

# HANDS

## Across the Valley

E A S T E R I S S U E 2 0 0 9

### “...Just Until I Get Back on My Feet”

No job. Health problems. Financial hardship. Any one of these problems might be enough to push a family into homelessness. But for Carmen, facing all three at the same time was more than she could handle!

Unemployed for over a year and facing health issues, she and her nine-year-old son had been living with a friend and then with a sister in Indio. When Carmen’s

sister moved into a smaller, one bedroom apartment in La Quinta, there was just not enough room.

*“We are thankful to God for everything we receive here!”*

The little family came to the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission hoping to at least be able to stay inside our overflow area. Fortunately, there was an opening at our Women and Family Shelter and we were able to house them here in a room with another family.

“I’m staying here for right now until I can get back on my feet. I’ve been looking for a job. I did 12 or 13 years of cashiering, but now I have poor circulation and I’m unable to stand on my feet for that long. So I want to concentrate on going back to school to get classes, maybe in medical assisting, so I can get a better job and decent pay.”

*“I hope to stay at the Mission while I take classes.”*

The Mission’s Women and Family Shelter is an ideal place for Carmen and her son to stay while she gets back on her feet. Staying at the Mission will also help her save the money she needs to eventually get a place of her own. And her son can attend classes at the school right across the street!

We see families like Carmen’s every day. Thanks to the support of friends like you, we can provide the support network they need to find jobs and safe housing and become self-sufficient once again.



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## A Message from the Director



### A New Heart. A New Start.

The purpose of Easter is to celebrate Christ's victory over death and the promise of new life – the promise that through His sacrifice and resurrection we may become new people. That opportunity is also what our New Life Recovery Programs are all about.

These programs work for two reasons: First, they give individuals like Carmen and David, whose stories you'll find in this issue of HANDS Across the Valley, the opportunity to truly build new lives; to be physically and mentally released from the destructive grip of alcoholism, drug addiction or homelessness through recovery, rehabilitation and education.

Second, because our work is based on the Gospel, these programs add a new dimension to peoples' lives – a spiritual dimension that is often missing or has been lost. Jesus promises that He can touch the pain in their lives and give them a new heart and a new start!

Thank you for your support that changes so many lives!

*Darla Burkett*

Darla Burkett  
Executive Director

## 2008 Operation Drumstick

Thanksgiving week was bustling with activity; our crew of staff and volunteers cooked and prepared for days for those we welcomed with a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

We served an estimated 2,700 meals from Wednesday through Sunday. Only a few short days before our pantry and freezer were looking bare! But we appealed to the community and it was amazing to watch as donors responded and brought loads of groceries and turkeys. Others dropped off checks or made donations online.

We can not begin to express our gratitude and "thanks giving" to all who made the holiday an absolute success!

Your phenomenal support is a blessing which overwhelms us year after year!



## 6th Annual Golf Tournament

The Golf Club at Terra Lago hosted our 6th annual Coachella Valley Rescue Mission Golf Tournament.

All participating golfers had a great time and the golfing was very competitive. Al "Mr. 59" Gieberger made his 4th appearance and played a par 3. The "closest to the pin" contest winner received an autographed golf ball and an imprinted score card of his celebrated 59.

We enjoyed a delicious Mexican lunch and live and silent auctions. Many of the Valley's top golf courses donated golf packages including

Andalusia, Rancho La Quinta, Indian Springs and Stone Eagle. Mario's Italian Café, Applebee's, Kaiser Grill, Stuff Pizza, Z Pizza and the Beer Hunter were among the restaurants who donated gift certificates to the auction along with many other valuable items.

It was a great way to end a fabulous day and raise money to benefit general operations for the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission.

To learn more about this event, visit our website at [www.CVRM.org](http://www.CVRM.org).

## Celebrating New Life!

When Jesus met Mary Magdalene after she had seen the empty tomb and was hurrying to tell the disciples, His first word to her was, "Rejoice!" Jesus wanted everyone to rejoice in His resurrection, not mourn His death. His call to Christians was, and still is, to celebrate new life.

We try to live out that message every day here at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission. Just as Christ rose in victory over death and sin, we encourage those who come to us to rise above poverty,

homelessness and addictions.

Because of the outpouring of love that moves our donors to share their resources, we bring those in need the message that their past is forgiven and their life is worth living.

As the Easter season approaches, we pray that you will continue to help us by supporting the Mission with your time, your gifts and your prayers.

To find out how you can help visit our website at [www.CVRM.org](http://www.CVRM.org).

## “We Got Away From God”

Originally from Orange County, David and his wife were saved from drinking and drugs by their church congregation in Cleveland, OH. “I was in bad shape and the whole church was praying for me,” he remembers. The prayers worked because his life turned around and both were clean and sober for five years before they returned to California to care for an aging relative.

