



2 12 Days of Giving Back



3 "I have more hope and peace."



4 Give a meal. Spark a miracle!

Don't miss...

HOLIDAY ISSUE 2024

Bay Area

HOPE

A Publication of the Bay Area Rescue Mission

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THANK YOU FOR
GIVING CYNDIE
a life-changing
GIFT THIS
holiday!



*You help make
Christmas
miracles possible*

Get ready... the busiest time of the year is upon us! I imagine your calendar is filling up quickly. But **before the year ends, please save a few moments for our neighbors who are homeless.**

I know you agree no one should live in a car... in a tent... or outside in the cold. Certainly not a child. Being homeless means living with constant fear and uncertainty. It's a terrible way to spend any day... much less Christmas Day. If there's anyone in need of a miracle, it's them.

You can make a Christmas miracle possible for a neighbor who is homeless by giving \$2.49 to provide a hot meal at the Bay Area Rescue Mission. It may not seem like much – but each meal you provide can be someone's first step toward addiction recovery and a new life. Where you see a meal, a hurting neighbor sees a miracle.

With your support, no man, woman or child in the Bay Area has to be hungry or homeless this Christmas. People like Cyndie (whose story is on page 3) can find the miracle of hot meals, safe shelter and faith-based care at the Rescue Mission this holiday season... and all year round... thanks to you!




Bram Begonia
President/CEO

12 DAYS OF GIVING BACK



The Bible tells us it's more blessed to give than to receive, and what better time to experience the joy of giving than the Christmas season! It's also a wonderful time to teach children the importance of giving, or to partner with a friend or family member to give back.

Read on to explore **12 Days of Giving Back** and get inspired to share the miracle of Christmas this year:

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3
Provide Food	Donate Clothes	Donate Toys
DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6
Write a Christmas Card	Create a Care Package	Help Serve Meals
DAY 7	DAY 8	DAY 9
Help Sort Donations	Help Run an Event at the Rescue Mission	Attend Chapel at the Rescue Mission
DAY 10	DAY 11	DAY 12
Fundraise at Your Church or School	Pray for Families at the Rescue Mission	Spread the Word

To learn more about ways you can share the joy of Christmas with Rescue Mission guests, give us a call at **(510) 215-4869** or visit us online at **BayAreaRescue.org!**

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



BIG NEWS to end the year: **When you give between now and December 31, your generosity will go 2x as far** to provide food, shelter and life-changing care for our struggling neighbors!

DEADLINE TO GIVE: 12/31

- ✉ Return your special year-end gift in the reply card today.
- 📄 Give online at **BayAreaRescue.org.**

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

“I have more hope and peace.”



**“I have learned to focus
AND LEAVE WHAT I
CANNOT CONTROL
BEHIND.”**

Cyndie was fortunate to have stability growing up. She and her family lived in a good neighborhood where she stayed for 15 years, from elementary through high school. “It was just below middle class, but we kept our houses nice,” she recalls.

At 20 years old, she met her then-husband when she was working while going to school. She had three kids with him and abandoned her career plans to stay home with them. “I’m glad I did because childcare costs were insurmountable,” she says, “but being a homemaker took a toll on me when my marriage didn’t work out.”

After her divorce, Cyndie eventually had to sell her home and live with her son until the

pandemic hit. “He moved out of the area, and I got stranded,” she says. Someone suggested going to a shelter.

“I thought this is what I need to do to transition and get on my feet,” Cyndie shares. She arrived at the Bay Area Rescue Mission with a goal to get back into the workforce with the confidence and leadership skills she hoped to acquire here.

Cyndie appreciates the class structure and guidance the Rescue Mission provides, and the **skills she learned about leadership, time management, communication, problem solving and community living.**

“One of the biggest takeaways from the Life Transformation

Program is the confidence and ability to implement what I learned,” she shares. “I also learned to treat people the way you would want to be treated, and to be present and mindful.”

She is grateful for the caseworkers, teachers, kitchen and the hospitality skills she gained by serving here.

This holiday, Cyndie is experiencing all the joy this season has to offer – because YOU believed in the power of a fresh start and shared a life-changing gift! “Before I came to the Rescue Mission, I was always worrying because of a lack of faith. I have more hope and peace. As long as I’m in the Word of God, I can worry less.”



A Vehicle for Change

Donate your used car in running condition to the Bay Area Rescue Mission to help provide food, shelter and life-changing care for our hurting and homeless neighbors.

When we sell your donated vehicle, all proceeds directly benefit the programs and services that assist those on the pathway to restoration and hope. Your donation will also help a member of the community who needs affordable transportation to get to school, work or other responsibilities.

Start the process today by filling out the form at **BayAreaRescue.org/Donate-a-Car/**. For more information on our Vehicle Donation Program, please contact John Gainey, Business Manager, at **(510) 215-4880** or **JohnG@BayAreaRescue.org**.

Give a meal. Spark a miracle!

It's hard to find a reason to celebrate Christmas when you're homeless or hungry. **YOU can give JOY and spark a miracle** with a gift to lead someone to join our long-term discipleship program and experience a new life! It all starts by providing a meal for \$2.49... because where you see a meal, they see a miracle.



\$2.49
for 1 hot meal



**CAN SPARK
A MIRACLE**



**That leads
to new life!**

Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!



Dear Santa,

I'm writing so you know where to find me this Christmas. We had to leave home. Mom said it cost too much. We lived in our car for a while, now we're at the Rescue Mission. The food is really good and there are other kids my age, but I still miss Christmas at home. I hope you can make it better by bringing my mom and me a gift, so please don't forget about us.

Love, Jane, age 7

P.S. The Rescue Mission doesn't have a chimney. Good luck!

Give kids and families at the Rescue Mission a holiday to remember! Visit **BayAreaRescue.org** to learn ways you can help this holiday season.

Loving Tribute

LOVING TRIBUTE GIFTS GIVEN FROM 03/11/2024 THROUGH 09/03/2024



IN MEMORY OF

WILL ADAMS
RUTH BLAKENEY
BOB AND JAN BURDICK

BARBARA T. CHAPMAN
BRUCE CLARDY
JAMES W. GREENWOOD
AGATHA R. HALL

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SEAN MURPHY
BARBARA PULLEY
DAVID D. SMITH

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Donate in honor of a loved one today! Your loving tribute will appear in an upcoming newsletter.
To make a tribute gift, call or visit our website. ☎ (510) 215-4869 🌐 BayAreaRescue.org
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