

a publication of COACHELLA VALLEY RESCUE MISSION

A NEW DAWN



Don't Miss **2** A Message from Darla Burkett **3** "You can find true happiness and contentment through Christ." **4** The perfect gift? Look no further!

A weary heart **REJOICES.**

Chris was exhausted from his struggles and searching for a way forward.

Today, Chris feels
the thrill of hope in his life
— because of YOU!

READ HIS STORY ON PAGE 3.





"You can find **true happiness** and contentment **through Christ.**"

Chris describes his life before the Mission as a roller coaster: "Heading every which way... Things are great, and then it takes a sudden dive." Chris had no peace. His spirit was in a constant state of anxiety.

As a kid, Chris says he was a "goofball," getting involved in the wrong things out of innocent curiosity. But it quickly escalated, and Chris discovered drugs were "great at covering up all the issues of life."

Finally, Chris realized he didn't want to live that life anymore. He wanted to address his issues face-on. But he arrived at the Mission a bit uneasy. A life of uncertainty had made him afraid to trust.

However, one of our staff members showed him compassion – something Chris hadn't seen from anyone in a very long time.

"He told me to just enjoy this new chapter of my life because everything was going to be alright." Peace washed over Chris.

Everything did turn around. The Mission gave him warm, clean clothes, and as for meals, Chris says, "We eat like kings."

But the most important gift Chris says he has received is learning about Christ. **"The Christian discipleship program seeks to pull us out of the rat race and put us in a life that has purpose... that really gives a more defined light at the end of the tunnel."**

In the New Life Program, which includes counseling, job training and classes, Chris says, "They really bring me down to earth. They get me out of my head and make me more aware of my environment, of my own emotions."

The leadership has had a profound impact on Chris too. **"They are nice, kind people who really make you feel comfortable about being here... they are all very humble."**

At the Mission, he says they equip you for real recovery with Christ at the center. **"To take all our worries and doubts in ourselves and give them to God is liberating."**

"GOD ALLOWS ME TO MOVE FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF."



Chris hopes to become a missionary one day and is thrilled by his transformation thanks to God's love in his life – and your support. **"This Mission is a seed, and we are the result of it flourishing. Our successes, our actions, what we do with our lives give testament to the works of the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission."**



Bring **HOPE** *to weary hearts*

Caroling angels. Christmas pageants. Celebrations around the world. Christmas is truly a thrilling time of year.

It's a time to share love. A time to raise hopes. A time to be joyful!

I think the Christmas carol "O Holy Night" puts it best: **A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices / For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!**

But that's exactly what makes Christmas **a very difficult time** for the men, women and children who make their home with us here at the Mission.

While it feels like the world is rejoicing around them, most of our guests would tell you they have very little to celebrate. Many are apart from their families, separated from spouses and children. Their hearts are weary from their struggles with homelessness or other desperate situations.

It's your gifts that **make Christmas the very best day possible for them** – and provide them with the thrill of new hope!

Special meals. Decorations. Small gifts. And above all, a celebration of that very first Christmas... a reminder for them – and for all of us – that miracles do happen and prayers are answered!

As you keep the Coachella Valley's hurting and homeless in your prayers, I pray you'll share the joy of the season through a gift that transforms lives forever... filling people with joy and new hope.

This then is my Christmas wish for all who join us here at the Mission during the holidays, and for you and those who are near and dear: **Let weary hearts experience the thrill of hope!**

Darla Burkett
Executive Director



34,000

MEALS BY DEC. 25

OUR GOAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Each meal you provide today is so much more than a plate of food. It's a chance to end someone's hunger or homelessness – and offer them the gift of a thrilling new life this Christmas.

✉ GIVE NOW

using the enclosed reply card & envelope.

💻 GIVE ONLINE

anytime at **CVRM.org**.

Thank you
for sharing your blessings & bounty!

VOLUNTEER TO SHARE

The Thrill **OF** **HOPE**

THIS CHRISTMAS WITH PEOPLE IN NEED!

Volunteering at the Mission means more than just helping. It means sharing your time. Giving the gift of welcome and friendship. Using your gifts, skills and passions to make a difference in the lives of people in need.

For more information on ways you can get involved, visit our website at **CVRM.org/volunteer-central**. Or, call (760) 347-3512, ext. 221.

The perfect gift? Look no further!

Make your #GivingTuesday gift now by shopping our Christmas Gift Catalog – it's full of ways to save and change even more lives!

Shop our Gift Catalog online at **CVRM.org/GiftCatalog**. Or simply add your special Christmas gift to the enclosed reply card.

\$25

A hot meal at the Mission may be people's only meal of the day.



NOURISHING MEALS

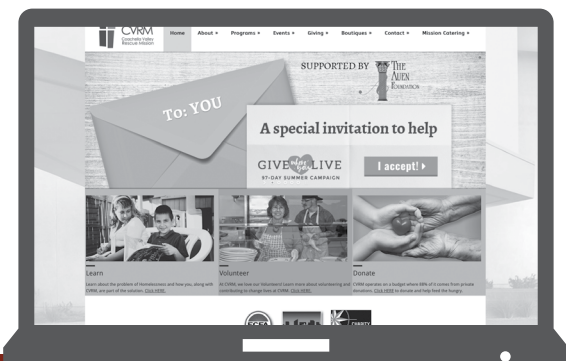


HOLIDAY HERO PACK

\$55

Give even more with our Holiday Hero Pack! It includes 10+ hot meals, 2+ nights of shelter & access to clothing, medical care & recovery programs!

THERE ARE EVEN MORE WAYS TO SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER ONLINE!



SAFE SHELTER

\$50

It's so much more than a bed! During winter, it's protection from hypothermia, frostbite & worse when temperatures drop.

These Christmas gifts are representative of the needs of people served by Coachella Valley Rescue Mission. Donations may be used to support the area of ministry where the need is greatest.

Learn more about our outreach, read stories of hope & securely donate anytime. **CONNECT WITH US**

 **CVRM.org**

