

A NEW DAWN

A PUBLICATION OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY RESCUE MISSION
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New Campaign Draws Attention

"90 Days of Summer Relief" campaign helps drive fundraising during one of our busiest times of year.

**90 Days
-of-
SUMMER
RELIEF**

Many Coachella Valley residents leave our valley during the summer months. The homeless do not. In fact, summer is one of our busiest seasons at the mission. Yet, traditionally, donations to the mission slow down during the summer when they are desperately needed.

In response to this fundraising challenge we've launched a new campaign, "90 Days of Summer Relief." The campaign will use a mix of media and PR to help reach a wide audience and effectively communicate the need to help the homeless during the hot summer months.



Scan this QR code to watch a video of our Summer Campaign to help the homeless. Or, visit cvrm.org/90days.html.

Transitional Housing Important For Graduates of CVRM

Many graduates of the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission have a dilemma: their jobs provide limited income and they have limited history to provide to prospective landlords. To help, CVRM has rented 2 houses to provide our graduates a safe, sober living environment to transition and grow stronger in independent living. The five bedroom Timothy House for men and four bedroom Bethany House for women are full and self-sustaining residences.

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*Renewed hope, new life, a fresh start,
a slate wiped clean.*

Britni Shares Her Story: A Life of Fear, Anger, and Confusion

Years of emotional pain, depression, abandonment, and anger were the descriptive words which Britni most associated with throughout her 24 years of life.

In her formative years there was a lot of strife and hostility in the home. She was attending a private Christian school which was very rigid in their doctrine and she was plagued by much fear and confusion about God. She worried about her family and their spiritual condition, a burden too heavy for a child to carry.

After her parents divorced, she was jostled between family members as they were dealing with their own struggles. This caused her to feel sad, lonely, angry and depressed. She had periods in her life when she was very responsible and successful; purchasing her own car, renting an apartment, excelling in her job, winning awards, and accolades as a student all before she was 20 years old but always felt empty.

As a way to cope with the fear and anxiety she began to self medicate with drugs which were readily available among her friends and classmates. It was at this time some longtime friends invited Britni to go off-roading with them. When things got out of hand she asked for them to take her home and they refused. She ran and eventually took refuge in a tree to hide. She lost her footing and fell several feet to the ground. After 5 days, she was found suffering from a broken back, frostbite, and dehydration. She said, "It was answered prayers which allowed me to be found and I understood God had His hand on me."

Struggling to heal from 6 back surgeries, Britni acquired two jobs and things were going well for a time, until the relationship she was in became abusive. It was also during this time Britni severed the tendons and one of her arteries in her right hand. In the ambulance, bleeding profusely she thought these could be her last breaths. "Something inside of me urged me to call out to God, but I felt unworthy and stubbornly refused to let Him in." After a brief period, Britni said, "I



"The first months of being here, I was so blessed with God's grace and mercy."

finally went to church again and prayed for the first time in a very long time." She asked God to help her through and lead her to where she needed to be.

After a short stay at another facility she knew she needed more. That is when Britni came to CV Rescue Mission. She came here and dedicated her life to God because she realized she couldn't get sober and do things without Him. Britni said, "The first months of being here, I was so blessed with God's grace and mercy. I had never experienced depression while sober!"

"I love the work I have been privileged to do here at the front desk and in the administration, I have gained so many helpful skills," she said. Britni has high hopes for a future now. She has an interest in going back to school to earn a degree in Counseling Psychology. She loves working with children and the elderly and is now confident enough to move forward with a solid foundation in Jesus Christ. †

Volunteer Spotlight: Bill Heck

Bill Heck is a transplant from the Midwest who has been volunteering at CV Rescue Mission for 4 years. He has served many meals in the kitchen to our clients, along with his wife and church members.

While attending college Bill was hired to work for the American Can Company. He enjoyed a very successful career in sales and marketing for over 30 years. When he and his wife Joan started looking for that perfect spot to retire, they purchased a home in La Quinta, CA.

Bill is disciplined and is an avid tennis player. He plays several times a week and wins the majority of his matches!

After a few months of retirement Bill started looking for an opportunity to volunteer with a non-profit organization, when our former Board Chair, Pete Del Rio, urged him to come down to the mission for a tour.

When the mission started its capital campaign Bill was invited to serve on the General Gifts committee. He has worked tirelessly for 4 years, planning and implementing many fund raising events. Bill was given a goal of \$300,000, which he has exceeded.

Two years ago he was asked to serve on the Board and gladly took on the responsibility with the same enthusiasm he has on the tennis court.

We are so fortunate to have him serve with us here at CVRM but his response when asked why he does it is “I get so much joy from serving, the more I do the more joy I have. I get back much more than I give. I love it here.” So whether it is serving on the tennis court or serving at the Mission he does it with all his might. †



“Volunteering brings so much joy.”

Did you know...

- One in 5 homeless people is a child?
- Women and children make up nearly half of the homeless population?
- You can call 211 or 800-464-1123 if you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness or on the verge of homelessness?



Homelessness Facts

A Message from Darla

Dear Friend,

Many of our supporters are surprised to learn just how busy the mission is during the summer. In fact, it is one of our busiest times of the year! As the economy slows during the summer, unemployment rises.

And, our valley's 100+ degree temperatures make it dangerous for the homeless to stay outside.

But because so many valley residents leave during the summer for cooler climates, the homeless who need the mission's help are often forgotten.

We're excited to announce our "90 Days of Summer Relief" campaign. With the help of local media, local businesses, and our friends in the desert, we plan to raise the money needed to help the many men, women, children and entire families who are either homeless or on the brink of homelessness.

We are blessed to have so many generous donors and friends in the community. Every day it is a blessing to see people helping the least among us.

God Bless,

Darla Burkett
Executive Director



The residents must be able to share the expenses for rent, utilities, and food. The house managers set the rules for the home and the work is distributed among the residents. Each resident has their "own room" which is a luxury after living in a dorm with several others!

It is a much needed step for many reasons. First, it allows our graduates an opportunity to share expenses with their peers. Secondly, it allows them to continue the relationships which were formed while living at the Mission. Thirdly, it provides a source of accountability for one another and it gives them a couple of years to establish stability. Finally, it provides a gradual way to transition from living in a sheltered, cocoon like environment and they are able to put into practice the skills taught at the Mission.

Thankfully, the residents have found jobs but because of varied schedules it is difficult to plan meals together but as much as possible they eat together, have Bible studies, AA meetings, watch movies and attend church.

The women's house manager said, "It is the first time in a very long time living a normal life that most people take for granted. I feel truly blessed to have this opportunity." †



Bible Study at Timothy House