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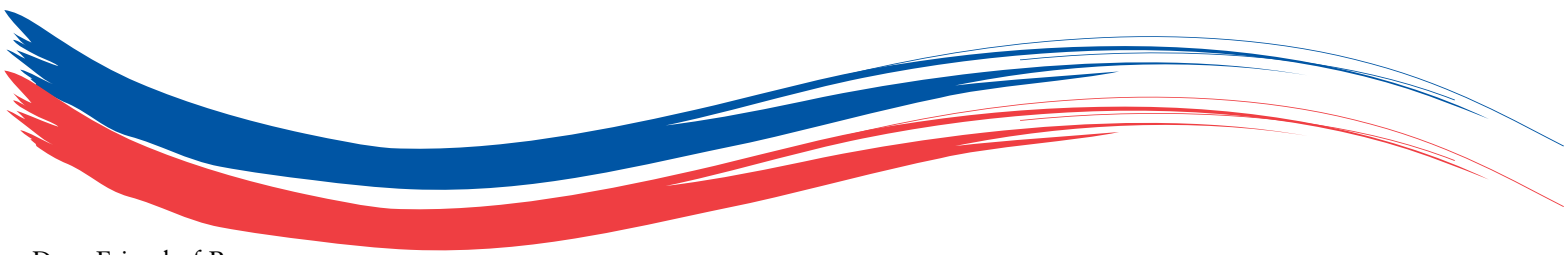
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*Changing lives
for good is our
only business*

Annual
Report





Dear Friend of Rescue,

God is so kind and so good! In a period of economic turmoil and uncertainty for our nation, God continues to pour out His abundant blessings upon this ministry. He is certainly faithful in providing the resources to sustain the many programs and services offered across the ministries of Rescue Mission Alliance...and He provides for us through many faithful supporters that want to see lives changed for good in their communities.

As you look through the numbers in this annual report, remember that each number represents a person. Each meal served and each night of shelter is provided to assist real people that are hurting, hungry, and hopeless. Although they turn to us out of their physical needs, we are able to share the love of God and the good news that Christ is able to meet their spiritual needs as well. This is what compels us to provide refuge, recovery, and restoration on a daily basis to the poor and homeless.

Challenging economic times also present many opportunities...for new staff members, new properties, and new programs and services to meet the increasing needs. We are so grateful to each one of you for giving, praying, volunteering and sacrificing to reach out and help people that are in such desperate need.

Changing lives for good together,

Gary W. Gray

President/Chief Executive Officer

Rescue Mission Alliance

Our Story

Rescue Mission Alliance is a charitable, non-profit organization that has served the hungry and homeless for more than 37 years. The organization began as the Oxnard Rescue Mission, a small emergency shelter for homeless men. The name changed to the Ventura County Rescue Mission in 1989 to better align with the growth in services provided countywide. Expanding services with establishment of the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission and the Valley Food Bank in adjacent Los Angeles County initiated another name change to the Rescue Mission Alliance in 1997. The organization has since grown with the establishment of the Lighthouse Women and Children's Mission in 1998 and expanded to Santa Barbara County in 2003 by adding the Central Coast Rescue Mission in Santa Maria. In 2008, the Victor Valley Rescue Mission was added to meet the growing needs of the homeless and addicted in San Bernardino County. The Rescue Mission Alliance was selected by the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce as "Service Organization of the Year" in 2008, with commendations from the City of Oxnard, County of Ventura, California State Assembly, and U.S. House of Representatives. The combined services of the Rescue Mission Alliance offer emergency shelter, supportive services, hot meals, drug and alcohol recovery, food distribution, vocational training, life skills development, computer learning center services, relapse prevention, community outreach programs, and transitional housing.

OUR MISSION

With the support of our community we offer:

Refuge - Food, shelter, and clothing for those in need.

Recovery - Biblically based programs to minister to the whole person: body, mind, and spirit.

Restoration - Equipping people to lead productive and independent lives.

OUR VISION

- Clients seek us out.
- Employees are proud to work for us.
- Volunteers are eager to serve with us.
- Donors prefer to give to us.
- Customers enjoy shopping with us.



Ventura County Rescue Mission

According to the Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition, approximately 6,000 Ventura County residents experience homelessness over the course of a year. The majority of Ventura County's homeless population still remains unsheltered. Drugs, alcohol, unemployment and mental illness are the leading causes of homelessness.

