

Don't miss...



2 Celebrating rebirth  
this Christmas.



2 Double your help!



3 "The Rescue Mission gave  
me a safe place to heal."

HOLIDAY ISSUE 2021

# Bay Area HOPE

A Publication of the Bay Area Rescue Mission

2114 Macdonald Avenue • P.O. Box 1112 • Richmond, CA 94801 • [BayAreaRescue.org](http://BayAreaRescue.org)

Thanks to you...

***Denise***

has been given a  
life-changing gift  
this holiday season.







**“The Rescue Mission  
gave me a  
safe place to heal.”**



**“God’s hand is on my life.”**



**A**s a child, Denise was always a daddy’s girl. But when her father remarried, she felt cast aside. “My stepmom and I never saw eye to eye. But my dad’s life was with his new wife, so whatever she said went.”

His rejection of her broke Denise’s heart and, when she was 17, she ran away from home. But things went from bad to worse. She was sexually assaulted and didn’t know how to cope with her fear and shame, so she began numbing her pain with drugs.

For 27 years, Denise struggled with drug and alcohol addiction. But along the way, she started a family, and it was her love for her children that finally drove her to reach out to the Rescue Mission for help. **“I knew if I didn’t quit drinking, I was going to die. I owed it to myself and my kids to try.”**

Denise entered our Women’s Discipleship Program, where chapel services and Bible studies strengthened her faith. “I’ve always believed in God, but I didn’t always listen to Him,” she says. “Now, I talk to God before I make every decision.”

Our counselors have helped Denise find emotional healing and develop healthy coping skills, as well. “I’m learning to forgive myself,” she says. **“I can’t take back what’s happened, but I can change my behavior and move forward in a different way.”**

Denise is now studying medical billing and is engaged to be married. After graduation, she and her new husband plan to buy a home for their family. “I have a career and a stable, loving, godly relationship. And my kids have their mom back. They’re ecstatic.”

**It’s going to be a holiday season filled with joy for Denise and her family – and she is so grateful to you for this wonderful gift of a new life.** “The Rescue Mission gave me a safe place to heal. They saved my life and gave me a fresh start.”

## Celebrating Christmas with JOY for All People

In Luke 2:10, the angel says, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

During the holiday season, we hear a lot about joy. It has me thinking about how joy is something *all people* can have in their hearts. This time of year, our greatest joy is celebrating God's love and grace in our lives.

That joy is what fills our hearts Christmas morning... and, hopefully, every day of the year. It's the same joy I see on the faces of the children, women and men that have come to the Bay Area Rescue Mission and experienced God's life-changing love up close and personal. The joy YOU help them experience through your heartfelt prayers and support.

This holiday season, as you reflect on the joy that surrounds you, I hope you will remember our neighbors who are hurting. As Denise's story shows, your generosity offers help, healing and a chance to be held in the arms of a loving God.

I am continually humbled by the faithfulness of friends like you who joyfully bless others. Thank you, and may God fill your heart with peace and love.



Bram Begonia  
President/CEO

## A delicious holiday meal for our homeless neighbors...

### ... STARTS WITH YOU!

As you prepare to celebrate the joy of the holidays, please remember our hurting neighbors. It's been another really tough year for so many in our community – and the very best gift you can give them is the help they need right now!

Just \$2.09 provides a meal and care for one person.

That meal is often the first step toward a new life through God's love.



**\$2.09**  
for 1 hot meal



**\$6.27**  
for 1 night of  
safe shelter

**CAN GIVE  
SOMEONE**



**Healing  
Hope  
And a Second  
Chance!**

### Please Send Your Holiday Gift Today!

**SEE HOW YOU HELPED CHANGE DENISE'S LIFE!**



## 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 \$150,000 challenge grant!**

That's right... your gift today doubles to provide twice the food, shelter and care. And that means twice the hope for many of our neighbors who are still struggling to get back on their feet.

### DEADLINE TO GIVE: 12/31

✉ Add your special year-end gift to the reply card and send it today.

🌐 Give online anytime at [BayAreaRescue.org](http://BayAreaRescue.org).

**THANK YOU  
for doubling your  
impact during  
our matching  
challenge!**



# November 30 GIVING TUESDAY

It's a day for neighbors to help neighbors... and join together as a community on **Giving Tuesday!**

On November 30, your compassionate gift to our ministry will provide life-changing essentials like meals, shelter and addiction recovery services to help people right here in the Bay Area.

Many people are still struggling to overcome hardships and rebuild their lives on solid ground. *Your help is needed now more than ever.* Give our neighbors hope on Giving Tuesday!

**Why Wait? Celebrate GIVING TUESDAY Now!**

Give online at [BayAreaRescue.org](http://BayAreaRescue.org).

## 3 Easy Ways YOU Can Help this Holiday!

### FEED HUNGRY FOLKS



Want to nourish your neighbors? Donate these foods to help prepare thousands of meals this holiday season. Please deliver them to 123 Macdonald Ave. in Richmond, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday – Friday; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.



turkeys & hams \* boxes of stuffing \* bags of potatoes \* canned fruits and vegetables \* coffee, creamer & sugar



### MEET BASIC NEEDS



Looking to cover the basics? These essential items keep Rescue Mission guests safe and comfortable during their time in our care. Please drop off donations at **123 Macdonald Ave. in Richmond.**

garbage bags \* paper towels & toilet paper \* laundry detergent underwear \* socks \* towels

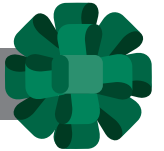
### GIVE GIFT CARDS



No time to shop? Donating gift cards for these merchants helps purchase holiday gifts as well as year-round necessities. Please mail or deliver them to **123 Macdonald Ave., Richmond.**

Walmart \* Target \* Safeway \* Amazon

**THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS HOLIDAY A TIME OF JOY!**





# Loving Tribute

LOVING TRIBUTE GIFTS GIVEN FROM 3/10/2021 UNTIL 7/1/2021



## IN MEMORY OF

NICHOLAS W. BURNS  
MARY CAPLES  
JACQUELINE CAYLOR  
JOHN L. CHIN  
GEOFFREY C. CHIN  
MICHAEL W. CLARK  
FREDERIC D. COCHRAN  
STELLA K. DAN  
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LISA MUNIZ

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To make a tribute gift, call or visit our website. ☎ (510) 215-4869 📧 BayAreaRescue.org

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