

Don't miss...



2 Your love will transform lives this summer!



3 "The Prodigal Grandmother"



4 Heart of Rescue

SUMMER ISSUE 2023

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 LOVING
YOUR
NEIGHBOR,
NNEKA,**

and giving her
hope for the
future!



THE PRODIGAL GRANDMOTHER



I loved God my whole life. I was raised by good Christian grandparents, and we went to church every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. But sometimes, even if you love the Lord, you can go the wrong way for a while, and God will allow things to happen to draw you back. That was me.

I had a good life. I raised five kids, had a good job, and I shared a nice apartment with my daughter and five grandchildren. But when my oldest son died about six years ago, I didn't have any kind of support system to help me deal with it in a healthy way.



Then, about three years ago, I turned to drug use. I knew better, I knew I was disappointing God, but I ended up turning drugs into my god. I couldn't do anything without using. I felt so weak and ashamed, until I finally cried out to God to deliver me.

Well, He answered my prayers. Last year, I was evicted from my apartment, along with my daughter and grandkids – the kids were a bit too rambunctious for the landlord. **I called everywhere, but no one could take us in. Finally, the Bay Area Rescue Mission said yes.**

“I finally cried out to God to deliver me.”

I admit, it was hard for me. My biggest struggle before coming here was not just using drugs – it was pride. I never wanted to accept anyone's help with anything.

We walked through these doors in June 2022, and **God blessed us beyond anything I could have hoped.** They opened their arms to us, rained encouragement on us and prayed with us. They helped me overcome my addiction, find my joy in God again, regain my focus and even give back by helping the other women and kids here.



I thank God and all the donors of the Bay Area Rescue Mission. They opened their arms to me and believed in me – and that means a lot.

“Serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” - Galatians 5:13b-14

A meal for \$2.49 is an easy way to **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!**



A Message from BRAM BEGONIA

Thank you for loving your neighbors as yourself

We all need a helping hand from time to time. No one makes it through life without a little care and compassion along the way. That's what loving your neighbors is all about, right?

And yet, you and I know that God's Word has a way of challenging us to go further... of stretching our faithfulness beyond what we thought possible. The Lord makes the impossible POSSIBLE at the Rescue Mission, thanks to the generosity of friends like YOU.

Now, as the summer months approach, I hope we can count on you during our 3-month Love Your Neighbor campaign.

Time and time again in Scripture, we're told not just to "love your neighbor" but to "love your neighbor as yourself." That's a big difference! It's making the needs of others a priority equal with your own from the beginning.

I'm so grateful for friends like you who give in this way to help men, women and children in the Bay Area who are hurting and homeless. And I ask for your continued support through the summer, when the weather can be dangerous for people who live outside.

Thank you for offering a helping hand to your neighbors most in need - and for continuing to love them **as yourself.**



Bram Begonia
President/CEO

YOUR LOVE will transform lives this summer!

Your gift today provides:



322,190 meals



15,680 beds



hundreds of
hygiene items



countless hours of
counseling & education



hundreds of hours of
job training

**DON'T FORGET OUR NEIGHBORS
THIS SUMMER... SHOW YOU CARE
WITH YOUR GIFT TODAY!**

**LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR**
98-DAY SUMMER CAMPAIGN

Give now!
BayAreaRescue.org



Support our Summer Campaign to restore hearts & rebuild lives!

Celebrating new beginnings...

THANKS TO YOU!

We're proud of our Life Transformation Program graduates!

It's a special time at the Rescue Mission as **we celebrate new graduates from our long-term Life Transformation Program!**

After many months of faith-based counseling, classes and life-skills training, this is only the beginning. Thanks to your support and God's grace, they have a new life of HOPE.

As our graduates return to our community, please keep them in your prayers. And thank you for your continued support, as more people walk through our doors to start their own journey of transformation.

Want to learn more about the graduation? Please contact Nathan at nathant@bayarearescue.org.

HEART OF RESCUE

We are excited to announce our first **Heart of Rescue** event that will take place at the Craneway Pavilion in Richmond, California. This unique event will feature delicious food, live music and multiple speakers who will share the heart of our mission. We are grateful for our donors' faithful support and want to express our gratitude by providing a platform for sharing our future vision with everyone attending. This is an excellent opportunity for us to come together and celebrate our accomplishments while looking forward to a brighter future. We can't wait to see you there!

If you are interested in attending, email events@BayAreaRescue.org.



You're helping care for bodies and minds

Men and women come to the Rescue Mission with a variety of challenges, and we're committed to addressing their unique needs. For some, that means a warm meal and safe place to rest. Others struggle with addiction. Some are desperate for medical care.

But many arrive with mental illness and trauma from their past.

That's why – in addition to helping clients heal physically – we also help them heal psychologically. **We offer faith-based counseling, referrals to community partners and other resources for long-term healing.**

It's just another way your gifts and prayers help address the complex issues of poverty and homelessness in the Bay Area. Thank you for your support!

Want to learn about other life-changing services you help provide? Read about our programs at BayAreaRescue.org today!