

Don't miss...



2 Our Thanksgiving Campaign has begun!



3 "I Had to Shed My Selfishness"



4 How Will You Get Involved This Fall?

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Bay Area

HOPE

A Publication of the Bay Area Rescue Mission

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

A Heart of Thanksgiving

Keith wants to share how your support changed his life!



Anticipating This New Season with Thanksgiving



A Message from BRAM BEGONIA

It's hard to believe we're here again: over halfway through another year. Here at the Bay Area Rescue Mission, preparations for our busy fall season are already underway.

Outside, the weather is starting to cool. But inside our doors, it's still warm and inviting as **we get ready for the many men, women and children who will come to us during the months leading up to Thanksgiving.** It's one of my favorite times of the year, and it's possible thanks to the generosity of friends like you.

As I think about this time of the year, I'm reminded of the words of Ecclesiastes 3:1: *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."*

Each time someone comes to the Rescue Mission for help, their season changes. They leave a time of pain and

struggle that they may not have anticipated and certainly didn't desire – and they **choose** a season of support and discipleship. **I truly believe this is God's hand at work through your partnership in this life-giving ministry.**

Now, as we prepare to serve an estimated 400,000 meals in the coming months, I ask you to pray for every struggling man and woman who finds a seat at our tables. Pray that if the time is right for a new season in their life, God will make it known and see it through.

Thank you. I'm thankful for you now, and always.

Bram Begonia
President/CEO



**YOU'RE MAKING GOALS
AND DREAMS POSSIBLE...**



"I've been struggling ever since I lost my job during the pandemic. With the Rescue Mission's help, I'm finally getting back on my feet."

"I just got out of prison and I needed to get my life together. The Rescue Mission is helping me do that."



At the Rescue Mission, hopes and dreams are born – because thanks to the support of friends like you, men and women in our discipleship program can believe that a brighter future is possible.

To find out more about how you're helping transform lives and fulfill dreams, visit

BayAreaRescue.org.

Thank you for believing that everyone deserves the opportunity to build a better, more fulfilling life!



Join Our

2023 *Thanksgiving* CAMPAIGN

400,000

Meals Needed this Thanksgiving Season

This Thanksgiving, countless guests will gather at our tables. Many are alone... longing to overcome homelessness and poverty... wishing they could reunite with their families for the holidays.

For just \$2.49, YOU can provide a meal to nourish their bodies and lift their spirits. Your gift surrounds hurting people with loving care that leads to a better life through:



Safe, welcoming shelter



Warm clothing, coats & shoes



Classes & job training



God's life-changing love

Please help our neighbors in need this holiday season! Send your 2023 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today using the enclosed reply card and envelope OR online at **BayAreaRescue.org.**



Meet Keith – who is thankful for your support!

Getting diagnosed with an astrocytoma brain tumor when I was 6 changed my life. It wasn't so much the tumor itself that changed me, but surviving it did. **Even at that young age, life started to feel a little more precious and urgent.**

As I grew older, I was totally focused on whatever the next thrill was – snowboarding, roller blading, whatever I could find to get my adrenaline going. Every day, I took everything to the extreme. I lived only for the thrill, only for me. I was completely selfish and self-centered.

When I got married at 23, my selfishness destroyed our relationship. I could never see what she needed from me, like comfort, tenderness or affection. Nevertheless, we started a family. But eventually, she had enough and divorced me.

I was devastated and started drinking – a lot. I spent 20 years drinking those gallon-sized bottles of liquor.

In 2018, I fell into homelessness, living in a park. Every night, I got so drunk, I never knew where I'd wake up.

Last year, I'd finally had enough. I was a grandfather now and I didn't want to miss out on their lives. I'd also done terrible damage to my liver. I had to change or die, but I couldn't do it alone. I needed the Lord, so I came to the Bay Area Rescue Mission.

“

I had to change or die.

”

It was good to finally eat healthy meals and sleep in a safe bed. **But most of all, I listened to the Lord and let Him, the counselors and the chaplains help me face my selfishness and learn to live for others.**

I'm already teaching my granddaughter about Jesus, and I also serve as a big brother to a student here. I'm now planning to go into drug and alcohol counseling – I have so much compassion for people now.

I'm so thankful for the Bay Area Rescue Mission and supporters like you for showing me the Lord and changing my life.

“I Had to
**Shed My
Selfishness.**”



Chapel Changes Lives

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." - Psalm 119:105

Attending chapel at the Rescue Mission can be a major turning point in the life of someone who has lost all hope. After struggling with homelessness, addiction, abuse or other heartbreak, many find it difficult to trust God. **Chapel helps build faith!**

Through regular prayer, worship, the teaching of the Word and fellowship, men and women feel inspired to make positive changes in their lives... and many even experience God's love for the first time!

Chapel becomes a refuge for our guests, where they can seek God in prayer, study His Word and discover the good plans He has for their future.

Are you or your church interested in getting involved with chapel or donating Bibles for our guests? For more info, contact Sherwin Harris at **(510) 215-4864** or **Sherwinh@BayAreaRescue.org**.

NEW

HOW WILL YOU GET INVOLVED THIS FALL?



Book a Rescue Mission speaker for your next event!

Hear how God has been at work in our community this year, and how your generosity is supporting life-changing services and programs.

Contact Sherwin Harris today to arrange a visit:
Sherwinh@BayAreaRescue.org or **(510) 215-4864**



Donate essential items!

Help stock our kitchen with the food items and our clothing closet with the protective clothing needed to care for our hungry, weary neighbors. OR... host a donation drive by inviting others to join you in collecting much needed items for struggling community members.

To see our most urgently needed items, visit
BayAreaRescue.org/needslist



Get involved yourself!

Join us for a chapel service, attend our program residents' graduation, enjoy a guided tour – we'd love to show you the life-saving work made possible by your generosity!

To learn more, visit BayAreaRescue.org



Volunteers needed... like YOU!

Ever thought of how you can do more for men, women and children here at the Rescue Mission? Come serve as a volunteer! There's plenty to do, and no experience or skill sets required... just open hands and a willing heart. We'd love to have you!

Get in touch with us today to see how you can help...

Contact: Raul Mercado at
raulm@BayAreaRescue.org



Sign up now!