

MISSION *in* MOTION

A NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN DIEGO RESCUE MISSION • HOLIDAY 2022

The power of
your love...
in action

The best Christmas
gift there is...

Alondra

has joy and new life,
thanks to you!





“I’ve found myself.”

Alondra with her kids at
Mission Academy graduation

“It was a moment in which I felt all doors had been closed to me,” Alondra says, describing how she and her young son and daughter had been asked to leave the place where they were staying.

Yet it wasn’t the first time she’d experienced the overwhelming sense of fear and frustration. Four years earlier, the three had fled the childrens’ father to escape domestic violence. “I gave up everything,” she says, focusing on her little ones’ needs and neglecting her own health. “And I never addressed the situation.”

Now once again on the verge of homelessness, Alondra’s challenges were compounded by her son’s struggles with autism, which made it difficult for others to take them in. So she turned to her son’s social worker who referred her to the Rescue Mission.

Physically broken and spiritually depleted, the first Bible verse she read when they walked through our doors told her she was at the right place: *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.* “I let go of everything,” she says, and she began her journey to a new beginning.

Through our faith-based environment, compassionate staff and practical resources, Alondra saw God’s Word in practice. “I told my children, ‘Look at what we have – beds, blankets, food. Not a day do we go hungry.’” The children were also calmed and comforted by the rules,

schedules and daily routines that offered structure to their days, instead of chaos.

Through classes on domestic violence and parenting – as well as counseling and therapy – Alondra is learning how to care for herself as well as her little ones, and she’s addressing the issues at the root of her challenges. She has also rekindled her passion for working with children and hopes to pursue that as a career.

“I’ve learned to use my newfound growth to be the best mother I can be!”



Most important, the Rescue Mission equipped her to face the future as a new woman. She’s completed her 12-month program and she even ran a half marathon!

Alondra is excited to celebrate the restored hope she has been given this Christmas – and wants YOU to know just how grateful she is. “The Rescue Mission gave me my life back and allows me to feel the joy of the Lord every day.”

Give 2X the help before the year ends!

A Message from
DONNIE DEE

The JOY You Share at Christmas

Thanks to your faithful partnership, we can bring joy to our residents and guests, not only during the holidays, but also throughout the year!

Your heartfelt generosity provides an environment of love and acceptance, where hurting people feel safe and welcomed and find encouragement in their time of need. Your kindness also brings them the basics of food, shelter and other daily essentials – the building blocks of a healthy, stable life.

Fueled by your generous gifts, we're able to share the "good tidings of great joy for all people" during the holidays and throughout the year. Your fervent prayers and ongoing support help rebuild lives throughout San Diego County!

Just like Alondra, whose story we've shared on page 3, lives are changed every day at the Rescue Mission, thanks to the emergency services, recovery programs and care your generosity makes possible.

This Christmas, I hope your heart overflows with peace, joy and love as your blessings abound.



Donnie Dee
President/CEO

SHARE A CHRISTMAS MEAL...

You can help make this Christmas a time of celebration for our neighbors who are hungry and homeless. With so many obstacles to overcome during this season of hardship, they need a helping hand and to experience God's love!



\$2.05
for 1 hot meal



A night
of safe shelter

**CAN GIVE
SOMEONE**



Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!

\$100,000 Year-End Matching Challenge DOUBLE YOUR HELP!



Here's a huge blessing as we end this year: Thanks to a generous group of partners, **any gift you make until December 31 will be matched through our \$100,000 Matching Challenge!**

That's right... your gift today doubles to provide twice the food, shelter, housing assistance and care. And that means twice the help for many of our neighbors who are struggling with homelessness, inflation, soaring gas prices and other hardships.

DEADLINE TO GIVE: 12/31

- ✉ Add your special year-end gift to the reply card and send it today.
- 📄 Give online anytime at sdrescue.org.

**DONATE NOW
TO DOUBLE
YOUR GIFT!**





walkwithme

An outreach initiative of the
San Diego Rescue Mission

A lack of healthy relationships can often lead to despair for our neighbors on the streets. With no one to show them compassion, they can easily lose hope for a better life.

Through Walk With Me, our community outreach program, you can help restore hope to hurting people... and change their lives through the power of friendship!



Walk With Me empowers trained volunteers to walk alongside a man or woman experiencing homelessness as a friend. Over time, as trust is built, volunteers help connect their new friend to useful resources in our community.

Our hope is that our vulnerable neighbors experiencing homelessness can feel valued, loved and seen – just as God sees them – and through the power of relationship, experience the fullness of life they desire.

If you'd like to become a Walk With Me friend and make a difference in the life of a homeless neighbor, visit our website at sdrescue.org/WalkWithMe or contact Crystal Carlson, Program Manager: (619) 819-1898 | ccarlson@sdrescue.org

SCAN FOR
MORE INFO!



2 Easy Ways YOU Can Help this Christmas!

GIVE A SPECIAL GIFT

You can make Christmas extra special for men, women and families in our programs by providing these special gift items. Please drop off new items at **120 Elm Street in San Diego, Monday – Friday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., by December 9.**



- ☐ Backpacks
- ☐ Pajamas, size S-3X
- ☐ Sweaters, sweatshirts & sweatpants, size S-3X
- ☐ Wallets & purses
- ☐ Makeup kits & claw hair clips
- ☐ Shaving kits
- ☐ Journals
- ☐ Earbuds/headphones
- ☐ Portable phone chargers
- ☐ Reusable water bottles
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Excursion tickets (movies, zoo, bowling, etc.)



DONATE GIFT CARDS

Donating gift cards for these merchants helps purchase holiday gifts – and year-round necessities. Please mail or deliver them to **120 Elm Street in San Diego.**

- ☐ Walmart
- ☐ Target
- ☐ Ross
- ☐ Dollar Tree
- ☐ McDonald's

Thank you for making this our best Christmas celebration yet!