

# MISSION *in* MOTION

A NEWSLETTER OF SAN DIEGO RESCUE MISSION • SUMMER 2023

The power of  
your love...  
in action

**B**efore coming to the Rescue Mission, Windy and her two daughters had been living in a broken down trailer, struggling to survive without electricity, heat or running water.

“I was in abusive relationships,” she says, “and living in a very bad part of Oceanside... I was digging into dumpsters, recycling, doing whatever I could.”

For roughly six years, Windy and her children didn’t have a stable home. “I was struggling with a severe addiction,” she says. “Eventually CPS was called.”

Desperate to keep her family together, Windy came to the San Diego Rescue Mission. **“I was hoping to find a stable environment for my kids, a roof over our heads, a shower...”**

At the Rescue Mission, not only did she and her children have access to three meals a day, showers and safe shelter every night, but through our 12-month Mission Academy program, Windy found support to overcome the addiction that had overwhelmed her family.

“The staff at the Rescue Mission surrounded me with love and didn’t let me go,” Windy says. As she began earning her GED, Windy’s mentors helped her find housing and taught her how to save money and start working again.

**Because of her hard work, Windy was awarded our Women’s Housing Scholarship!**

“It was hard and scary to let go of the life I knew,” she says. “But I’ve felt God’s presence here, and it’s helped me.”

**Windy is grateful for the transformation in her heart and life, made possible thanks to caring friends like you who provided help that really works.** “Now that I have a support system, I’m a totally changed person. I’m a better mom to my kids.”



**“THERE’S A  
BETTER LIFE  
OUT THERE.”**

# EVERY HEART: OUR STREETS. OUR NEIGHBORS. OUR FUTURE.

## THE NEED

Homelessness is greater in San Diego County than ever before. Today, at the San Diego Rescue Mission, we sometimes have to turn people away because we don't have enough beds to bring everyone inside off the streets.



**10% increase** in homelessness in San Diego County since January 2020



**33,024 adults** access homeless services in San Diego County annually



**19%** are survivors of domestic abuse



**37%** are experiencing mental illness



**22%** are suffering from substance abuse

*"It's so heartbreaking when we don't have a bed to offer someone. They're disappointed, and it's very disheartening... I have to take them back to where I found them and it's just so sad." - Carla Vanegas, San Diego Rescue Mission Outreach Manager*

## OCEANSIDE Navigation Center

**OUR GOAL:** Offer 50 beds to provide temporary shelter and transitional services.



Meet Brian Wilson, our new Oceanside Navigation Center Director! Brian grew up in North County San Diego and is excited to expand the influence and impact of the San Diego Rescue Mission.

## THE OPPORTUNITY

No one should have to spend the night outside. The Every Heart Campaign will expand our reach by renovating our Downtown facilities and adding new Navigation Centers offering up to 30 days of emergency shelter, meals, clothing and social services support for our neighbors in need.

## EAST COUNTY Navigation Center

**OUR GOAL:** In the future, open a center with 50 beds & assistance to help guests get off the streets immediately.



## MISSION ACADEMY Downtown San Diego

**OUR GOAL:** Renovate and refurbish 79 sleeping rooms and 10 community spaces.



## NATIONAL CITY Navigation Center

**OUR GOAL:** Provide 160 new beds, kitchen, classrooms & accommodations.



**260 new beds**

will become available to bring our homeless neighbors off the streets!

**GOAL: \$25 MILLION TO EXPAND OUR FACILITIES AND OFFER HELP THAT WORKS**

**YOU CAN HELP REACH OUR GOAL TODAY!**

**STILL NEEDED THIS YEAR: \$5 million**

**HELP NOW!**



[sdrescue.org/everyheart](https://sdrescue.org/everyheart)



## An Invitation from DONNIE DEE

### Join us in **FIGHTING HOMELESSNESS**

It breaks my heart – as I’m sure it breaks yours – to see our neighbors living on the streets in our neighborhoods. It’s impossible to witness their suffering and not become sad, frustrated or even angry at the state of this crisis.

You may look around our neighborhoods and even wonder, *How did it get to be like this?*

But we can’t let despair win. My prayer is that San Diegans like you and me would rally together to fight homelessness in our community.

**The challenge is real... but so is the solution!** Through the Every Heart Campaign, underway right now, you can join with other caring friends in our community to give help that works to our homeless neighbors in San Diego County.

Your support through this campaign will expand our reach with new Navigation Centers in Oceanside, National City, and – in the near

future – East County, allowing us to...

- Transition **3,000 people** off the streets **immediately**
- Rescue **700 people** from the streets **permanently**
- Help **1,100 people** take their next viable step out of homelessness every year!

**To help transform our city, we must raise \$5 million this year for the first critical phase of the Every Heart Campaign.**

Your generous support today will offer help that works to our neighbors in need. Please join us in transforming lives and put the power of your love in action with a special gift today!

Donnie Dee  
President/CEO



**Don't let despair win. Give help that works!**

Share a life-transforming gift now at  
[sdrescue.org/everyheart](https://sdrescue.org/everyheart)