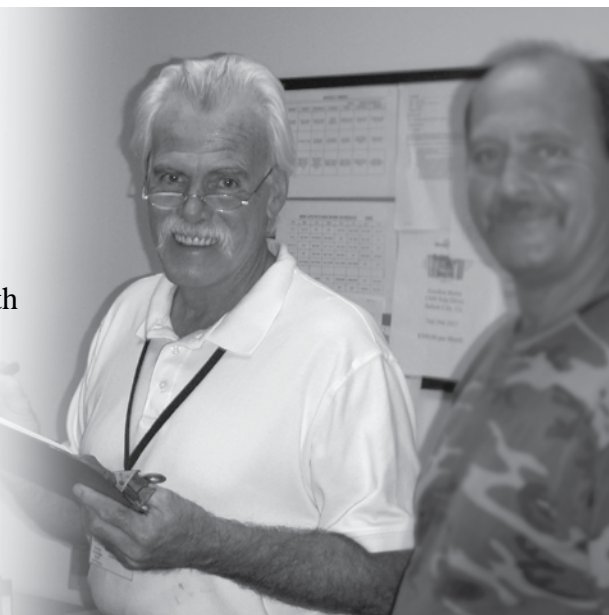
But slowly things began to go wrong again. “We got away from the meetings. We got away from God. We got away from the way we were supposed to live.”

### *“Everything started going downhill.”*

The couple came to Palm Springs to manage a mobile home park, but their lives continued to go downhill. “We lived on the golf course and we had a deal where we were going to fix up a mobile home, remodel it and sell it. It worked out really well and then we moved on to another mobile home. It turned into a great deal. We had extra money because we didn’t have to pay rent, but we kept using it for drugs.”

The more their drug use increased the further downhill the family went. From a mobile home to a motel to their car, until they finally found themselves sleeping in holes in the desert and panhandling in front of a north side convenience store.

After a series of shelters and detox programs, both David and his wife ended up at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission. “It was a glorious



reunion. The growing started right there. We knew God meant us to be together and not separated. It’s a very humbling experience but it is a glorifying one knowing that we are together and safe.”

“I was going to get a job and not be a burden but the director kept asking me, ‘What are you going to do? Are you going to keep walking into walls or are you going to hit the program?’”

### *“We’re together and safe!”*

“You gotta make a choice.” David entered our New Life Program. Today he works at the Mission where he helps others make appointments or arrange transportation, assists our Case Managers and helps with the crowd that comes in for lunch and dinner.

## Wishes Come True

Santa did not disappoint the thousands of children who came to the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission on December 19! Santa gave gifts to the children who had written their letters, said their prayers and dreamed of the wonderful gifts which had been donated to the Mission.

Thanks to the hundreds of individuals who took it upon themselves to share with others throughout the Coachella Valley through their church, office, country club or just all on their own. It was a day filled with awe and wonder, joy and laughter, gratitude and appreciation.

We served a special Christmas breakfast on December 25 followed by a delicious ham and turkey dinner.



We are so thankful for all the donors and community volunteers who made all our wishes come true by following the example of the one who the season is all about: Christ our Lord.

## Calendar of Events

**April 12** – Baskets of Hope  
**May 14** – New Life Recovery Program Graduation

## Visit Our Website



The Coachella Valley Rescue Mission has been around for over 37 years. Many things have changed since then and technology is one of them. From typewriters to computers and nowadays one can nearly do everything with a simple cell phone. All these things have made it easier for us and we want to do the same for you. If you want to learn about who we are and what we do, visit our website at [www.CVRM.org](http://www.CVRM.org).

# Easter – Baskets of Hope

Easter, or more appropriately Resurrection Sunday, will be especially celebrated here at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission. Those who have been bruised, faced adversity and failure, broken by disillusionment and defeated by sin understand better than most what it means to be resurrected to new life.

We are not only here to meet the physical needs but to offer a word of encouragement, reinforcement and reassurance and increased determination to those we serve in an effort to help them recover from being broken and live a new life.

We need hundreds of community volunteers and donations of time, food and gifts to help the Mission staff provide a traditional Easter meal to more than 2,000 people and distribute Easter baskets filled with goodies and stuffed toys to hundreds of children.

If you are interested in volunteering to prepare and serve food or assemble and distribute Easter baskets, please call Linda Garland at (760) 347-3512 ext. 221 or e-mail [lgarland@cvmr.org](mailto:lgarland@cvmr.org). Donations of toys and food can be dropped off at the Mission or you can give a gift online at [www.CVRM.org](http://www.CVRM.org).

## Gift of Appreciated Assets

If you are considering a charitable gift, you may want to look at your stock portfolio. A gift of appreciated stock or a mutual fund is a valuable way to make a contribution to an organization and receive tax benefits based on the value of the asset(s). There are other marketable assets, such as land and homes, that can be utilized as potential gifts with the possibility of valuable tax benefits.

It can also pay you income for life. If you cannot make a gift of stock, you can help by establishing a life-income gift. Often the income from your gift is more than what the stock provides through dividends.

A gift of appreciated stock requires minimal effort and provides great rewards. Please contact Darla Burkett at (760) 347-3512 to plan a gift of stock.

## Here's my special Easter gift to give people in need a new start and a new life. Enclosed is:



- \$18.80 for 10 meals and care
- \$28.20 for 15 meals and care
- \$56.40 for 30 meals and care
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as much as possible

- Bill my credit card
  - VISA  MC  AMEX  DISC

CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

Coachella Valley Rescue Mission  
 P.O. Box 10660  
 Indio, CA 92202-2564



Donate online at [www.CVRM.org](http://www.CVRM.org), or call 760-347-3512, ext. 226

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