make possible! You wrap them in God's loving embrace. Teach them skills to build brighter futures. Lift up our ministry and guests in prayer. And rejoice over every heart restored and life rebuilt!

Life is challenging right now. With continuing inflation,

costs for necessities like housing, gas and groceries are higher than ever. It's even harder for our struggling neighbors to make ends meet... and for our ministry to meet our community's pressing needs.

Through it all, I remain faithful to God's calling and grateful that I can rely on friends like you. My prayer this Thanksgiving is that you will do the same.

I hope you will take comfort in the love of friends and family, and the joy of knowing hearts are changed thanks to you. God bless you!

Bram Begonia  
President/CEO

## 2022 THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN

**YOU can give our hurting neighbors reason to celebrate!**

# 202,500

### Meals Needed this Thanksgiving Season

Thanksgiving can be another difficult day for our neighbors struggling to overcome homelessness... poverty... addiction. But you can change that!

**Just \$2.09 provides a hot, nourishing meal.** Your gift welcomes someone to our table and leads to a better life through:



**Safe, welcoming shelter**



**Warm clothing, coats & shoes**



**Classes & job training**



**God's life-changing love**



We need your help to serve thousands of meals this holiday season! **Please rush your 2022 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today using the enclosed reply card and envelope OR online at [BayAreaRescue.org](https://BayAreaRescue.org).**

*Read Mike's story – a life you helped change!*



# Volunteers Needed

Do you have a heart to serve men, women and children here at the Rescue Mission? **We would love for you to join us as a volunteer!**



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!

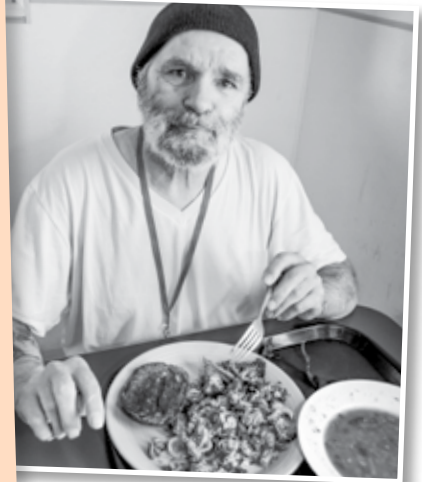
# Help Us Get Ready!



You wouldn't believe how much we still have to do to get ready for the Thanksgiving season... **you can help!** Host a food drive or shop for these critically needed items, then drop them off 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.

Don't have time to shop? Send a gift in the envelope provided to help us purchase what's needed on our food list.

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



*Thank you for making these meals extra special!*

## Are you connected yet? Be the first to know what's going on!

Want the inside scoop on what's happening at the Rescue Mission? It's easy...

**Follow us on social media!** Every post shows you how your partnership is transforming lives and healing our community.

**Sign up for our emails!** You'll hear about urgent needs, special events and more.

And when you tell your friends about us, they can join the celebration this Thanksgiving, too!

BayAreaRescue.org

