

MISSION *in* MOTION

A NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN DIEGO RESCUE MISSION • HOLIDAY 2023

The power of
your love...
in action

Thanks to you...

**JAMES HAS
HOPE THIS
Christmas!**



A Message from
DONNIE DEE

Celebrating the HOPE of Christmas

Imagine waking up to Christmas morning on the streets. No gifts under the tree. No holiday feast with family or friends. Feeling alone and forgotten.

During the holiday season, many of our homeless neighbors in San Diego County are struggling to hold onto hope... but you can help us change that.

Here at the San Diego Rescue Mission, we are committed to making this Christmas – and the future – better for hurting men, women and children in our community.

We invite caring friends like YOU to join us in giving our struggling neighbors the greatest gift: help that really works to end their homelessness.

Your generosity this Christmas and beyond will help remind them they are not forgotten. Your gifts to provide hot meals, safe shelter and recovery will help restore lives like James' (whose story is on the next page).

Thank you for surrounding our hurting neighbors with hope this holiday season! May God bless you now and into the New Year.



Donnie Dee
President/CEO



Share Hope AND A Christmas Meal...

It's hard to have hope when you're struggling with hunger or homelessness. **YOU can make this Christmas a time of celebration for our neighbors in need with your gift to help them today!**



\$2.44
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 IMPACT!**



Here's a huge blessing as we end this year: Thanks to a generous group of partners, **when you give between now and December 31, your generosity will go 2x as far** to provide food, shelter and care... and above all *hope* for our homeless neighbors!

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.

THANK YOU
for doubling your
impact during
our Matching
Challenge!

“GOD ERASED MY MISTAKES and gave me a fresh start.”

I've endured a lot of hardships in my life... but the worst of all I've endured is a loss of hope.

Before coming to the Rescue Mission, I was sleeping in the only sort of safe place I knew: the sidewalk outside of a facility serving seniors. I had no place to go... my addiction absolutely took over... and I wasn't getting the help I needed.

It was hard for me to trust other people, or express my fears in healthy ways. I was so traumatized as a kid, and in constant fear of my dad. He was an alcoholic who got violent

when drinking. I believed he hated me... and I had extremely bad self-esteem.

As an adult, I was diagnosed with PTSD and struggled with addiction, but today I can say this chain has been broken. Despite the guilt and shame that weighed upon me, I knew somehow that the Rescue Mission was what I needed.

I can only imagine what I must have looked like when I came to the Rescue Mission's doors... I hadn't showered in weeks and had nothing but the clothes on my back. The Rescue Mission welcomed me with an open

