



from Christ mother I can be." Change a life! The best Christmas gift there is... has joy and new life, thanks to you!



Sarah was just 13 the first time she came to the Mission. She'd been homeless for years, drifting from place to place with her mother, never knowing where she'd be sleeping at night or if she'd go hungry. "My mom struggled with addiction and we never had a home," Sarah says.

She was so thankful when her mother brought her to the Mission. **She was safe and warm and well-fed and wanted to stay.** But before long, her mother insisted they move on. Sarah never finished high school, never had any direction or dreams. Every day was just about survival. "I always felt depressed. I was miserable."

Then she had a son and she wanted him to have all the opportunities for happiness that she'd never had. "I had to make changes, but I didn't know where to start," Sarah says. "Then I remembered being at the Mission and all the wonderful things they'd done for us."

She brought her son to our New Life Program, where they found safe shelter, nutritious meals, clothing, diapers and other essentials to meet their physical needs. Meanwhile, chapel services, devotions and Bible studies have grounded Sarah in

God's Word and strengthened her faith.

Our counselors and faith-based classes have helped Sarah process her emotional pain, as well. "They teach you how to heal from your past and move forward," she says. "Now, I'm happy."

"Now I put all my trust in the Lord."



She's studying for her GED and her driver's license, and plans to get a job and an apartment where she can make a stable and loving home for her son. Then she's going to college. "I figure I can do anything as long as I put my mind to it."

Sarah is excited to celebrate the restored hope she has been given this Christmas – and wants YOU to know just how grateful she is. "The Mission gave me a safe place to take care of my child and the strength to become the best mother I can be."

A Message from DARLA BURKETT

The **JOY** that Comes from Christ

Don't you just love the words of John 1:14? "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

As we rejoice over the birth of our Savior, it's such a blessing to know God fills our hearts with joy everlasting – today and every day. His faithfulness sustains us through every circumstance and His grace offers renewal in our lives... as well as in the lives of those we serve.

While we do provide Christmas gifts to the guests in our care, what's most important is that they know about Jesus' sacrifice and the gift of salvation that is freely given to us all.

Thanks to your friendship, we're able to share the "good tidings of great joy for all people" during the holidays and throughout the year. Your fervent prayers and ongoing support help restore lives – and wrap local men, women and children in God's loving embrace.

Just like Sarah, whose story we've shared on page 3, God still works miracles in the lives of people all around us.

This Christmas, I hope your heart overflows with peace, joy and love

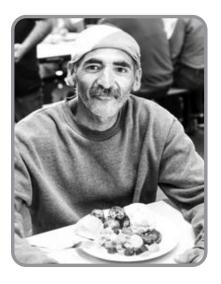
as your blessings abound.



Darla Burkett
Executive Director

SHARE A CHRISTMAS MEAL...

You can help make this
Christmas a time of celebration
for our neighbors who are
hungry and homeless. With so
many obstacles to overcome
during this season of hardship,
they need a helping hand and to
experience God's love!









\$25.12 for 1 night of safe shelter





Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!

\$25,000 Year-End Matching Challenge DOUBLE YOUR HELP!



Here's a huge blessing as we end this year: Thanks to a generous group of partners, any gift you make until December 31 will be matched through our \$25,000 Matching Challenge!

That's right... your gift today <u>doubles</u> to provide <u>twice</u> the food, shelter and care. And that means twice the hope for many of our neighbors who are struggling with inflation, soaring gas prices and other hardships.

DEADLINE TO GIVE: 12/31

- Add your special year-end gift to the reply card and send it today.
- Give online anytime at CVRM.org.

THANK YOU
for doubling your
impact during
our Matching
Challenge!

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me... Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

– Matthew 25:35-36, 40 (NIV)

Changing Lives Tomorrow & Beyond



Your heart breaks with the things that break the heart of God. It's evident in your generous spirit and your compassion for "the least of these."

Did you know that you can continue ministering to the lost and broken after you're gone? When you include Coachella Valley Rescue Mission in your will or estate plan, you'll help us touch and change the lives of those in need tomorrow and beyond.

Ready to talk more about leaving your legacy of compassion? Or just interested in learning more?

Please contact Scott Wolf at (760) 347-3512, ext. 239 or □ swolf@cvrm.org.

Thank you for your giving heart!



Donate a Vehicle.

CHANGE A LIFE!

It's hard to imagine that an old car could change someone's life. But that's just what happens when you donate your used vehicle to Coachella Valley Rescue Mission!

Proceeds from selling or recycling your donation support our programs that save and transform the lives of hopeless and hurting people here in the Coachella Valley.

We're accepting cars, trucks, golf carts, motorcycles, motorhomes and boats, running or not. And all donations are tax-deductible.

For more information, or to schedule a pickup, contact Randy Burke, Facilities Manager at (760) 347-3512, ext. 227 or **property** rburke@cvrm.org.