

Don't miss...



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of Christmas



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Increased Needs

HOLIDAY 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](http://BayAreaRescue.org)

Thanks to you...

**VICTOR HAS  
HOPE THIS  
holiday  
season!**



## Celebrating the HOPE of Christmas

The holiday season is always such a comforting time, when we remember and celebrate the miraculous Christmas story. Because of Christmas, God knows **our struggles and the struggles of our homeless neighbors too!**

It's in that story we hear the tragic words that there was "no room at the inn," and Joseph and Mary were turned away to face the night homeless and alone. It reminds me that God really does understand the pain and fear of our guests who also have nowhere else to turn.

Here at the Bay Area Rescue Mission, we will always do everything in our ability to welcome and support a hurting person who comes to our doors. Even so, many of our guests have faced years of homelessness... poverty... and other challenges that have left them feeling unloved and unwelcome.

During the holidays, caring friends like you help remind them they are not forgotten. Your gifts to provide hot meals, safe shelter and discipleship are meaningful expressions to them of the Lord's kindness and care in their life.

**This Christmas, I invite you to extend God's love and grace to our neighbors – like Victor (whose story is on the next page).** Your generosity will surround them with hope this holiday season! Thank you, and may God bless you now and into the New Year.



Bram Begonia  
President/CEO

*Scan to watch a special holiday greeting!*

## Share Hope AND A Christmas Meal...

It's hard to have hope when you're struggling with hunger or homelessness. **YOU can make this Christmas a time of celebration for our neighbors in need with your gift to help them today!**



**\$2.49**  
for 1 hot meal



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

**CAN GIVE  
SOMEONE**



**Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!**

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



Here's a huge blessing as we end this year: Thanks to a generous group of partners, **when you give between now and December 31, your generosity will go 2x as far** to provide food, shelter and care... and above all *hope* for our struggling neighbors!

**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.**

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





## “GOD WILL **NEVER** PUSH ME AWAY.”

**W**ho knows how many generations of men in my family were raised just like me? My father was an alcoholic who always pushed me away and never showed me any love – just like his father treated him.

I was desperate for my dad’s approval. All I wanted was for him to say, “You’re doing great! You’re such a good kid!” He never did, and it affects me to this day.

I started drinking at 12 and later using drugs. I got married and started a family at 25, but I couldn’t cope with the stresses of life. Then I turned to more dangerous substances and it was all downhill from there.

A couple of years ago, my wife started pushing me away, demanding I quit or leave the home. But her pushing me away only triggered all the fear and resentment I felt with my father. I couldn’t quit.

Last year, I actually overdosed and almost died. It really scared me, and it made me realize how I was hurting my kids. Two days later, I joined the program at the Bay Area Rescue Mission.

The first Bible verse I read at the Rescue Mission was Deuteronomy 31:8: “It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”

**When I learned that God would never push me away, and never abandon or reject me, I gave my entire life to Him.** I’ve been here six months and my faith is growing. I learned to forgive my dad and give my worries to God. I call on Him every day.

Today, I still have a long way to go, but my wife and I are talking again and my kids are so proud of me. I owe my new life, wherever it takes me, to caring people like you who support the Rescue Mission. I hope you continue supporting the Rescue Mission, because it really does make a difference for people like me.

**Victor has hope this holiday season – and he wants to thank YOU for supporting his journey toward a new life.**

“I OWE MY NEW LIFE,  
WHEREVER IT TAKES ME,  
TO CARING PEOPLE  
LIKE YOU.”



# Colder Days = Increased Needs

**Falling temperatures will put lives at risk this holiday season.**

With average lows of 46° in the Bay Area – and added factors like rain and wind – our weary neighbors face a season of suffering this winter.

Help us bring them in from the cold at the Bay Area Rescue Mission:

- **Safe shelter.** We provide a warm bed and a roof over their heads.
- **Hot food.** Each plate of food offers comfort to cold, weary neighbors.
- **Winter clothes.** Warm winter coats, clothing and shoes go faster than we can stock them.

**To see our most urgently needed items, visit [BayAreaRescue.org/needslist](http://BayAreaRescue.org/needslist)**

## YOU MAKE CHRISTMAS AT THE RESCUE MISSION SPECIAL!

**Christmas Morning:** Thanks to local toy & donation drives and the generosity of people like you, our Rescue Mission guests experience the joy of waking up to Christmas gifts.



**Holiday Feast:** Your gifts help provide a delicious Christmas meal for our residents – for many, the first holiday feast they've enjoyed in years.

**The Miracle of God:** Worship, prayer, fellowship and a message of God's love – our guests gather in the chapel to celebrate the hope of Christmas together.



*Thanks to you, our neighbors don't have to spend this Christmas on the streets. Your support provides gifts, hot meals and a reminder of the true reason for the season!*

# Loving Tribute

LOVING TRIBUTE GIFTS GIVEN FROM 04/07/2023 UNTIL 08/10/2023



## IN MEMORY OF

CATHARINE AHR  
EDNA C. BUEL  
BARBARA T. CHAPMAN  
MAUDESS COWAN  
MATTHEW ESTRELLA  
DANIEL S. FORNEY  
NORMAN R. HEIBEL  
JIM ISHAM  
SHARON L. MACARTHUR  
CHANDRIKA MAHAPATRA  
BARBARA MESPELT  
HARRY A. PARKS  
JONNY PLOOF  
BARBARA L. PULLEY  
SCOTT  
SUSAN IRELAND SHEA  
ANN SNYDER  
LEANA AND MARIN STOIAN  
DAN YEE  
MARY YOUNG

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MR. K. RONALD CHAPMAN  
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MRS. MAE D. GINN  
MR. AND MRS. SILVIU STOIAN  
BONNIE RAE YEE  
HELEN LOY  
LINDA A. WONG



## IN HONOR OF

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JASMINE A.  
LAKSHIMI NARAYANA ALLAMNENI  
CLIFF BARNES  
ZOE C.  
KATHERINE DOWNEY  
LUCIANA GAETA  
JAMES GROVER  
KENT GUINYARD  
MILLIE HILGERS  
HARRY HOLLIDGE  
FLANDO JACKSON  
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VIRGINA G. KO  
AMINAH MEKKI  
JOHN H. METHVIN  
THOMAS MITCHELL  
FREDDIE NEWMAN

RYAN  
NOAD A. SHAPIRO  
GERALD TAYLOR  
GEANNE THOMPSON  
SUE E. WALTHALL  
DALE WILKERSON  
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