A NEWSLETTER OF SAN DIEGO RESCUE MISSION • SUMMER 2020

The power of your love... in action

RAQUEL'S LIFE IS CHANGED FOREVER and she wants

to thank YOU!

Your support touches lives with new hope.







2 Our Summer Six



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When she got the news that she lost her house and would be out on the streets, Raquel hugged her children and tried to hold back her tears.

"My landlady sold it and didn't tell me, so I didn't have time to find another home for my family," she says. "I was so scared that we were going to be homeless."

Raquel was raised by alcoholic parents who both died when she was a teen. To find love and stability again, she began dating the father of her children when she was just a teen. Raquel was heartbroken when he became abusive. But it took nearly 30 years before she found the courage to take the kids and leave him.

Unable to afford anything else, her family ended up in Section 8 housing. Then even that was ripped out from under their feet. Raquel had very little hope left when she heard about the Rescue Mission.

The day she came to San Diego Rescue Mission, everything changed for Raquel.

"I felt like a ton of bricks was lifted off my shoulders," she said, smiling. "It was only by God's grace." Raquel and her children were welcomed into our Nueva Vida Haven emergency shelter, where their immediate needs for food and shelter were met. Soon after, she and her family joined our Haven of Hope Women's & Children's Center, our 12-month recovery program for women and their children.

In our care, Raquel dedicated her life to Jesus and found healing from the trauma of losing her parents and the abuse she suffered for so many years. **"I'm actually listening to the Lord and letting Him do what He wants to with my life,"** she said.

The life-skills classes we offer have helped Raquel become a more patient, loving mother. With our staff's love and support, she's found the confidence to work on her GED, with hopes of going to a vocational school.

"I want to become a certified nursing assistant (CNA) and take care of the elderly. I want to be somebody that can take care of someone else's mom."

Because you gave from your heart to help Raquel, her life has been changed by your goodness and God's love forever! "I'm a different person since I came here and gave my life over to God. It's not easy, but I take it day by day."



A Message from DONNIE DEE

Give Where You Live... to Meet Our Summer Challenge

These past few months have been unsettling for everyone – and most especially for our neighbors in need. Hunger... homelessness... poverty. These hardships can seem even more daunting in the current environment. In times like these, caring for hundreds of hurting individuals presents a challenge that's greater than ever.

Summer is always hard, but this year we're being stretched to the limit. The meals we serve during June, July and August cost \$198,173 alone. On top of that are expenses for crisis-related assistance such as cleansing showers, personal hygiene items, access to medical care, and sanitizing products. And there's no decline in the need for faith-based recovery and practical guidance that empowers our guests to change their lives.

We need your help to meet our summer challenge!

During this critical time, I pray you'll continue to remember our homeless and struggling neighbors. They need your encouragement, prayers and compassion now more than ever.

Please give where you live to ensure we can care for every individual who turns to San Diego Rescue Mission for hope and a new beginning, now and in the months ahead. Your partnership brings comfort to so many, especially in





Donnie Dee President/CEO

times like these.

Through the 3 MONTHS of Summer your gift <u>today</u> helps provide...



This time of year, gifts typically drop off, so we need your help now more than ever!

GIVE Where LIVE

PLEASE HELP WITH OUR

Our "Summer Six" are essential items in high demand for our Rescue Mission guests all season long. Please deliver your donations to 5150 University Avenue in San Diego, Monday - Friday, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Those in our care will be deeply grateful for whatever you can share this summer!

- 1. Bottled water
- 2. Hand sanitizer
- 3. Toothpaste
- 4. Toilet paper
- 5. Paper towels
- 6. High-efficiency laundry soap

Save the Date!

September 26-27, 2020

There's a fun, interactive way you can help change homelessness here in San Diego... join us at this year's Sleepless in San Diego on September 26-27!

Sleepless is a festival for our community to come together... a concert for a cause... a night to make an impact.

NEW THIS YEAR: Kel Mitchell, award-winning actor and comedian from hits like "All That," "Kenan & Kel," "Dancing with the Stars" and "Good Burger," will deliver an inspiring message!

Enjoy family-fun volunteer projects and activities, a fabulous lineup of food trucks, music & inspiration, a Silent Disco, inflatables and more! PLUS an optional overnight sleep-out in the park to stand in solidarity with our homeless neighbors as you experience what life is like for them.

> There is something for everyone at Sleepless! **To register or learn more, visit sleeplesssandiego.org.**

