

Rescue Mission News

San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission

CHANGING LIVES FOR GOOD IS OUR ONLY BUSINESS

Rain or Shine - A Story of Commitment

The San Fernando Valley Holiness Church located in Pacoima has been partnering with the mission since 2002 to assist in providing for the homeless. The church, along with other churches, provides meals for the homeless guests at the mission. Their rotation is the first Sunday of every month, rain or shine. Their habit is to meet at the church at 5:30 pm and, along with prepared food, carpool to the mission where they consistently serve. Their service to the homeless goes beyond just feeding them, they also tend to their spiritual needs by sitting with the guests to listen to their stories and pray with them and encourage them. Every Sunday, they also have one of the church members share an experience or testimony with the

guests. "Serving the homeless is a privilege and is providing a very important service, not to mention it is a very satisfying and edifying experience," says Tom Kira, church elder and main organizer of the effort. Additionally, the church helps the mission through all the seasons by taking up collections for "urgent needs" items. Before winter, they usually take up a collection for warm clothing for our guests (which we distribute). During August, the church took up a collection for school supplies and in September, they supplied all the children with brand new school backpacks filled with all the necessities for school. It is a special joy for us to see their faces on a regular basis as they serve through the seasons.



Shelter children experience the warmth of kindness.

Loving to Serve, Serving to Love

"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..." (Matt. 5:43) Christ's command to love demonstrates who motivates us - the Father in heaven. Our love for others, even our enemies, can be a witness to God's gracious rule over this world. It was hard for the Jews living under Roman oppression to adopt this perspective! Our tendency is to go to the easy target for our affections. What reward is there in loving those who are easy to love? We at the mission find ourselves challenged by this kind of love on a daily basis. How do we convert God's great common grace (a warm shower, clean clothes, a warm meal), into that particular kind of Love that truly changes lives? We point to the kindness of God, that He provides us forgiveness in His Son. It is somewhat easier to forgive and work with others when we have been forgiven. That turns our service into loving service!



By Tom Kira

Joining Forces to beat the Cold

A few months ago, we asked you to help with winter weather coat drives. Your generosity has been gratefully received by hundreds of children and adults. In addition to using these gifts in our daily outreaches and in the family shelter, this winter we have initiated a special relationship with the police department in our area. All winter long, police units have been dropping by the office, picking up a few coats, and giving them to those in need! "It's been a blessing to do something kind for the homeless individuals we see all the time, it's also a surprise for them," says Sgt. Patton of North Hollywood division. The need is truly great this time of year. Joining forces with the police has increased our ability to reach that need, and at the most opportune time.



LAPD sees the need each day!

Sole Saving Effort



Annabel is a single mom with a 6 year old boy. She came to America 20 years ago and has 4 older children that are in foster care. Annabel is a very likable person. She smiles and laughs a lot and is always very grateful. When she came to us, she had been renting a room from a member of a church, but was forced to leave when the home was sold. Upon coming to the shelter, we often saw her walking around in only flip flops. The elements had taken their toll on Annabel's feet. Such exposure inhibits healing. Fortunately, thanks to our thrift store, we were able to provide suitable shoes for her. We face this quite often. On the way to learning new patterns of living, it is these little practical items that open hearts and encourage responsiveness. Average folks may get excited when there is a little rain shower that breaks up the monotonous sunshine in Southern California. For our clients, the random weather creates a challenge of "what do I carry with me today?" The right shoes help a little with that decision.

Volunteer Openings

Ways to support us...



- Community Feeding
- Thanksgiving Banquet
- Christmas Celebration
- Clothing Round-up
- Food Drives
- "Thank You" Calls
- Program Meals
- Participate on the Prayer Team

Be a Volunteer Call Today! **(818) 474-1284**

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13422 Saticoy Street, North Hollywood, CA 91605 • (818) 785-4476