

a publication of COACHELLA VALLEY RESCUE MISSION

A NEW DAWN



Summer 2019

Don't miss...

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3 "There was a God-shaped hole inside."

4 90 Days of Summer

From Isolation and Despair to the Power of *God's Love*

Because friends like you *give where you live*, James and others like him are rebuilding their lives.

GIVE  LIVE
92-DAY SUMMER CAMPAIGN



A Message from
DARLA BURKETT

Help Meet the Challenge Here at Home

While many in the Coachella Valley are enjoying summer rest and relaxation, those who are homeless have no escape from their physical discomfort, mental anguish and spiritual despair... without our help and yours.

So here's the challenge:

As temperatures soar to triple digits and needs increase, our donations typically decline. Yet the meals we will serve throughout June, July and August cost nearly \$169,200 alone!

I'm so grateful for your partnership – and during this critical time, I pray you will continue to stand alongside us. Please *give where you live* through our summer campaign, which is underway now.

Your generous gift will provide nutritious food, cool shelter during our hot desert summers, addiction recovery and faith-based guidance to people who have lost all hope. Your ongoing support will relieve burdens and rebuild lives right here at home.

God bless you for remembering those who are hurting this summer. Your compassion lets them know they're not alone.



Darla Burkett

Darla Burkett
Executive Director

Through the 3 MONTHS of Summer your gifts will provide...



90,000 meals



24,000 beds



hundreds of
clothing items



heartfelt &
life-transforming
decisions for
Christ



countless hours
of counseling &
education

Give Where You Live!
**Our 92-Day Summer
Campaign is underway now.**

✉ Send your gift today.

💻 Give online at **CVRM.org**.

This time of year, gifts typically drop off, so we need your help now more than ever!

GIVE *where you* LIVE
92-DAY SUMMER CAMPAIGN

Non-perishable food needed

When the hungry in our community come to the Mission, they know they can count on receiving food boxes that will help feed their families in the coming days.

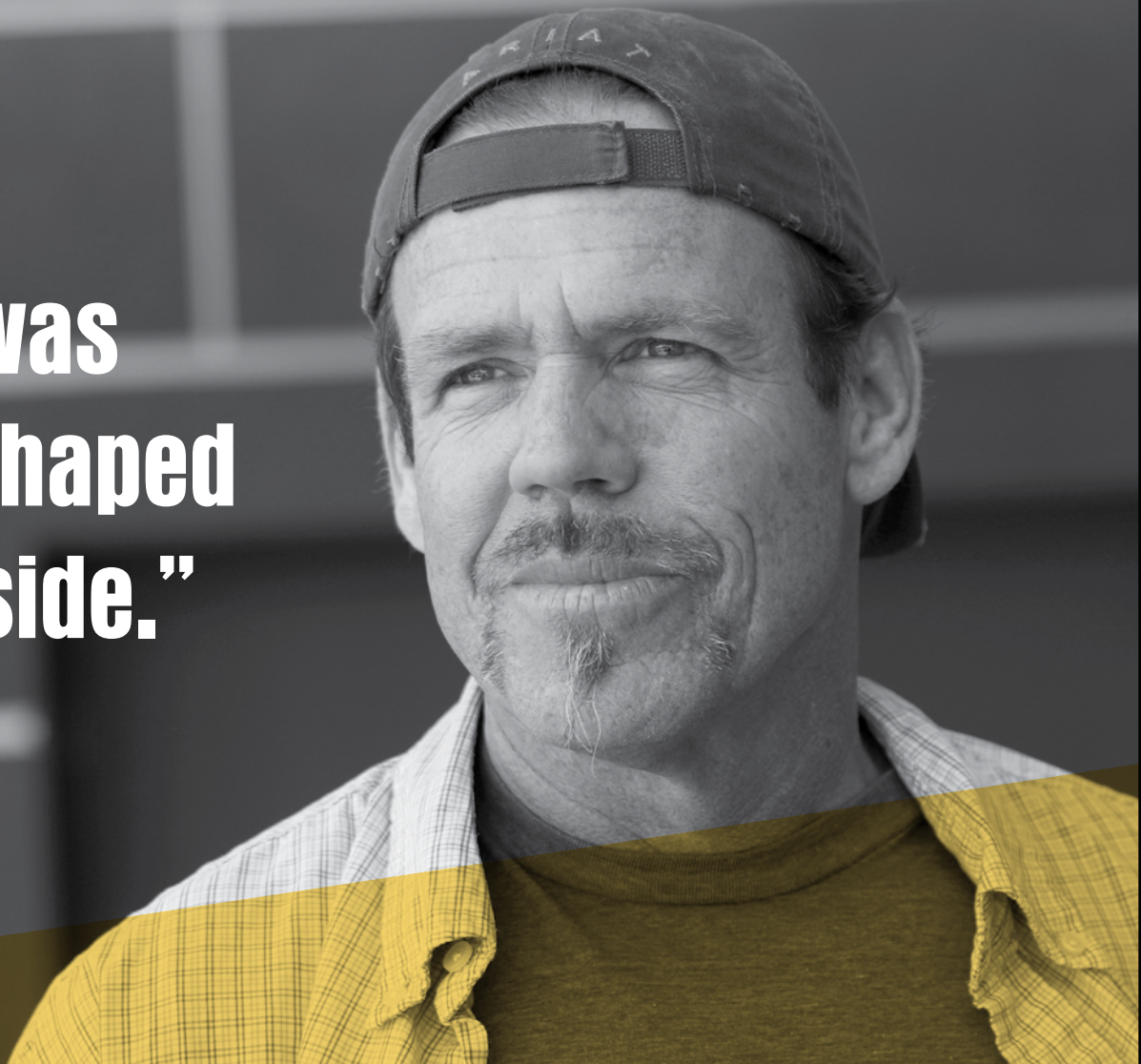
We need your help to restock our shelves so we can continue filling these life-sustaining boxes! We're in need of the following items

Drop off donations seven days a week at the Mission Donation Dock, 47-470 Van Buren St., Indio, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and after hours at the security office. Thank you!

