



Holiday 2021

a publication of COACHELLA VALLEY RESCUE MISSION

A NEW DAWN

Don't miss...

2 Celebrating rebirth
this Christmas.

3 "We could have
lost our children..."

4 Giving
Tuesday




A Family's Hope

Rachel and her family
enjoy God's blessings
for a fresh start.

**BECAUSE OF YOU, THERE IS HELP &
HOPE FOR PEOPLE LIKE RACHEL – AT
CHRISTMAS AND ALL YEAR LONG.**





**“If we hadn’t
come to the
Mission, we
would have lost
our children.”**

Rachel and her husband gave generously to help friends who couldn’t make ends meet. “But our friends used us, pretty much pushing us out on the street,” she says.

Drained of the little they had and now unable to afford rent, the young parents scrambled to secure safe housing. **“We called over 40 shelters, and they were all full,”** Rachel remembers.

Rachel’s husband worked odd jobs while she tried to help their two young kids escape the harsh desert heat. They’d sit for hours in a library. Sometimes she’d go to McDonald’s just to bathe her little ones in the sink.

They ended up on the streets, sometimes with only a tent or tarp. If they couldn’t get on their feet, CPS planned to adopt out their children. “It wasn’t fair,” Rachel says. **“We weren’t bad parents – we just couldn’t get out of our situation.”**


Rachel and her children entered a temporary women’s shelter – but her husband wasn’t allowed to stay.

Then Rachel discovered she was pregnant...


Fear of losing her children overshadowed the joyful news. But then a new friend suggested Rachel’s family try the Mission.

Here, Rachel and her children received their own room in our family house. With her husband staying in our men’s area, the family enjoyed more time together,

and they had the time and safe environment to work toward making a better life. “We even have a kitchen,” Rachel says. **“We’re able to feed our children like we would in our own home.”**



**“Not having a bed for your children
to sleep in at night... knowing your
children are hungry and you can’t
feed them... that kills a mother. That
killed me every day.”**



Today, Rachel and her family have secured their own apartment, and are happily living independently – free from the streets and uncertainty.

Because of your support, Rachel, and other mothers like her, are finding help and hope when they walk through the doors of Coachella Valley Rescue Mission – during the holidays and all year long. “You don’t have to give up your kids because you’re homeless. The Mission has everything parents need to get back on your feet.”

Celebrating Christmas with JOY for All People

In Luke 2:10, the angel says,
*"Behold, I bring you good tidings
of great joy, which shall be to all
people."*

During the Christmas season,
we hear a lot about joy. It has me
thinking about how joy is something
all people can have in their hearts.
This time of year, our greatest joy is
celebrating the birth of our Savior
and the eternal life we have been
freely given.

That joy is what fills our hearts
Christmas morning... and, hopefully,
every day of the year. It's the same
joy I see on the faces of the children,
women and men that have come to
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission and
experienced God's life-changing love
up close and personal. The joy YOU
help them experience through your
heartfelt prayers and support.

This Christmas, as you reflect on
the "reason for the season," I hope
you will remember our neighbors
who are hurting. As Rachel's story
shows, your generosity offers help.
Healing. And a chance to be held in
the arms of a loving God.

I am continually humbled by the
faithfulness of friends like you who
joyfully bless others. Thank you, and
may God fill your heart with peace
and love.



Darla Burkett

Darla Burkett
Executive Director

A delicious Christmas meal for our homeless neighbors...

... STARTS WITH YOU!

As you prepare to celebrate the joy
of Christmas, please remember our
hurting neighbors. It's been another
really tough year for so many in our
community – and the very best gift
you can give them is the help they
need right now!

Just \$1.88 provides a meal and care for
one person.

That meal is often the first step
toward a new life through God's love.



\$1.88
for 1 hot meal



\$25.12
for 1 night of
safe shelter

**CAN GIVE
SOMEONE**

**Healing
Hope
And a Second
Chance!**

Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!

SEE HOW YOU HELPED CHANGE RACHEL'S LIFE!

*"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and
be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."*

-Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV)

*Wishing you and your loved ones a
Merry Christmas!*

During this joyous holiday season, our prayer is that God will richly bless
you just as you have blessed your hurting neighbors. Your incredible
generosity has opened the door for healing and transformation by
providing 256,000 meals and 83,000 nights of safe shelter this year.

May His face shine upon you and bring you peace, comfort and joy...
today and all throughout the new year. Thank you, and Merry Christmas!

Give 2X the *Help* on GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, November 30

Giving Tuesday is the perfect time to give back... especially because of our **\$25,000 Matching Challenge!** During this special day of giving, your dollars will double to provide life-changing essentials and services. That's 2x the meals... 2x the shelter... and 2x the recovery services that help people right here in the Coachella Valley.

This is a time for neighbors to help neighbors – especially those who are still struggling to overcome hardships and rebuild their lives on solid ground.

Why Wait? Celebrate GIVING TUESDAY Now!

- ✓ Add your special Giving Tuesday gift on the reply card and send it today.
- 📧 Give online at **CVRM.org**.

Share the joy of Christmas *with a child in need!*

It's a magical time of year. Decorating Christmas trees. Sending wish lists to Santa. Hanging stockings. Wrapping presents in festive paper and bows. Then Christmas morning finally arrives, and children run to see what's waiting for them under the tree.

But for many families in need in the Coachella Valley, Christmas will look quite different. There won't be a sparkling tree or brightly-wrapped presents or stockings filled with surprises.



What if we could help give these families a joy-filled Christmas?

That's just what we're going to do through our **Annual Toy Giveaway** on December 18, 2021, at the Mission! We'll be giving away some 15,000 toys to more than 3,000 children. There'll be candy. And Santa and Mrs. Claus will be stopping by.

But we need your help to make the party a success! Will you donate a new, unwrapped toy for a boy or girl from infant to pre-teen?

Then join us for the festivities as we bless children in need in Jesus' name!

For more information, to volunteer or to organize a toy drop box at your church, business or club, contact Desire' Tegge at ☎ (760) 347-3512, ext. 221, or

✉ dtegge@cvmr.org.

Thank you for your generosity!

Donations may be dropped off at the Mission, 47-470 Van Buren Street, Indio, or in one of our drop box locations before December 18. For a list of drop box locations, go to [CVRM.org](https://www.cvmr.org) and click on "Current Events."

What: Annual Toy Giveaway

When: 7:00 a.m., December 18, 2021

Where: Coachella Valley Rescue Mission
47-470 Van Buren Street, Indio