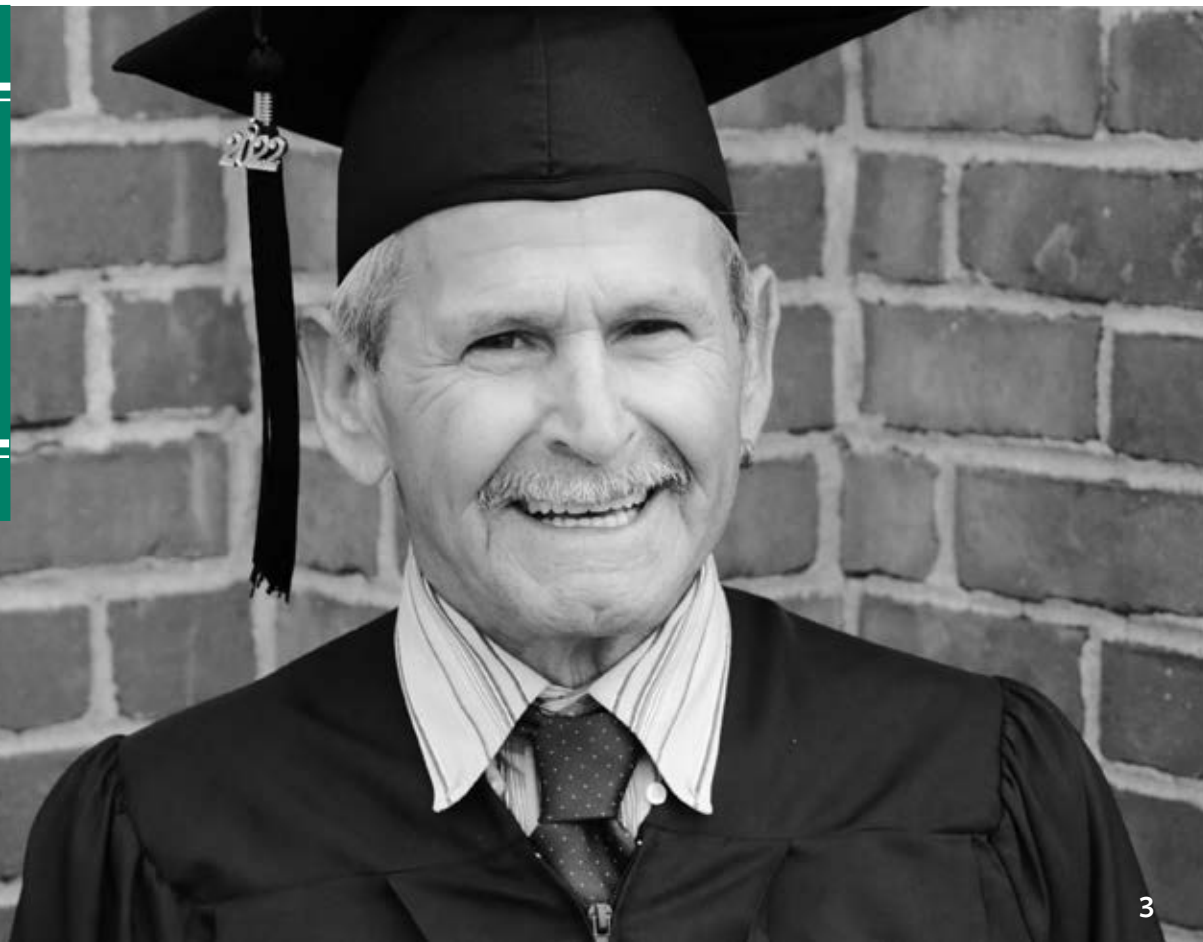
heart, and the staff here helped me set goals to accomplish.

Today, I have an apartment of my own, and above all else, I'm continuing the practices I've learned at the Rescue Mission. I'm keeping God first in everything, and I'm full of gratitude for the blessings that have been showered on me.

Thank you to every one of you for giving me the opportunity and privilege of being at the Rescue Mission. You are responsible for saving my life and replenishing my hope!



“God blessed my efforts, and the Rescue Mission gave me a chance.”



Children's Resource Center Spotlight

You're helping local children in need!

Homelessness is especially devastating to children. That's why our Children's Resource Center (CRC) exists – to change the lives of vulnerable children now... and for their future.

The CRC helps with:

- Enrolling children in local schools
- Gathering documents & records
- Providing transportation to and from school
- Attending meetings with parents and school administration

Additionally, our Childhood Specialists visit school classrooms to assist teachers with behavior concerns and reinforce social-emotional development.

Thanks to your generosity, 132 children in our programs have been enrolled in school since January!

Luis, a single dad living with two children at the Rescue Mission, is grateful for the CRC's support. Prior to coming here, his son had not been in school in three years, and his daughter had never enrolled in school. Now, both children attend school regularly and have Individualized Education Programs to help them thrive!



To learn more about how the CRC is helping San Diego County's vulnerable children, visit **SDRescue.org**.



YOU MAKE CHRISTMAS AT THE RESCUE MISSION SPECIAL!

Christmas Morning:

Thanks to local holiday 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 and hungry people in the community – for many, the first holiday feast they've enjoyed in years.



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