

Don't miss...



2 The Promises of Easter



3 "I want to become the best father."



4 You changed lives last year!

EASTER ISSUE 2024

# 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)

Joseph is celebrating Easter with JOY – because of you!



Thank you for showing him that new life is possible.

**Easter**<sup>2024</sup>  
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN





A Message from BRAM BEGONIA

# THE PROMISES OF EASTER

Have you ever seen the look on someone's face the first time they realize how much God loves them? It's one of my favorite things about Easter at the Bay Area Rescue Mission. It's a privilege to be a small part of their story, as our guests celebrate the promises of joy and hope this season brings.

**You too are a part of our guests' stories, as you share God's love with them by providing nutritious meals, safe shelter and other services to change their lives.**

Your faithful prayers and generosity help hurting men, women and children in our community find a home through our doors. They also find HOPE – hope for their future, and hope in the promises we celebrate at Easter.

Thank you for showing our hurting neighbors in need that you care about them – in their present circumstances, for their future and for eternity. You show them they are loved. You help restore their dignity, and ignite in them a desire to change their circumstances.

**Together with God's faithfulness, you help turn stories of pain into promises of new life.**

Thank you... happy Easter... and God bless!

Bram Begonia  
President/CEO



## GIVE MONTHLY. SAVE LIVES ALL YEAR!

You can make a lasting difference in our community when you become a monthly partner!

These days, it costs more than ever to provide the life-changing care our hurting neighbors at the Bay Area Rescue Mission need... By becoming a Bridge Builder, you can help save lives with your monthly gift to provide:



MEALS



COUNSELING



SHELTER



JOB TRAINING

Start giving monthly now to help provide the building blocks our residents need for a better life!

*Start giving monthly now!*



## SHARE JOY THIS EASTER

Help meet the needs of our hurting neighbors!

With Easter coming early this year, we need your help to welcome every man, woman and child who comes to our doors! YOU can help meet their needs and fill hearts with joy...



184,615 meals – just \$2.49 each!



9,475 nights of shelter



Faith-based care & healing in our life-change programs!



- ✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.
- 🌟 Give online anytime at [BayAreaRescue.org](http://BayAreaRescue.org).



## “I WANT TO BECOME THE BEST FATHER IN THE WORLD.”

Joseph's father abandoned him when he was young, leaving him to be raised by his alcoholic mother. “I'd come home from school and find her passed out on the couch all the time,” Joseph says. “And her boyfriends would abuse me. It was traumatic.”

He was angry that his father had left him, angry that he wasn't safe in his own home and that his mother didn't care. So he began running the streets, using drugs to kill his pain. For years, Joseph struggled with addiction. “I lived in chaos and darkness. All I saw was the negative in everything.”

Then he fell in love, and when he and his wife had a child, Joseph was transformed. “The day I first held that little life I helped create, I went from being angry and resentful to being happy.”

But he knew he needed help to make deep and lasting changes in his life to become the father he longed to be, so he entered our Life Transformation Program.

Through faith-based training, spiritual guidance and counseling, Joseph has now built a strong relationship with the Lord, found emotional healing and learned to see the world in a new way. “God opened my heart and my eyes to see the positive in everything, and my counselors helped me forgive myself and the people who hurt me.”

Joseph is now earning his Commercial Driver's License, and soon he'll be reunited with his family, equipped to provide

for them and love them the way God intends. “Every day I get a step closer to who I want to become – the best father in the world. Nothing is going to stop me.”

***“I stepped out of the chaos and saw the beauty all around me.”***

**Thank you for sharing God's love with Joseph this Easter. He has been renewed through the promise of a new life!** “The Rescue Mission brought me closer to God, set me on the right path and gave me the support I needed to live a godly life.”





# HELP MEET OUR EASTER NEEDS



## Sunday, March 31: Our Easter Celebration – 7 a.m. at 123 MacDonald Ave!

Now through Easter, your help is needed to provide **thousands of meals** for our hungry neighbors! Help welcome these special guests with love and a good meal by sharing a donation of these needed food items.

### URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS!

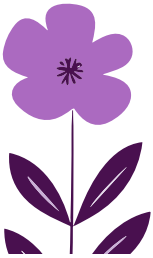
Drop off any of these items **by Friday, March 29:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SPIRAL SLICED HAMS      | <input type="checkbox"/> POWDERED MILK                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INSTANT MASHED POTATOES | <input type="checkbox"/> DESSERTS (homemade or store-bought) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUTTER                  | <input type="checkbox"/> COFFEE                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CANNED VEGETABLES       | <input type="checkbox"/> CREAMER                             |

*Drop off donations at the Bay Area Rescue Mission Food Pantry at 123 Macdonald Ave., Richmond, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday – Friday.*

No time to shop? Donate now!

☎ (510) 215-4869 ✨ [BayAreaRescue.org](https://www.BayAreaRescue.org)



### God's Promise of Joy

*"If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love... These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." - John 15:10-11*



## YOU changed lives last year!

Throughout 2023, friends like you joined together to make an incredible impact for our homeless, hurting neighbors...



**1,200,000**  
meals filled  
hungry bellies



**80,300**  
nights of shelter  
kept people safe



And your compassion opened the door to other life-changing services, like classes, faith-based guidance and job-skills training.

**Thank you.**  
**What a blessing you are!**