

A NEW DAWN



Summer 2023

Don't miss...

2 Your love will transform lives this summer!

3 "God has restored everything."

4 Volunteer Spotlight

**THANK YOU
FOR LOVING
YOUR
NEIGHBOR,
DEMARCUS,**

and giving him
hope for the
future!



“I WAS LOST, BUT GOD HAS RESTORED EVERYTHING.”

DeMarcus grew up in a rough neighborhood, surrounded by bad influences and terrible situations. It was all he knew. “I didn’t have a father in my life and the people I looked to as father figures were doing illegal things and going to prison.”

By the time he was 12, DeMarcus was following in their footsteps, running the streets, dealing with addiction and landing in trouble with the law. He lived that way for more than 30 years, costing him custody of his children and robbing him of every good thing in life. He thought it was

all he deserved. “I never loved myself,” he says.

Then, one day, his children’s aunt invited DeMarcus to church and he surrendered his life to the Lord. “I told God I would follow Him and I asked Him to do whatever it took to make me better,” DeMarcus says. “A week later, I woke up knowing I was supposed to come to the Mission.”

DeMarcus entered our New Life Program, where he’s grown closer to the Lord through chapel services, Bible studies and Christian mentoring. “God is creating a clean



“THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I’VE EVER LOVED MYSELF.”

heart in me and renewing my mind. It’s brought me peace and joy.”

His growing faith, Christian counseling and life skills classes have helped DeMarcus process his emotional pain and learn to live his life in a new way. “I’m a better person, with a strong work ethic, integrity, motivation and strength,” he says.

His relationships with his children have now been

restored, and after graduation, DeMarcus plans to get a place of his own where they can stay and he can give them the love and guidance he always longed for. “I’m going to be a good father for my kids.”

DeMarcus is thankful for the way you have answered God’s calling to love your neighbor as yourself – and have helped him learn how to love himself. “I was lost, but God has restored everything.”

“Serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” - Galatians 5:13b-14

A meal for \$2.22 is an easy way to **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!**



A Message from **DARLA BURKETT**

Thank you for **loving your neighbors as yourself**

We all need a helping hand from time to time. No one makes it through life without a little care and compassion along the way. That's what loving your neighbors is all about, right?

And yet, you and I know that God's Word has a way of challenging us to go further... of stretching our faithfulness beyond what we thought possible. The Lord makes the impossible POSSIBLE at the Mission, thanks to the generosity of friends like YOU.

Now, as the summer months approach, I hope we can count on you during our 3-month Love Your Neighbor campaign.

Time and time again in Scripture, we're told not just to "love your neighbor" but to "love your neighbor as yourself." That's a big difference! It's making the needs of others a priority equal with your own from the beginning.

I'm so grateful for friends like you who give in this way to help men, women and children in the Coachella Valley who are hurting and homeless. And I ask for your continued support through the summer, when the weather can be extremely dangerous for people who live outside.

Thank you for offering a helping hand to your neighbors most in need - and for continuing to love them **as yourself.**



Darla Burkett

Darla Burkett
Executive Director

YOUR LOVE will transform lives this summer!

Your gift today provides:



70,000 meals



23,000 beds



hundreds of hygiene items



countless hours of counseling & education



life-transforming decisions for Christ

DON'T FORGET OUR NEIGHBORS THIS SUMMER... SHOW YOU CARE WITH YOUR GIFT TODAY!

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
98-DAY SUMMER CAMPAIGN

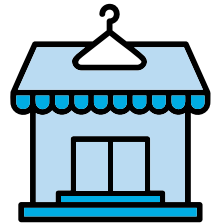
Give now!
CVRM.org



Support our Summer Campaign to restore hearts & rebuild families!

Find a bargain, bless a life...

VISIT OUR NEW LIFE RESALE BOUTIQUE.



When you shop at our New Life Resale Boutique or donate your gently-used items, you're helping to save and transform lives here in the Coachella Valley.

All Boutique proceeds go to support our life-changing programs and services, clients in our residential recovery programs receive on-the-job training and neighbors in need have access to affordable essentials.

- **Shop** at our Boutique at 1398 6th Street in Coachella, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Donate** by calling (760) 347-3512, ext. 300 to schedule a pickup right from your home.

For more information, go to **CVRM.org**. Thank you!



Help your neighbors **BEAT THE HEAT** this summer!

You know how hot it can get in the Coachella Valley in summertime... now imagine being out on the streets or even living in a car in this heat. **Our homeless neighbors are at risk of heat stroke, dehydration or even death – especially those who are most vulnerable**, like seniors or families with children.

But this summer, YOU can help! You can show our hurting neighbors they haven't been forgotten by providing them with essentials such as:



**Cool water to drink
& nourishing meals**



**Refreshing showers
& safe shelter**



**Clean clothes & socks –
our most requested item!**

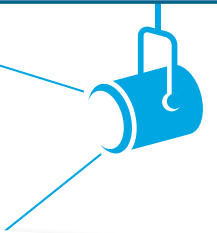


**Sunscreen &
hygiene items**

In addition to these basics, you'll welcome them to the Mission where they can recover and rebuild their lives. You provide medical care to treat any health challenges. Faith-based counseling to heal from past trauma. Classes and job training to promote independence. Everything they need for healthier, more stable lives!

To see how you can help meet our neighbors' most urgent summer needs, visit cvrn.org/ways-to-give/give-food-supplies/.

VOLUNTEER Spotlight



Meet Ralf Kwaak, a man with a heart of gold, called to share the love of the Lord with those in need here at the Mission.



For seven years, Ralf has been ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of our guests, serving as a cook five days a week and sharing the Word of God at every turn.

“Ralf’s love for the Lord called him to serve at CVRM, to share His love, light, joy, spirit and Word with all of us,” says Kristen Crawford, our Development Coordinator. “Ralf feels blessed by the opportunity. Whenever anyone asks him how he’s doing, he says, ‘Blessed by the best!’”

Thank you, Ralf, for all you do to bring healing and hope!

Do you have a heart to share your God-given gifts, time and talents with those in need? Then volunteering at the Mission may be for you! For more information, go to CVRM.org/ways-to-give/volunteer.