

a publication of COACHELLA VALLEY RESCUE MISSION

# A NEW DAWN



Summer 2021

Don't miss...

**2** Love Your Neighbor!

**2** Our Summer 6


**3** "The Mission lifted me up."

**YOUR SUPPORT  
IS GIVING  
JESSE  
A SECOND  
CHANCE**

and he can't thank  
you enough!







# “I was lost, but **THE MISSION** STOOD BY ME AND LIFTED ME UP.”

Jesse's mother was in the military, and when he was born, she saw him as nothing but an obstacle to her military career. “She blamed me for having to stay home and said her life went to hell because of me,” he says. “She always put me down and beat me.”

When he was eight years old, Jesse turned to his father's outlaw biker club for acceptance. “I started riding with him and he told me if I wanted to try drugs to come to him. I was 12 the first time I used.”

From then on, Jesse's life was filled with addiction and violence,

but the Bible verses his grandmother read him when he was a little boy were still hidden in his heart. And after 15 years as an outlaw biker, he turned his life

around. “I came back to God,” he says.

Eventually, he wound up in a relationship with a woman who mentally

abused him, making him feel worthless like his mother once had. He fell into a severe depression, but instead of turning to drugs, he entered our New Life Program.

Through Bible studies, chapel services and spiritual counseling, Jesse's faith grew strong and he felt God's call to ministry. **“Everything that's happened to me has made me a stronger soldier for Christ,”** he says.

A graduate of the program, Jesse now runs a sober living house and his own nonprofit called Another Shot Ministries. “I do outreach with the homeless, providing bags of snacks, socks and hygiene supplies. And if they want to start over, I give them a ride to the Mission.”

**Jesse is beyond grateful for this second chance in life – and says it's thanks to the love you've shown for a neighbor like him.** “I was lost, but the Mission stood by me and lifted me up. Now I'm needed and wanted and happy.”

“I'm not scared to go into the darkness to pull somebody back into the light.”

# LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!

It starts with a meal for \$1.88!

## A Message from DARLA BURKETT

### Love Your Neighbor... And Help Meet Our Summer Challenge

The Bible tells us in Mark 12:31 (ESV), "You should love your neighbor as yourself." And in these challenging times as many of our neighbors are hurting, those words are especially important.

You've seen how much people are struggling right now. Many are facing hunger or unemployment... or even greater difficulties like homelessness or addiction. You see their suffering and want to give them a helping hand and show them God's love.

That's why I'm thankful for friends like YOU. The summer months can be difficult at the Mission – the meals we serve during June, July and August require \$131,600 alone. Then you factor in the costs to provide safe shelter and faith-based recovery services during the ongoing pandemic, as more of our neighbors need help, and it all adds up.

#### ***We can't meet this summer challenge without your help!***

During these busy months, I hope you will remember our homeless and struggling neighbors. They need your encouragement, prayers and compassion more than ever. Your financial support of the Mission is also critical to help make their transformation possible.

Thank you for loving your neighbors this summer and all year long.



*Darla Burkett*

Darla Burkett  
Executive Director

## 3 MONTHS OF *Summer*

**Help meet our community's needs!**

Your gift today provides:



70,000 meals



23,000 beds



hundreds of  
hygiene items



countless hours of  
counseling & education



life-transforming decisions  
for Christ

**DONATIONS SLOW DOWN IN SUMMER...  
PLEASE HELP TODAY!**



**LOVE YOUR  
NEIGHBOR**

98-DAY SUMMER CAMPAIGN



**Give now! [CVRM.org](http://CVRM.org) Support our Summer Campaign now!**

Do you know our

**SUMMER 6?**



Our "Summer 6" are essential items in high demand for our Mission guests all summer long.

**We'd LOVE if you helped by donating any – or all – of these items!**

You can deliver your Summer 6 donations to 47-470 Van Buren Street in Indio, 7 days a week. It's a great way to care for our guests at the Mission this summer!



1. Bottled water
2. Hand sanitizer
3. Canned food of all kinds
4. Toilet paper
5. Bar soap
6. Clothing





# Give a child a reason to smile!



Many students will be attending virtual classes this year because of COVID-19, but they'll still have homework and other projects to complete. Yet, thousands of impoverished children here in the Coachella Valley won't have the supplies they need to complete those assignments.

You can change that!

You can provide them with needed supplies, improve the quality of their education and instill in them a belief in the compassion of others through our **12th Annual Backpack Drive**.

Due to CDC social distancing guidelines, there will be no business drop-off locations this year, but donating is still easy!

- Purchase supplies from our SHOPPING LIST online and drop them off at the Mission at 47-470 Van Buren St., Indio, before 2 p.m. on August 5, OR
- Send a donation in the enclosed envelope and we will fill a bag for you, OR
- Log onto **[www.cvrn.org/school-supplies](http://www.cvrn.org/school-supplies)** and make a donation online.

Fill a backpack with everything a child needs for a successful school year on campus or online. Let them know that someone they never met cares about their future. Give them a reason to smile.

**Thank you!**

## Make This the Month YOU Make a Difference!

*"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few."* The Mission is always in need of caring, compassionate volunteers to lend a hand in all areas:

- Serve a meal
- Become a mentor or tutor
- Sort donations and assist customers at our New LIFE Resale Boutiques
- Assist our Maintenance Manager with yard work, light repair jobs and cleaning
- Work in the office or remotely
- Contact us for other remote volunteer opportunities

Rest assured that we're following all health and safety precautions necessary to make your volunteering experience absolutely safe.

For more information or to sign up to volunteer, visit [CVRM.org/ways-to-give/volunteer](http://CVRM.org/ways-to-give/volunteer).

**Thank you!**

