



Don't miss...



2 Give a meal. Share peace and hope!



2 12 Days of Giving Back



3 "The Rescue Mission renewed my faith."

HOLIDAY ISSUE 2025

# Bay Area HOPE

A Publication of the Bay Area Rescue Mission

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THANK YOU   
FOR SHARING   
*Christmas blessings*  
WITH JAMILAH!



“The Rescue  
Mission  
renewed  
*my faith*  
in God and  
life.”



Jamilah grew up in a world of fear and anger. “My dad was very abusive to my mom,” she says. “My childhood was so chaotic.”

She was traumatized, but there was no one to help her process her pain, and she was left with deep, emotional wounds. In her 20s, Jamilah was drawn into an abusive relationship. It took a heavy toll. “I became depressed and started drinking,” she says.

Then she had children of her own and her love for them led her to turn her life around. Jamilah got sober, left her abusive boyfriend and found a good job. But, eventually, a lifetime of unprocessed trauma led to a mental breakdown and Jamilah relapsed. “I lost my job, I couldn’t pay the bills and I ended up homeless.”

She wanted to give her children a wonderful childhood, the kind she had longed for. But she knew she needed help to turn her life around, so she sent her kids to live with her sister. Then she came to the Rescue Mission.

Here, Jamilah found a warm bed, nutritious meals and the support of our compassionate staff. “They made me feel welcome and optimistic about changing my life.”

Through Bible studies, faith-based classes and

counseling, Jamilah grew spiritually and found healing for her emotional wounds. “I strengthened my faith, learned how to apply the word of God and put my life back together piece by piece.”

When she knew she could be the mother her children needed, they joined her here at our Center for Women and Children. Now, Jamilah is looking forward to finding a job and a home where she can raise them in stability and love. “I’m hopeful and optimistic about the future,” she says with a smile.

“I’m a new woman, strong  
and confident.”

**This Christmas, Jamilah and her children are experiencing the gifts of peace and hope for a brighter future. Thank you for sharing the blessings of God’s love with them!** “I was sad and broken, but the Rescue Mission renewed my faith in God and life.”

*You share the gifts  
of peace and hope  
at Christmas*

Christmas is just around the corner! We're busy with our preparations – and I know you are too. I invite you to remember our neighbors in need for a moment... and consider what Christmas means to them.

For people experiencing homelessness, there is no moment of peace or joy. They endure constant stress... uncertain of where they can sleep safely... how they'll stay warm... and when they'll get their next meal.

I know your heart breaks for so many of our neighbors who feel they have little to celebrate this Christmas.

That's why your support means so much.

**You can share the gifts of peace and hope with our hurting neighbors – this holiday season and beyond.** When you give a meal for just \$2.49, you open the doors to healing and transformation. People like Jamilah (whose story is on page 3) will experience the blessings of God's love that restores hearts and lives.

You can join us in reflecting God's love to our neighbors at Christmas through your compassion toward men, women and children who are hungry, hurting and homeless.

Thank you for filling hearts with peace and hope this season... and every day of the year.

Bram Begonia  
President/CEO



**Give a meal. Share *peace and hope!***

For our neighbors experiencing homelessness or hunger, Christmas can feel more lonely than joyful... **but YOU can share the gifts of PEACE and HOPE.** Just \$2.49 provides a nourishing Christmas meal – and opens the door to restoration and a fresh start this holiday season.



**Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!**



**12 DAYS OF GIVING BACK**



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.

Get inspired to share the blessing of Christmas with these ideas for **12 Days of Giving Back:**

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	Join an Event at the Rescue Mission	Invite a Friend to Church
DAY 10	DAY 11	DAY 12
Fundraise at Your Church or School	Pray for Families at the Rescue Mission	Share an Encouraging Word

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

# INVEST IN SAVING LIVES!



You can make a lasting impact for our neighbors in need using **Donor-Advised Funds (DAF)**. And the end of the year is the perfect time to consider this unique option for giving.

## Here's how DAF works:

- Your DAF acts as a charity savings account that you can use to send money to the Rescue Mission.
- If you put money in today, you'll get a tax deduction for 2025.
- While the money sits in the fund, it accumulates interest tax-free!

For more information, please contact Stephanie Sewell, VP of Development, at **(510) 215-4889** or email **stephanies@bayarearescue.org**.

*\*\* This material is not intended as legal, tax or financial advice. Please consult your own attorney, CPA or advisor for personalized guidance.*



# A Christmas they look forward to, thanks to YOU!

## 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's Love:** Worship, prayer, fellowship and an uplifting message of God's love. Our guests gather in the chapel to celebrate the peace and hope of Christmas together.

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