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THE MONTH OF “NEW”

Businesses, churches, and ministries start the year with new budgets. People make new commitments to maintain better eating habits, lose added weight, and engage in healthier activities with added exercise. Our country waits, hoping to find a unified vision, even amid political changes and challenges ahead. We look to the New Year, hopeful for better outcomes; resolute in our commitments to be better than we were in the past. And yet, many times - within a short window of time - many of these New Year’s resolutions are broken and seem destined to fail.

At the Fresno Rescue Mission, people come to us hoping that they will experience a change in their lives. They come with expectations, determined to solve the problems that plague them. Yet, they too fail. How can they overcome the issues that beset them? How can any of us overcome the disappointments we feel when we fail? As a staff, we are dedicated to helping people who come to us, those wanting to experience significant life-change. We understand the pain they feel, but we also understand (through our own experience) the means to experiencing success. We introduce them to Jesus; the best Friend they’ll ever have. It is only through His power that they may ever hope to overcome an addiction or restore a broken relationship. It is only through His teaching and through a personal commitment to walk in faith and obedience that they will experience a better life; one dedicated to love and service. We cannot hope to accomplish the goals we set with our flesh unless we first walk in the grace, peace, mercy, power and love of Jesus our Lord. We also cannot hope to find success alone. The Lord never intended for us to journey alone. We need like-minded people to hold us up and walk with us through difficult times. This is why we appreciate YOU, our partners in ministry, so much! We value your prayers, your time and talents, your gifts and treasures, and everything you offer. Because of your support, we are reaching more and more people in need…TOGETHER!

As we look forward to the New Year, may we each continue to listen carefully to God’s voice and to be observant of all that He has set before us to do. May we work together to bring Him glory!

Don Eskes
Chief Executive Officer

Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2
Favorite Moments

We served over 400 meals during our Annual Christmas Luncheon.

We love seeing the smiles and marking these special moments with our guests.

We celebrated the progress of all the women currently enrolled in our transforming life community at the RTC Quarterly Luncheon.

During the event, five of the women moving into the job-search phase of their program put on a special skit, celebrating the truths they’ve learned while in residence (pictured far left).

“Before I came to Rescue the Children, I had no hope. Now, thanks to my relationship with Jesus, I have real life hope that I am going to make it in life.”
~ Elizabeth, RTC Disciple

“The most significant change I’ve experienced since walking with Jesus is the ability to stop filling voids in my life with unhealthy things. It’s ok if I don’t feel happy in a given moment. I can find joy in Him while waiting.”
~ Kimberly, RTC Disciple

Our Mission

The Fresno Rescue Mission endeavors to glorify God by meeting the spiritual and physical needs of the least, the last and the lost in our community.
Our Vision

Recognizing the teachings of Jesus; that the least, the last, and the lost will always be in our midst, we will partner with the Christian community, social service agencies, businesses, families, and individuals to meet the spiritual and physical needs of all men, women, and children in our community.

From PROGRAM to POSSIBILITIES

When men and women first come to the Mission, they often face a slew of obstacles. In addition to providing a safe environment to battle their addictions and dependencies, we help men and women by modeling acceptable behavior, teaching core educational classes and life-skills courses (emphasizing communication and writing exercises). To this, we build in work programs with opportunities for certification, walking with them through legal processes that would impede future steps, and encouraging them to reconnect with family and key relationships - all in preparation for the day they will exit our programs and re-engage with the community. The most challenging obstacle in this process: EMPLOYMENT. Not surprising, some employers are simply unable to look beyond the prior legal histories of our graduates to offer them a second chance. However, many do:

“I’ve been hiring graduates since 2003. We’ve had challenges, some didn’t work out, some have moved on to bigger and better things, while others have steadily grown. Seven continue to work for us: Mechanics, a Rental Coordinator, and even an Assistant who became a Sales Manager. I get to know the men when I visit the Mission and meet with the Mission staff, so there’s an added advantage; I’m able to interact with a graduate for months, in advance of an interview.” Brad Sparks - Owner, Fresno Tractor

“Greg has a healthy and positive attitude that is infectious to all around him. It serves as an inspiration to all who interact with Greg each day. His commitment to our team has helped provide our customers with a quality and on time product.” Justin Serrano - Production Manager, Professional Print & Mail

“The women we hire have experienced life-changing treatment through the Mission, so they also understand the struggle. They have compassion and patience with the women we serve. It’s training that’s built in.” Vikki Luna, Director of The Light-House Recovery Program

Would you like to help?

