

Don't miss...



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YOU can show a hurting neighbor they're not alone!



3

"I feel free to be myself."



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Thousands of Lives Changed – Because of You!

SUMMER ISSUE 2025

Bay Area HOPE

A Publication of the Bay Area Rescue Mission

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



**Your love
helps Sheila
know she is
not alone...**

LOVE  YOUR
NEIGHBOR
SUMMER CAMPAIGN





**“I FEEL FREE
TO BE MYSELF.”**

Sheila's life changed when she was stabbed eight times by a stranger on a bus. As she struggled to heal from her injuries and emotional trauma, she fell into depression. “I just stopped going into work one day,” she says. “I had enough money saved up to pay my rent and then once the money was gone, I just got up and left everything that I had.”

She was living on the streets and when it started raining, she knew she needed help. “I’m not used to this,” she thought. “I’ll go to the Bay Area Rescue Mission.”

When she arrived, she felt happy and relieved. “I could take a shower, get clean clothes and have a meal,” she says.

Since joining our program, Sheila has reconnected with God, learned to set boundaries, manage her anger and have more compassion for people.

“You never know what their situation is,” she says. “They might look a certain way, but you never know what’s going on inside.” That greater understanding for people has also helped her gain confidence and open up to others.

Today, Sheila works in the office of our Center for Women & Children. She is grateful for this stable employment and the job skills training she has gained to set her up for future success. “A lot of times, people don’t have the job experience or skills to work outside of here. The Rescue Mission helps you get your high school diploma and further your education in the after-care program.”

Thank you for loving neighbors like Sheila “as you’ve loved yourself.” Your kindness has reminded her that she is not alone and



that a better life is possible! “I’m thankful to the Rescue Mission for bringing me closer to God and helping me feel free to be myself.”

“The Rescue Mission’s faith-based program has helped my healing process a lot.”



A meal served with LOVE for a neighbor in need... **just \$2.49!**



A Message from BRAM BEGONIA

You're sharing **love** this summer.

I don't have to tell you that our community is special. You see for yourself local acts of care and compassion. When neighbors feel lonely and forgotten, we step up to show love. It's what makes the Bay Area strong.

But people like YOU make the greatest difference... generous friends who go above and beyond to show love to neighbors in need. That's why I know I can count on your support over these crucial summer months – when so many local men, women and children remain hurting, hungry and homeless.

This month we're kickstarting **our 3-month Love Your Neighbor campaign** to help meet the unique needs of our guests this summer season – like shelter from the heat, nourishing meals and clean water. Each month

is an opportunity for you to respond with a generous gift that reflects the words of Matthew 22:39... to *"love your neighbor as yourself."*

Your support will show struggling people in our community like Sheila that they are never alone. Read her story on page 3 of this newsletter – then consider how you can best respond to help more people like her this summer. We'll be so grateful.

Bram Begonia
President/CEO

"Love your neighbor as yourself..."

- Matthew 22:39



You're allowing kids to dream again

Childhood is a time of innocence... full of hope 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. You help provide a safe, nurturing environment where children can learn, grow and thrive! These kids have hope for a brighter future through academic tutoring, spiritual encouragement and counseling to heal from emotional 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.



YOU CAN SHOW A HURTING NEIGHBOR THEY'RE NOT ALONE!



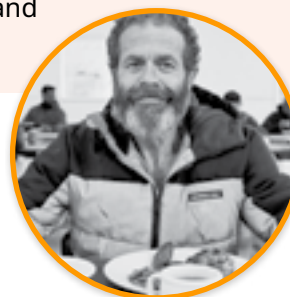
It starts with a meal...



and ends with a life renewed!

Your gift of \$2.49 provides a hot, nourishing meal – and can lead to other life-changing services like shelter, faith-based counsel and restoration.

Give to our Love Your Neighbor summer campaign... and show local people who are homeless and hurting that you care.



Give now!
BayAreaRescue.org

LOVE  YOUR
NEIGHBOR
SUMMER CAMPAIGN

BRIDGE BUILDERS...

The backbone of our ministry

Most people walk into the Rescue Mission with just the clothes on their backs. They're experiencing homelessness, abandoned by friends and family. They have nowhere else to turn.

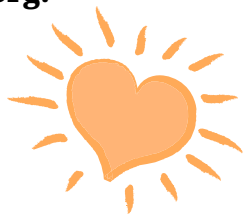
Thanks to a special group of people who have faith in our work in the Bay Area, we have the resources to help our hurting neighbors rebuild their lives.

These Bridge Builders – our monthly givers – provide the regular support needed to feed and shelter men, women and children. To share God's love. And to provide faith-based care and life skills to restore hearts and lives.

You're invited to become a member of this extraordinary group.

To learn more about becoming a Bridge Builder, contact Stephanie Sewell at **(510) 215-4869** or email **stephanies@BayAreaRescue.org**.

To join now, visit **BayAreaRescue.org/bridge-builder**.



From 12 Beds to Thousands of Lives Changed – Because of You!

60 YEARS AGO, the Bay Area Rescue Mission began with a simple yet powerful vision: to offer a place of refuge, hope and transformation for those experiencing homelessness and hunger. With just 12 beds and 36 meals a day, we took our first steps in serving the most vulnerable in our community.

Today, because of your generosity and God's faithfulness, we have grown into a life-changing ministry that provides over 4,900 meals daily and more than 315 safe shelter stays each night. Beyond meeting basic needs, our Life Transformation Program helps an average of 191 men and women overcome addiction, trauma and homelessness, equipping them with the skills and faith to rebuild their lives.

We have made it this far because of YOU – our heroes. Every meal served, every bed provided, every changed life is a testament to your compassion and commitment to making a difference. **Thank you for walking alongside us in this journey of hope. Together, we are restoring lives and renewing futures!**



BAY AREA
RESCUE MISSION
LOVE WITHOUT LIMITS ©
60 YEAR ANNIVERSARY