

Don't miss...



2 The Joy that  
Comes from God



3 "I'm becoming the  
man God intended."



4 3 Easy Ways  
You Can Help

HOLIDAY ISSUE 2022

# Bay Area HOPE

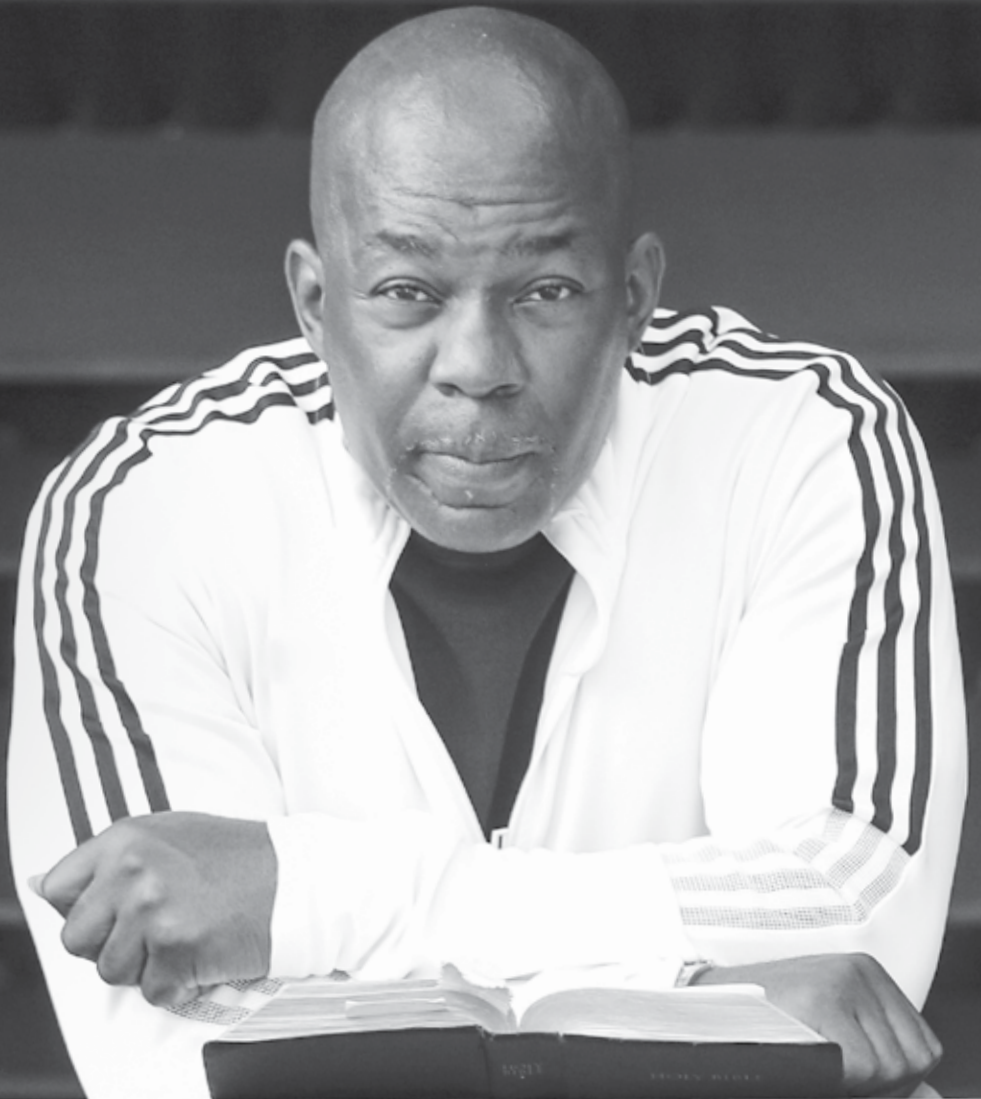
A Publication of the Bay Area Rescue Mission

2114 Macdonald Avenue • P.O. Box 1112 • Richmond, CA 94801 • [BayAreaRescue.org](http://BayAreaRescue.org)



The best Christmas  
gift there is...

*Michael*  
has joy and new life,  
thanks to you!



# “I’m becoming the man **GOD INTENDED** me to be.”

Michael’s mother was a violent woman, in and out of prison for years, so he was raised by his loving grandmother. “She was my heart,” Michael says. **“My grandmother instilled morals and values in me that I still hold to this day.”**

But, when he was 20, Michael’s grandmother passed away and his grief tore him apart. “She died in my arms. It was devastating.”

Michael began numbing his pain with drugs, and for more than 35 years, he struggled with addiction, trying to stay clean and live the godly life he knew his grandmother had wanted for him. But he never processed his grief and wound up relapsing again and again.