If you are an employer looking to invest in the life of an FRM graduate, please contact us. We’ll work with you to make a great connection. For more information, contact Bud Searcy, Academy Director at (559) 268-0839, Ext. 115 or contact Priscilla Robbins, Rescue the Children Director at (559) 227-2190, Ext. 104
A story that begins with these lines should lead to a predictable, enviable narrative, but it doesn’t. What Cherice went on to describe in her 8-page typed story was made up of distorted perspectives instilled early on in a very young mind, devastated by one bleak memory; the death of her father. He died in 1982 from a lethal dose of heroin – connections from a tainted past that haunted him.

Cherice was only 3 years old at the time of her father’s death. With that loss came a steady flow of childhood trauma. From her mom’s addiction, neglect, and carelessness, came periods of ritualized molestation; taking place at the hands of men who were invited into their home over several years. She also witnessed horrific violence, causing her to be placed with other caregivers, who likewise were unhealthy and abusive. Unable to voice her pain and unmet needs from these traumas, Cherice numbed herself through addiction, unhealthy relationships (with both men and women), criminal behavior, and worldly attempts to bring religion into the mix (based on a lack of understanding concerning faith and obedience). By the time Cherice was 33, she had served time in Juvenile Hall, given birth to four children (with another on the way), entertained countless suicide attempts, faced multiple criminal charges as an adult, watched her mother waste away and eventually die from her addictions and choices, and had amassed a mounting barrage of physical, emotional and psychiatric issues. Her life was not good. By all accounts, it was a mess.

I FIRST LEARNED about Rescue the Children through a program in jail. I started going to a Bible study offered in jail. There, I met a woman who was the House Manager for RTC. She had a powerful testimony that filled me with hope. I wanted what she had! I started writing letters to the staff, asking for help. I was very honest with them, explaining I was currently pregnant with my fifth child and that I was an IV drug user. Before I could work out an option to come into the program, I gave birth to my daughter and I was sentenced – a mandatory term of 3 years in prison. My daughter was placed into Foster Care and I was alone, in my cell. I cried out to God. How could I have done all this?”

CHERICE SPENT TIME IN PRISON learning about Jesus. She built her faith and trust in the Lord while she awaited her final days behind bars. There were setbacks, but she remained confident that God had a plan for her life.

“Two days before my release date. I was called out of my dorm by the Sergeant. I had a phone call from the program director of Rescue the Children. I was shocked. Typically, phone calls came only when someone had died. They put the phone on speaker and the woman on the other line told me that she personally purchased a one-way bus ticket through Greyhound for me. She said that because I kept in contact with the RTC staff during my incarceration, I showed them I was truly ready for a change. She was so right! I was ready for the life-transformation that the RTC community offered.

Today, 13 months later, I am in recovery and sharing my testimony. I now have my youngest daughter living with me full time, and my eldest daughter is with me on the weekends. I am also mending my relationship with my three sons.

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AS I GET READY TO TRANSITION into Aftercare, I have been hired by the Mission to be a Community Care Provider; one who provides a welcoming smile and watchful eyes over the visitors to the campus. I am growing closer to God, too; working on my relationship with Him every day. I know that He loves me. I also know I could not have come to this point without the love and support of the RTC staff. I am truly blessed. My life verse says it all: ‘But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, to proclaim the virtues of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.’ 1 Peter 2:9

I thank God. He is good and is always on time. I serve Him, today. I thank the Fresno Rescue Mission for this program and for helping me along my journey to recovery.”

“Our Values
Christ-centered by treating the least, the last, and the lost with love and compassion.
Hope shared through God’s Word and plan of salvation.
Relationships established, valued, and nurtured.
Integrity paramount in all that we do and are.
Service given through stewardship and servanthood.
Totally committed to loving others as Christ loves us.”

“I was ready for the life-transformation that the RTC community offered”

TWO-YEAR GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

The Fresno Rescue Mission seeks to employ as many disciples as possible in order to provide training opportunities. Through transitional employment, FRM disciples are able to glean as much as they can from the department for which they have been hired. These positions are created as 2-year, part-time or full-time appointments, stepping stones for future work outside of the Mission.

“Before I came to the Mission, I was insecure and lacked the trust needed to openly interact with people.

As a Community Care Provider, I answer phones, greet volunteers and guests, open access ways for service companies, check-in/out the program participants and their children as the go to and return from school. The position requires discernment, patience, confidence, good communication and people skills; all of which I was once lacking. Now, I am able to do these things and more. The training is great and the experience is a blessing. I need both to build my resume.” ~ Cherice