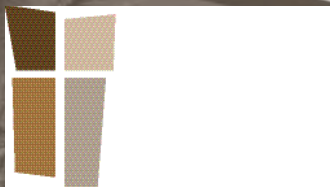


A NEW DAWN



FALL 2016

Don't Miss

2 When food + shelter are not enough

2 What's on the menu?

3 "The Mission filled a hole in my heart"



“ I'M THE
mother
AND
woman
God
WANTS
ME TO BE! ”

Just like any mom, Ester wanted to support her children and care for them. But one thing kept getting in the way: **HERSELF.**

**FROM GRIEF
TO GRACE**
READ INSIDE HOW
YOUR GIFTS CHANGED
ESTER'S LIFE





2016 ANNUAL THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN



67,000

MEALS



21,000

NIGHTS OF SHELTER

What's On The Menu?

Nourishing food & God's love!

You can provide both with your 2016 Annual Thanksgiving Campaign gift! Please use the enclosed envelope, or give online at CVRM.org.

Thank you!



WHEN FOOD & SHELTER ARE NOT ENOUGH...

If all we do with your most generous gifts is feed and shelter hungry, homeless people, we're not doing our job!

Meals and a bed will not keep people from being homeless. They also need education, job training and God's love to transform their hearts.

Food and shelter alone will not end addiction. People trapped in the prison of alcohol and drug use need counseling and support.

And every single one of the men, women and children who comes to the Mission needs God's grace.

As our busiest time of the year approaches, I need your help to

"Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

make absolutely sure people's physical and spiritual needs are met.

Donate food, or send a gift to purchase it. Volunteer, especially before the holidays. And please pray - for those who so desperately need our help, and the Lord's, to live better lives.