Since 1972, the Ventura County Rescue Mission has served the poor and homeless, offering hope to literally thousands of hurting people. It is the longest standing year-round shelter for homeless men in Ventura County. In 2008, requests for shelter and meals increased, largely due to the changes in the economy.

In 2008, 51 men graduated our drug and alcohol recovery program.



Our Biblically based recovery program helps men conquer their addictions and learn a new way of life.

"I grew up in a supportive and nurturing family. Whatever the reasons, I began to get into trouble at the age of 12. Drugs and alcohol entered the picture and were my downfall.

My marriage dissolved and I gave up on life, spending the next 30 years homeless and hopeless. I heard about the rescue mission from some friends and came for a good, hot meal. I ended up joining the 9-month drug and alcohol recovery program, accepted Christ, and my life has completely changed. The needles and alcohol are gone. I am thankful to the Lord for being clean and sober and for His salvation."

John – Recovery Program Graduate

In 2008 your support provided...

203,226 meals

39,499 nights of safe shelter

39,499 hot showers

25,428 articles of clothing



Our work therapy and vocational training programs prepare our graduates to succeed in the workplace, sustain their independence, and become contributing members of our community.

“I refused help for my addiction, but with my dad’s prompting and mom’s prayers, I came to the mission. It was the best decision I ever made! Today, I am reunited with my wife and family, involved in church, and have a great job as maintenance supervisor for Rescue Mission Alliance. I get to pray with men and tell them they can succeed because I did. I’m deeply grateful to God and the mission for my new life and look forward to each new day.”



George – Recovery Program and Vocational Training Graduate

Lighthouse Women And Children's Mission

Nationally, 43% of the homeless population are women. In a 2008 shelter census conducted by the Ventura County Homeless & Housing Coalition, 24% of shelter residents were children; the combined total for women and children was 53%.

The Lighthouse Women and Children's Mission has increased the number of beds from 82 to 113 in 2008 to meet the growing needs of homeless women and children in Ventura County.



The Lighthouse offers a full range of services, from emergency shelter to transitional housing. This allows women and women with children the support they need to develop and carry out a plan of refuge, recovery, reunification, and restoration.

In 2008, over 20 children were reunited with their mothers; and 10 women graduated our Life Recovery Program.



“I came to the Lighthouse because it was my last hope. I was tired of being homeless, on drugs, and going in and out of jail. I knew I had to get sober or I was going to end up in prison or dead. My life has become so much better since I’ve been here. I have a great relationship with my son. I’m clean and sober, healthy, and I know that God loves me so much. I don’t know what I would have done or where I would be today if I hadn’t found God or the Lighthouse. I have a bright future ahead of me.”

Cori – Life Recovery Program Graduate



In 2008 your support provided...

- 66,907 meals
- 21,597 nights of safe shelter
- 19,511 hot showers
- 6,312 articles of clothing

In 2008, 94 children received food, clothing and shelter at the Lighthouse.

San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission

On any given night, family members represent 248,500 homeless individuals in the U.S. 42% of children in families experiencing homelessness are age 5 and under. The San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission is meeting this challenge by providing the only emergency family shelter located in the San Fernando Valley.

Guests at the mission receive shelter, hot meals, showers, clean clothes, case management, job training, life skills training, and a renewed sense of hope to overcome their circumstances. The family shelter is open 365 days per year.

In 2008 your support provided...

51,694 meals

21,514 nights of safe shelter

7,674 hot showers

10,552 articles of clothing



In 2008, 50% of the mission's guests were children age 12 and younger.

The San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission's Survival Outreach Services goes out to where the chronically homeless congregate every day. Along with a hot meal, we offer a hot shower, clean clothes, personal hygiene items, and an opportunity to leave life on the streets by enrolling in long-term rehabilitation programs.



In 2008, we helped 124 families find transitional or permanent housing, rescuing them from a life on the streets.



“The most difficult thing about being homeless is the instability and uncertainty. You don’t know where you will sleep or what you will eat. It is very difficult on your self-esteem. You feel like such a failure...that you are not worth anything. Through it all, I have learned to appreciate all that I have and not take anything for granted. It can all be gone tomorrow. I have learned the important lesson of seeking God first, not material possessions.... With God, I now have hope to face the future.”

