



# SAN FERNANDO VALLEY Rescue Mission

An Outreach ministry of



August 2011

Changing Lives for Good

## Homeless does not always mean Jobless

At age 14, Dolly Morgan decided she could not spend another night in her abusive foster home. She hopped a train in search of a mother who would love and care for her. The police found her and took her to live with her estranged sister until she was emancipated at 16. This determined young woman went on to graduate from college with a Bachelor's degree and land a prestigious internship with a famous gospel singer.

Dolly was pursuing her dreams and was successful.

Back in her hometown, Dolly's sister was quickly destroying her life.



She was a heavy PCP user and already had several children taken away by the State. When she learned she was pregnant again, she planned on abortion. Dolly convinced her sister to keep this baby girl, later named Raven, and Dolly was eventually given full custody. Dolly moved to Los Angeles, knowing there would be greater job prospects in the entertainment industry to help her with her new family. She wanted to give love, security, and consistency to Raven, something that Dolly never had.

She quickly found work, but was still living in hotels and running out of money. With little Raven, Dolly realized that her new role as a full time mother meant she had to change her rhythm. She would have been fine going from place to place alone, but not as a mom. Dolly "never knew what it meant to have a 'normal' life; a life of consistency, a 9-5 job" and the sort of environment where she believed Raven would thrive.

She needed a hand up, and the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission was there to offer 90 days of refuge and relief for this educated and faith filled woman. Dolly brought Raven to a place she had never been before, a homeless shelter, in May 2011. She couldn't believe it, but she found some needed consistency during her stay at our shelter.

Dolly shared, "Most of the moms and dads here have never had anything consistent in their lives. Most of them come from the Foster Care System, going from place to place and have never held a job." She is grateful for the peace she gets from knowing the mission is there for her and Raven. Things are looking up for this dedicated mom thanks to your caring support of the mission's family shelter.

## A Clean Path to Employment

Renee, known on the streets as “Pirate,” has been receiving services from our Rescue SOS “hot meals and showers program” since 2009. Renee’s drug and alcohol problem was fueled by the pain of the loss of his wife in 2010 and his situation became even worse.

Renee’s only source of income was dumpster diving for recyclables, and the day and night search for so little return became his breaking point. With the encouragement of our SOS team, Renee sobered up and started looking for a job.

After two months clean, Renee landed a job working at a restaurant in Santa Monica. He gives God the credit for helping him push through to a better way of life. Thank you for giving and being a part of “Pirate’s” new life!



Thank you for helping Renee leave this life behind him!

## Tools to Connect to the Job Market

In a competitive job market, job readiness is essential for success. It is even more vital for those who find themselves homeless and in desperate need for employment to get back on their feet. One San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission Volunteer, Cory Vestal, is taking steps to help prepare our guests for successful job hunting.

Cory is a manager of Finance and Reporting. She regularly helps employees in transition write resumes and prepare for future jobs.

While volunteering at last year’s Great Thanksgiving Banquet, she learned more about the need for resume writing skills with the mission guests. Shortly after, she signed up to hold a resume-writing workshop at our shelter.

Cory helped the guests prepare their own resumes, teaching them to showcase talents and build skills for future careers. Most importantly, she reassured the guests that there was hope and opportunities for jobs available. She reminded them that in a line-up of 200 people applying for a job, maybe only five would have a professional resume, and that being prepared would greatly increase their chance of getting hired.

We are so thankful for Cory’s willingness to use her time and talents to better the lives of others that need a hand up!

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