Darla Burkett

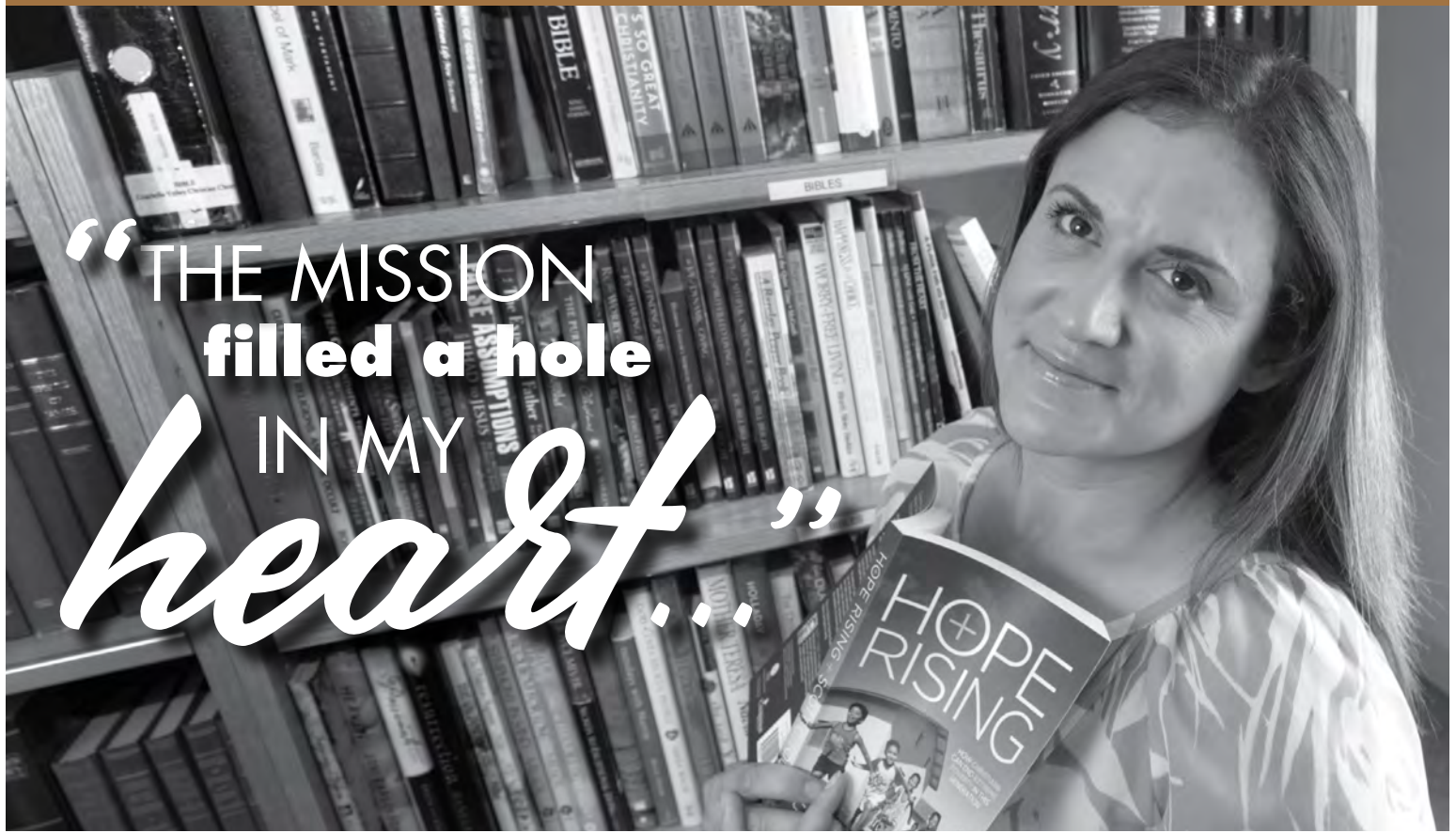
Darla Burkett, Executive Director

WE COULDN'T STOP SMILING!

Big smiles for new backpacks!

Nearly 3,000 children (ages 5-17) came to our annual Backpack Bonanza for school supplies & clothing...and now, they're back at school with heads held high and new backpacks filled with school supplies. Thank you to all the people, businesses and volunteers who helped - this is only possible because of you!





“THE MISSION
filled a hole
IN MY
heart...”

Ester was working towards a career in law when she received some tragic news. Her ex-husband had passed away. Shocked, grieving and saddened, Ester didn't know how to process his death...and so she blamed herself.

Not knowing how to cope, she turned down a path of darkness, trying to numb her pain of loss. “On top of the grief also came the pressures of supporting a family,” Ester says. “I started doing things I am not proud of because I couldn't handle it on my own.”

Ester led a bizarre double life. In one life she was a normal mom raising her two little ones, taking them to school and soccer practice. But in the other, she was doing lots of things that eventually would lead to trouble. She knew it wouldn't last for long...and it didn't.

Ester was sent to jail and she lost everything: her kids...her family's home...and, she felt, her whole life. “I

was determined to get my kids back, but I wasn't really willing to change.”

Even after reuniting with her children, her need for her double life wouldn't let go. She turned towards her old ways as a means to cope with how she had failed everyone she loved. “It seemed like everyone had given up on me – my family, my kids, my attorney – **I was finally ready for a change.**”

And just in time...The judge in her case recommended the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission.

Ester showed up discouraged and doubtful. “I thought I'd only be here for 30 days, just to prove something to the judge,” she says. But she experienced feelings that kept her here: love, acceptance and support, despite her past mistakes. **“From the very first day, the Mission filled a hole in my heart I didn't know was there.”**

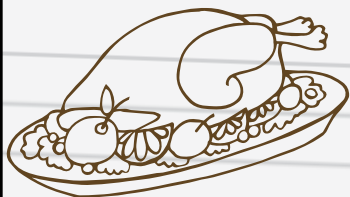
She held off on entering the New Life Program because she wanted to

get her kids back. When the judge granted her full custody of her kids, she realized it was God at work. “It was God's way of telling me I had to join the program,” Ester says, smiling. “So I joined the New Life Program the next day.”

With counseling, she realized she didn't have to live with her pain alone. With chapel services and classes, she realized God was full of grace. And with classes in parenting, finance and personal independence, she realized it was possible to change...and to live free of her double life.

Today Ester is reunited with her children and they're living in a home of their very own. She is employed full time, self-sufficient, and also engaged to be married this fall.

“God has completely restored my family and my life. I am finally the mother and woman God wants me to be! **I owe it all to the Mission – they've given me everything I once lost, and more.**”



DONATE FOOD

Please consider hosting a food drive or donating these needed items before Monday, November 21:

Turkeys & Ham

Stuffing

Potatoes & yams

Canned vegetables

Bacon

Eggs

Butter

Pies

Whipped cream

Canned cranberry sauce

Drop off donations at the Mission, 47-470 Van Buren Street in Indio, 7 days a week. Thank you!

Don't have time to shop?

Donate now!

(760) 347-3512

CVRM.org

THANKSGIVING FOR EVERYONE!

Wednesday, Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Dinner from 1-6 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 24: Thanksgiving Breakfast & Dinner

Will you join in and set more places at our table for hungry people this Thanksgiving? We need your help!

Just look at our needs this holiday:

- **2,000+ meals** for men, women & children
- **700+ food boxes** for families, seniors & people in desperate need of food

And there's no way we can serve thousands of people without you!



VOLUNTEER: YOU CAN HELP FROM NOW UNTIL THANKSGIVING DAY.

Contact **Desire Tegge** ☎ (760) 347-3512, ext.221 📧 dtegge@cvrn.org