

Don't miss...



2 Transforming Lives is Possible this Summer



3 "I came through these doors and found God."



4 2 million meals!

SUMMER 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)



The love  
**YOU** share

gives neighbors like  
Patrick hope for a  
better life...





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



## A Message from BRAM BEGONIA

### Thank you for REMEMBERING your neighbors this summer

What does summer mean to you? Family vacations... lazy mornings... afternoons at the park or by the pool. As a kid, you probably remember time standing still over summer. Yet, now these months seem to be busier than ever...

Between work, family and community responsibilities, endless "to-do" lists crowd our days. In some ways, the "lazy days of summer" may be a thing of the past.

We've seen this at the Bay Area Rescue Mission for a while now. As supporters in our community stay busy with summer plans, donations tend to drop off. I'm thankful you haven't forgotten about the needs of your neighbors – and that you respond with a heart

of compassion... which is why I need your help.

As we enter **our 3-month Love Your Neighbor campaign**, I hope I can count on you. Please give generously each month of this season to help the men, women and children in the Bay Area who are hurting and homeless.

Thank you for remembering to share love with your neighbors in need this summer – no matter how leisurely or lively these months may be.

Bram Begonia  
President/CEO

*"As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."  
- John 13:34b-35*

## Celebrating 19 new beginnings... **THANKS TO YOU!**

Join us in celebrating 19 new graduates from our long-term Life Transformation Programs!

Months of faith-based counseling, classes and training have brought them here. With your support and God's grace, they have a new life of HOPE.

As graduates rejoin our community, please pray for them. And thank you for your continued support, as new residents start their journeys of transformation.

Learn more about our addiction recovery services for men and women at **BayAreaRescue.org**.

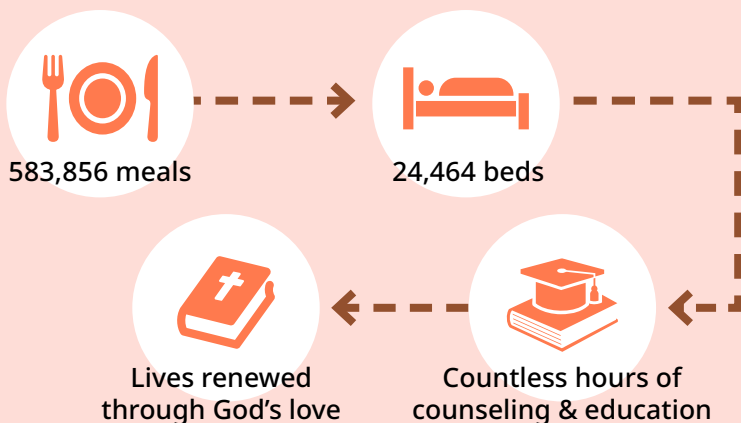


We are also blessed that 1,091 people sought prayer and dedicated or recommitted their lives to God in the last year. We join them in praising His redeeming work in their lives!



## TRANSFORMING LIVES

is possible this summer... **thanks to YOU!**



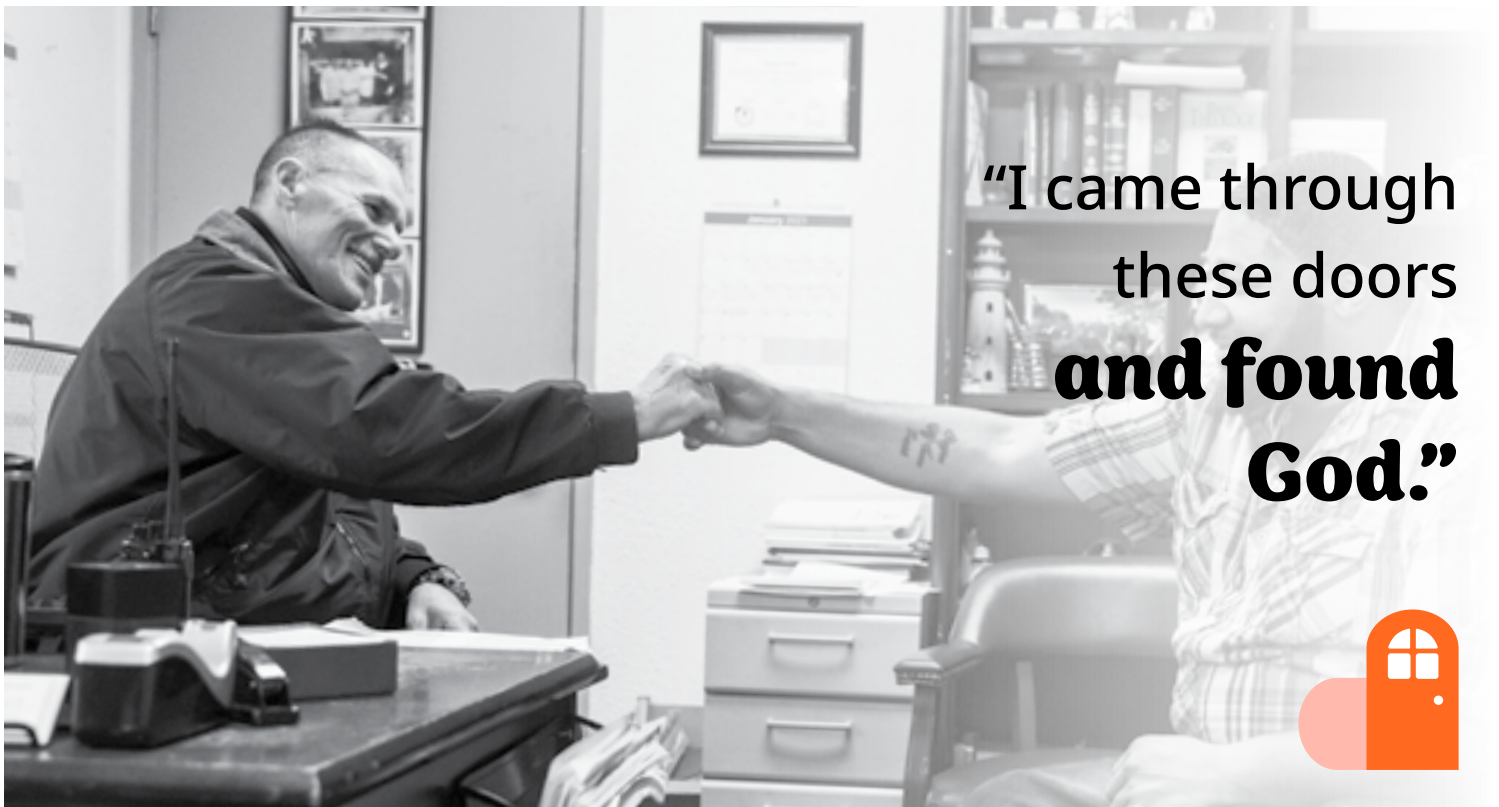
**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR**  
SUMMER CAMPAIGN