- Hot and cold cereals
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Canned chicken or tuna
- Pasta
- Rice
- Pasta sauce
- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables



“There was a God-shaped hole inside.”



James was just 11 years old when his parents divorced and his mother left. “My mom used to beat me, but I’d have taken a beating every day for the rest of my life if she wouldn’t have left,” he says.

He lived with his father after that, but they didn’t see much of each other. “He’d take me to school, pick me up, then go back to work. So I’d be home by myself a lot at 11 years old,” he says.

James began sneaking alcohol to numb the pain of feeling abandoned – the beginning of a decades-long struggle with addiction. “There was a God-shaped hole inside,” he says. “I believed in God. I just never trusted that He wouldn’t leave me, too.”

As an adult, he had four daughters, but aside from financial support, he wasn’t a part of their lives. “I did to them what was done to me,” he says.

Though James completed recovery programs and maintained his sobriety for years at a time, that God-shaped hole remained. “I never found God in those programs,” he says.

He wasn’t expecting anything different when he came to the Mission. But through our New Life

Program, Bible studies, chapels and mentoring, he encountered God for the first time in his life and began to trust Him.

**— “I realize now that God
never left me.” —**

James can’t forgive himself for not being there for his daughters in the past, but he plans to be there for them in the future. “How I handle life from this day forward is what it’s about now,” he says.

Today, James has completed CVRM’s New Life Program. He is working full-time so he can assist his daughters with their college tuition. Best of all, he’s growing in his trust of the Father who will never leave him, who filled the God-shaped hole in his soul.

And he’s grateful to friends like you for your continuing support of the Mission. “God is in this place. I feel it.”

10th Annual BACKPACK DRIVE

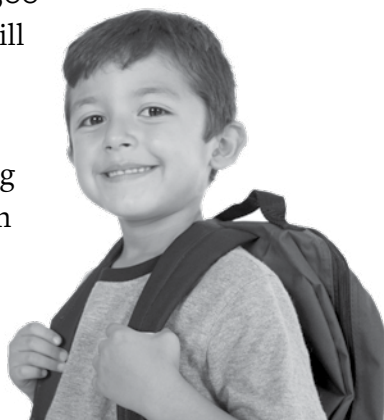
Thousands of children in the Coachella Valley will face the coming school year without the supplies needed to complete class assignments and do their homework.

You can make a difference in their lives by improving the quality of their education and instilling in them a belief in the compassion of others.

Make that difference by donating to our 10th Annual Backpack Drive!

Our goal this year is to fill at least 2,500 backpacks with all the supplies a child will need for a successful school year. Here's how you can help:

- ➔ Purchase supplies from the shopping list and drop them off at the Mission before 8 a.m. on August 10.
- ➔ Send a gift in the enclosed envelope and we'll buy and fill a backpack for you.



Backpacks	Pencil Sharpeners	Pocket Portfolios
Pencils	Subject Dividers	Art Pads
Pencil Holders	Calculators	Glue Sticks
Blue/Black Pens	12" Rulers	School Glue
Notebook Paper	Colored Pencils	Protractors
Spiral Notebooks	Felt-Tip Markers	Safety Scissors
3-Ring Notebooks	Crayons	Dictionaries
K-3 Writing Tablets	Erasers	
Highlighters	Hole Punches	

For a printable copy of the list, please visit CVRM.org/backpack.

Help us help the homeless through 90 DAYS OF SUMMER

For many of us, hot summer days mean swimming pools, sprinklers and frosted glasses of tea. But for our community's homeless, summer in the desert can mean life-threatening dehydration and heat exhaustion.

Coachella Valley Rescue Mission is reaching out to the "least of these" once again through our **90 Days of Summer Initiative**. From June 1 through August 30, we'll be providing water and other items to help our hungry and homeless neighbors safely endure the summer months outdoors. And, as we build relationships through consistent presence, we'll encourage them to come into our shelter, out of the sweltering heat.

Please help us in this life-saving initiative by donating the following:

- Cases of bottled water
- Individually-wrapped snacks
- Sample or hotel-sized toiletries
- Chapstick
- Caps and hats

Drop off donations seven days a week at the Mission Donation Dock, 47-470 Van Buren St., Indio, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and after hours at the security office. Thank you!

I'll Give Where I Live!

Darla, here's my special summertime gift to provide meals, shelter, care – and hope!

- ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50
- ☐ \$75 ☐ \$150
- ☐ \$_____ to help as much as possible

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

☐ CHECK ENCLOSED ☐ BILL MY CREDIT CARD

☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ DISCOVER ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS

CREDIT CARD # _____

EXP. DATE _____

CIV/SEC # _____

PHONE # _____

EMAIL _____

Donate now! ☎ (760) 347-3512 🌐 CVRM.org

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

