

# HANDS

## Across the Valley

J U N E 2 0 0 9

### A Message from Darla Burkett


Dear Donor Name,  
This country and this Mission were both founded by individuals working together to accomplish great things.

The Coachella Valley Rescue Mission and the American people have also responded in the same way to the toughest times this country has faced in decades: we've rolled up our sleeves and worked together to solve problems and get the job done!

We've been blessed with people who've donated food. Our staff has tightened their belts and done more with less. Volunteers have given their time and donors have made sure we have money to help those struggling to survive.

Working together we've not only helped people change their lives, but we've honored the two greatest commandments: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." And "Love your neighbor as yourself."

The tough times aren't behind us yet, but together I know we can continue to do great things!



Darla Burkett  
Executive Director

## "It's All About God's Love for Us"

"The corporation I was working for laid me off about the same time I was going through a lot of marital problems. I had a retirement account and stock options and they paid me off. I started drinking and doing drugs. I lost everything and ended up living out of my truck. When I lost that after going to prison, my parole officer sent me to the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission," he says.

"I had lived in the alley behind the Mission for a while, but I never thought I'd actually stay here! It was the last place I wanted to go and I ended up leaving because of my pride." Back on the street, Ray got more and more scared and finally returned. "It was like coming home, like I was finally safe. And this time, I worked hard."

*"They gave me a second chance."*

With the help of our dedicated staff and our New Life Program, Ray got his life back on track. "Their help and God's



When Ray (on left) lived in the alley behind the Mission, the men in this photo befriended him. Today, he looks out for them, making sure they are eating and have water to drink as the temperatures soar in the summer.

help guided me," Ray says. "Now I'm taking responsibility for my life. I have a job here at the Mission. I've paid my taxes, opened a bank account, bought a car and gotten to teach men's Bible study at my church."

Today Ray actually works with the parole officer who originally sent him to the Mission. "She tells me what a delight I am; that I am success story for her. She said, 'It's been such a change for you.' But it's the Mission that's changed my life!"

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### Darla – I'll continue to help the Mission to do great things!

Enclosed is my gift to feed, shelter and care for the Coachella Valley's neediest people.

- \$XX.XX for XX meals and care
- \$XX.XX for XX meals and care
- \$XX.XX for XX meals and care
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as many as possible

- Bill my credit card
  - VISA  MC  AMEX  DISC

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

CIV/SEC # \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

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

Donor Name  
Donor Address  
Donor City, State Zip



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



## Easter 2009



An absolutely glorious Easter was had by all this year at CVRM! We were back in our home (after the fire) one week before Easter Sunday. Our clients, residents and staff were overwhelmed with joy and gratitude at our beautifully rebuilt Mission, bountiful Easter meals, baskets of bunnies and treats and an abundance of love and support from our dear volunteers and desert community.

We provided over 400 full Easter breakfasts, 1600 Easter dinners and 600 filled Easter baskets to children and adults!

It was a miracle to see God's hand in our Mission this Easter, He is our miracle maker, and so ever-present in all of our lives at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission.

## Summer Food

When the temperature rises in the summer the residents of the Coachella Valley leave for more palatable climates. What this means for us is that our food donations drop off considerably but the request from those needing assistance increases greatly. Please keep us in mind before you head out for that extended vacation and help us keep our shelves full.

There are several ways you can help: conduct canned food drives at your church, office, or neighborhood, purchase a few extra items when you shop or donate on line at [www.CVRM.org](http://www.CVRM.org). This will enable us to purchase the items we need most.

## Upcoming Events

- July 4  
Community Barbecue  
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- August 13  
New Life Graduation  
11 a.m.
- August 22  
Backpack Giveaway  
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

# Fire and Rebuild

March 11, 2009: At 1:41 AM the residents of the Mission were awakened and ordered to evacuate the buildings because of a raging fire. Our 80 residents, along with 25 overnight guests in our emergency shelter were displaced and housed at the Riverside County Fairgrounds in Indio where we maintained our operations. All were safe and there were no injuries but our building was condemned.



Our insurance company asked us to prepare to be displaced for 90 days to six months, but they had not met Brian Orr of Orr Builders. He gathered subcontractors and had the rebuild finished in 10 days as they worked around the clock.

We were blessed with an abundance of media coverage and the community responded generously. Every need was met with an outpouring of love: everything from blankets, mattresses, office furniture, clothing and generous financial gifts. We truly did experience the truth of the Scripture which says, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God to those who are the called according to His purpose." To learn more or make a gift, visit our website at [www.CVRM.org](http://www.CVRM.org).

## Backpack Giveaway

We will hold our annual back to school backpack giveaway on August 22 at 9 a.m. at the Martin Van Buren Elementary School in Indio. We sponsor this event in order to ensure that local children in need get a successful start to the new school year.

For information about donating contact Kitty Killian 760-347-3512 ex.232.

Suggested items include: backpacks, pencils, crayons, school glue, felt-tip markers, erasers, pencil

sharpeners, safety scissors, notebook paper, pencil holders, spiral notebooks colored pencils, blue/black pens, subject dividers, dictionaries, glue sticks, protractors, 3-ring notebooks, legal pads, K-3 writing tablets and gift cards to Walmart, Target, Kmart, Kohls or other retailers to purchase uniforms.



## "The Power of One!"

Jesus calls us to follow Him and work for Him. If we think only of our individual strengths or limitations, the task can sometimes seem impossible. "What can one person do?" we ask. The answer here at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission is, "Plenty." Volunteering to serve a meal or answer a phone frees staff for other jobs.

One hour of your time, one shirt or jacket, one bag of groceries, one gift – each is vital to the success of this ministry and our ability to truly make a difference in the lives of people in



need. If you can, help us continue to make a difference by sending a gift or giving securely online at [www.CVRM.org](http://www.CVRM.org).