*At every step of their journey...  
YOUR gift helps change their lives.*

*Support our Summer Campaign to restore hearts & rebuild families!*

**Give now! BayAreaRescue.org**





**“I came through  
these doors  
and found  
God.”**



**P**atrick made his way to the burned-out remains of his childhood home, destroyed by a fire that had claimed his mother's life just three days before. “As I approached the house, fear came over me about going in, so I went up a hill, sat behind a church and began to cry like I've never cried before.”

He wept for the loss of his mother's unconditional love and her prayers that he would turn from the dark road he was on. “I started using drugs at an early age, progressed to harder drugs, became homeless and was incarcerated,” Patrick says. “But regardless of all the bad things I'd done, she was always there for me.”

That day, as he sat behind that church, grieving her passing, he made a commitment to change his life, not just for himself, but to honor her memory. “The next morning, I found my way to the Bay Area Rescue Mission.”

Patrick joined our Life Transformation Program, where he gave his life to God. “I started going to classes and hearing scriptures that my mom used to say to me, and Jesus started working in my heart,” he says.

Patrick felt called to help others find new life in the Lord, so after graduating from the program, he earned a college degree, became a Certified Addiction Specialist, was ordained as a minister and joined our staff. Today, he serves as our Assistant Program

Director, honoring his mother every day with his love for the Lord and his giving heart. “I try to live my life to please God, showing His compassion, grace and mercy to others.”

**Patrick now has the faith and strength to help other neighbors in need because of your heart of compassion for him. Because you chose to share God's love, he has a path forward and can help others find their way.** “I was lost and without hope. Then I came through these doors and found God.”

**“When I  
accepted Jesus  
as my Savior,  
everything  
changed.”**



# You're allowing kids to dream again



Childhood is a time of innocence... unfettered hopes and dreams. A healthy childhood is foundational for overall development – physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually.

Yet children experiencing homelessness are robbed of this time. Without the stability of a safe home, they lose confidence in themselves and lose hope for their future.



Your support of the Bay Area Rescue Mission helps protect our youngest, most vulnerable guests by providing a safe, nurturing environment for children to learn, grow and thrive.

Thanks to friends like you, we provide them with medical care, academic tutoring and social and spiritual encouragement – along with age-appropriate counseling for those recovering from past trauma.

Thank you for caring for children in our community whose futures are at risk. Together, we're providing child-focused care that restores their innocence and reignites their dreams.



**One of the best ways we can help children is by helping their parents! Find out more about how we support families at [BayAreaRescue.org](http://BayAreaRescue.org).**



## Caring for our hungry neighbors... together

In the bustling, diverse communities of the Bay Area, a hidden struggle often goes unnoticed – food insecurity. Many individuals and families face the difficult choice of paying for basic necessities like rent and medical bills or buying food.

At the Bay Area Rescue Mission, we're committed to making sure our hurting neighbors don't have to go hungry. Last year alone, we provided more than **2 million meals**, made possible through food donations from partner stores and the support of friends like you.

Your gifts to the Rescue Mission don't just fill plates, they bring joy and a sense of community to those who need it most. Together, we're not just feeding bodies, we're nourishing souls.

Thank you for your compassionate heart!



# Loving Tribute

LOVING TRIBUTE GIFTS GIVEN FROM 08/11/2023 THROUGH 03/10/2024



## IN MEMORY OF

WILL ADAMS  
MANUEL AND ALICE ARRIAGA  
AND JOE QUADRES  
FRANK R. CALTON  
DAVID DE GUZMAN  
ROBERT K. DITMORE  
CATHERINE ANN DUCKWORTH  
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DARRELL H. LARKS  
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JOANNE MCCARTHY  
GEORGE ARTHUR MCCARTHY  
GEORGE AND  
ELIZABETH MCCARTHY  
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LARRY AND PATRICIA SWINDELL  
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PHIL BEESON  
GENE BELL  
PAM BURNS AND JACK EDICK  
PATRICK CAGLER

BELLE COLE  
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SUSAN HUBBARD  
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To make a tribute gift, call or visit our website. ☎ (510) 215-4869 🌐 BayAreaRescue.org  
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