Then, one day, he had a stark realization. “I was going

to die if I continued down the path I was on. **I needed to find a place where I could restructure, refocus, and hopefully, reinvent myself,”** he says. “That day, I stopped using and came to the Rescue Mission.”

Michael entered our Men’s Discipleship Program, where Bible studies, devotions and chapel services have strengthened his faith and transformed him from the inside out. “I’ve grown closer to God and I’m learning to exhibit the fruit of the spirit.”

His growing faith, along with counseling and life skills classes, have helped Michael process his grief. “I’m surrounded with wise people who have listened, kept me anchored and helped me change my mindset.”

He gives back to the Rescue Mission by volunteering in our Contact Office and plans to join our staff so he can help other men find healing and hope. People tell him that his grandmother would be proud of the man he’s become.

**Michael is excited to celebrate the restored hope he has been given this Christmas – and wants YOU to know just how grateful he is.** “The Rescue Mission gave me guidance, fed me spiritually and emotionally and helped me become the man God intended me to be.”

— ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ —  
**“God is in this place and I want to be a part of it.”**  
— ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ —







# Help meet our \$50,000 GIVING TUESDAY Goal!

Tuesday, November 29

## A Message from BRAM BEGONIA

### The JOY that Comes from God

Don't you just love the words of John 1:14? *"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

As we rejoice over the birth of our Savior, it's such a blessing to know God fills our hearts with joy everlasting – today and every day. His faithfulness sustains us through every circumstance and His grace offers renewal in our lives... as well as in the lives of those we serve.

While we do provide Christmas gifts to the guests in our care, what's most important is that they know about the gift of salvation that is freely given to us all.

Thanks to your friendship, we're able to share the "good tidings of great joy for all people" during the holidays and throughout the year. Your fervent prayers and ongoing support help restore lives – and wrap local men, women and children in God's loving embrace.

Just like Michael, whose story we've shared on page 3, God still works miracles in the lives of people all around us.

This Christmas, I hope your heart overflows with peace, joy and love as your blessings abound.



Bram Begonia  
President/CEO

## SHARE A HOLIDAY MEAL...

You can help make the holidays a time of celebration for our neighbors who are hungry and homeless. With so many obstacles to overcome during this season of hardship, they need a helping hand and to experience God's love!



**\$2.09**  
for 1 hot meal



**\$6.27**  
for 1 night of  
safe shelter

**CAN GIVE  
SOMEONE**



**Please Send Your Holiday Gift Today!**

## \$80,000 Year-End Matching Challenge DOUBLE YOUR HELP!



Here's a huge blessing as we end this year: Thanks to a generous group of partners, **any gift you make until December 31 will be matched through our \$80,000 Matching Challenge!**

That's right... your gift today doubles to provide twice the food, shelter and care. And that means twice the hope for many of our neighbors who are struggling with inflation, soaring gas prices and other hardships.

**DEADLINE TO GIVE: 12/31**

- ✉ Add your special year-end gift to the reply card and send it today.
- 📄 Give online anytime at [BayAreaRescue.org](https://BayAreaRescue.org).

**THANK YOU  
for doubling your  
impact during  
our Matching  
Challenge!**

**You transformed  
hearts & lives this  
year...**



**“Before coming to the Rescue Mission, I was angry and broken. But now I’m healed and filled with hope.”**



**“I’m thankful to the Rescue Mission because they showed me that I’m loved by God.”**

*To read more stories of hope that YOU helped make possible, visit us at **BayAreaRescue.org/stories-of-hope**. Thank you for caring about those in need, and may God bless you this Christmas!*

## **3 Easy Ways YOU Can Help this Christmas!**

### **SERVE NOURISHING MEALS**



You can feed our hungry neighbors by donating these foods to help prepare thousands of meals this holiday season. Please deliver them to **123 Macdonald Ave. in Richmond**, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday – Friday; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

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



### **PROVIDE THE ESSENTIALS**



You can offer our guests these essential items to keep them safe and comfortable during their time at the Rescue Mission. Please drop off donations at **123 Macdonald Ave. in Richmond**.

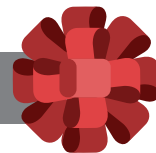
garbage bags \* paper towels & toilet paper \* laundry detergent  
underwear \* socks \* towels

### **DONATE GIFT CARDS**



Donating gift cards for these merchants helps purchase holiday gifts – and year-round necessities. Please mail or deliver them to **123 Macdonald Ave., Richmond**.

Walmart \* Target \* Safeway \* Amazon



***Thank you for making this our best Christmas celebration yet!***