

# A NEW DAWN



Fall 2024

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## Giving thanks for YOU

**INSIDE:** Kristi shares how your support changed her life!



# Giving thanks for YOU this fall



## A Message from DARLA BURKETT

Sometimes I wonder, what would become of the struggling neighbors Coachella Valley Rescue Mission cares for if it wasn't for your compassion and generosity?

I think of people like Kristi, whose story you can read on Page 3 – her testimony is a powerful reminder of how God works through the gifts and prayers of friends like you to transform lives, now and for eternity!

**I thank God for how YOU are providing hope, help and healing to people who are hurting in our community.**

From the essentials of food, warm clothing and safe shelter... to long-term healing and stability through our

recovery program – with you beside us and faith as our foundation – our ministry can provide all this and even more life-changing services this fall.

As we prepare to serve an estimated 90,000 meals to our hungry neighbors, I pray you'll continue to share your time, talent and gifts with our ministry, knowing God will use your blessings to restore hope in many lives.

Thank you for giving me – and countless clients at Coachella Valley Rescue Mission – a reason to give thanks this fall!

Darla Burkett, Executive Director

## YOU'RE MAKING GOALS AND DREAMS POSSIBLE...

At the Mission, hopes and dreams come to life – thanks to friends like you! Because of your prayers and support, men and women in our recovery program look forward to brighter futures.



*"I'm in awe of everything God has done. He gave me my life back... I've been through so much and He has me still standing strong."*

*"I was lost, but the Mission helped me find the right path. I'm walking with Jesus now, and I want to help others find freedom and hope."*



Thank you for believing that everyone deserves the opportunity to build a better, more fulfilling life!

To find out more about how you're helping transform lives, visit [CVRM.org](http://CVRM.org).



### Join Our

# 2024 THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN

## 90,000

### Meals Needed this Thanksgiving Season

This Thanksgiving, countless clients will gather at our tables. Many are alone... longing to overcome homelessness and poverty... wishing they could reunite with their families.

You can help them now! **For just \$2.22, YOU can provide a meal** to nourish their bodies and lift their spirits. Your gift welcomes someone who is hurting to our table and surrounds them with life-changing care:

  
Safe, welcoming shelter

  
Warm clothing, coats & shoes

  
Classes & job training

  
God's unconditional love

**Please help our neighbors in need this holiday season!** Send your 2024 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today using the enclosed reply card and envelope OR online at [CVRM.org](http://CVRM.org).



*Scan to see how you can help this fall!*

# “I’VE PUT THE PIECES OF MYSELF **BACK** **TOGETHER.**”



**K**risti grew up with a strong motivation to create the family and life she wanted. “I had children young,” she says, “and I worked hard to become a nurse’s assistant.”

Her brother had struggled with addiction for years. When he told Kristi it was the only thing keeping him calm, she decided she had to know what it felt like for herself. “I tried it and fell in love with it. And it was just rock bottom ever since.”

The addiction overtook her life rapidly. “I started forgetting to pay bills, and they just piled up.” It cost her more than just money. “My mother refused to let me stay in her house. She kept my six kids, but I couldn’t come back unless I changed.”

She planned to find a new living situation quickly, but her addiction was all she could think about. “A couple of days turned into nine years of homelessness,” she says. “I was spiritually broken, my life was in pieces and I was cut off from everyone I loved... I couldn’t even see my children on their birthdays.”

When a caseworker brought Kristi to the Mission,

she had almost given up hope. “My biggest challenge was being able to forgive myself for the things I’d done wrong and how I’d hurt the people I love.”

From her first day at the Mission, and eventually as a member of the Gateway program, Kristi felt God’s healing that she hadn’t thought possible. “The environment and people here just emphasize real love and care, and everything they teach us helps structure our lives with Christ as the center.”

Through employment opportunities at the Mission – including working in the Annex – Kristi has rekindled her desire to build a full, joyful life for her family. “I want to get a nursing degree, and I want to own my own home. I’ve got grandkids now, and I want to see them play in my backyard.”

**This fall, Kristi gives thanks for YOU and your incredible generosity. Your prayers and support have helped change her life.** “The Mission showed me that there’s no greater love than the love that God has for us. They’ve opened my eyes and given me a second chance, by the grace of God.”

“THEY SHOWED ME LOVE WHEN I DIDN’T LOVE MYSELF AND HELPED ME START OVER.”





# Turn Your Old Car Into Someone's Second Chance!

That car, truck, boat or other vehicle that's taking up space in your garage, yard or driveway could be providing life-changing care for hungry, homeless men, women and children through Coachella Valley Rescue Mission Vehicle Donation!

It's easy to donate your vehicle to the Mission:

### Free Pick-Up

from your home or office, running or not.

**A Great Tax-Deduction**  
for the value of your vehicle.

**Fast and Easy –**  
no paperwork or registration necessary.

We do it all! Contact Randy Burke at **(760) 347-3512, ext. 227** or **rburke@cvrn.org** and your car will be picked up by a professional towing company at your convenience.

To learn more, visit **[CVRM.org/ways-to-give/vehicle-donations](http://CVRM.org/ways-to-give/vehicle-donations)**.



## HOW WILL YOU GET INVOLVED THIS FALL?



### Donate essential items!

Help stock our pantry with food items and provide warm clothing for our struggling neighbors. OR... host a donation drive and invite others to collect much needed items for our community.

To see our urgently needed items, visit [CVRM.org/NeedsList](http://CVRM.org/NeedsList)



### Volunteer with us!

Sign up to serve a meal, lead a class or share an encouraging message at a chapel service. There are many ways you, your family, friends or church can volunteer with us this fall!

To learn more, visit [CVRM.org/Volunteer](http://CVRM.org/Volunteer)



### Start giving monthly!

Join other faithful friends who give monthly! Start giving monthly this fall to provide a steady stream of support for our neighbors during our busiest season.

To learn more, visit [CVRM.org/GiveMonthly](http://CVRM.org/GiveMonthly)