Mike and Rhonda – Former Homeless Shelter Guests

Valley Food Bank



According to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, close to half a million households don't get enough to eat or struggle with limited access to nutritious food.

The Valley Food Bank has relocated to a larger 10,000 square foot warehouse to increase the capacity to collect and distribute food to the hungry. Our distribution network of 14 organizations is diverse – Emergency Shelters, Soup Kitchens, and Community Pantries.

“I got everything I needed. The folks at the pantry not only provided food but assisted me in getting my life on target – it seemed as though they were always there for me. At times I didn't think it was real, I know they are angels in disguise.”

*Lucy –
Food Pantry Recipient*



In 2008, our volunteers, financial supporters, product donors, and other organizations made it possible for us to continue our fight against hunger and distribute 683,305 pounds of fresh fruits, vegetables and dairy products; 246,191 cans of food and 170,174 packages of dry goods to struggling individuals and families.



It is estimated that over 300,000 children in Los Angeles County don't have access to safe, nutritious food. Our Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope program provides food for thousands of children, seniors, and working poor families.

Central Coast Rescue Mission

On any given night, there are more than 4,000 homeless people on the streets of Santa Barbara County. The Central Coast Rescue Mission is located in Santa Maria to serve this growing population of poor and needy people.

In 2008, our meals outreach served **11,298** hot meals. Our Thanksgiving and Christmas banquets served over **2,000** people.



In addition to the hot, nutritious meals served; your generosity has provided **1,171** food baskets to our needy neighbors.

Our 12-month Life Recovery Program has rescued many from a life of prison, poverty and homelessness.

“By the age of 20, I was addicted to methamphetamine. I stole for my habit and lived on the streets. When I met my wife at age 28 she took me in and got me off the street. Meanwhile, she was still struggling with her own addiction. We both knew that we wanted better things out of life and



we knew it began with a spiritual relationship with God. So, He brought me to the Rescue Mission to give me a second chance in life. He brought me closer to Him and made me realize that there is a better life for me. I want to thank all the staff that God provided for me and for them giving me a chance to become who I am now. I want to thank them for believing in me.”

Santos – Life Recovery Program Graduate

Our work therapy and vocational training programs prepare our graduates to succeed in the workplace.



Recovery program participants learn valuable job skills at the mission’s new thrift store in Santa Maria.

In 2008, 5 men graduated our Life Recovery Program and are now living sober and making positive contributions to their families and community.

Victor Valley Rescue Mission

According to the San Bernardino County Homeless Census and Survey, there are 7,331 homeless individuals on any given night. Unemployment and substance abuse are the primary causes of this growing problem. Homelessness has increased 39% in San Bernardino County since 2003.



In 2008, our meals outreach served 29,296 hot meals. In addition to the hot, nutritious meals served; your generosity has provided 966 boxes of food and 30,712 articles of clothing to struggling families.

The Victor Valley Rescue Mission provides homeless men with opportunities for spiritual and physical recovery from addictions. Our programs are designed to guide and encourage homeless men to formulate a daily plan of action, and to take the necessary steps to reenter the work force and become productive citizens again.



“I have been an alcoholic for as long as I can remember. But through and by the grace of God and with the help of the rescue mission and the Awakening Ranch Recovery Program, I have changed my ways and opened my heart to the Lord. And from that, I’ve gained my faith in recovery and my family has come back into my life. I’ve learned throughout my walk that it is not easy to do things on your own. My way, without God, is the wrong way. But having the Lord in my life has helped make me a better, stronger, and more humble man. I now know that God has plans for me. I thank God everyday for answering my prayers and for giving me a new life.”

Mike – Life Recovery Program Graduate



Helping Hands in the Community

All the people that were helped through the Rescue Mission Alliance in 2008 would not have been reached if it weren't for the support of our faithful donors and volunteers.



Volunteers bring essential services to every Rescue Mission Alliance outreach ministry. Each year, thousands of people offer their time, talent, and treasure to ministry projects, to help make a difference in the lives of the poor and homeless.

“The first time I walked into the mission and saw the men’s faces, I knew this was where God wanted me to serve.”

*The Dennis Family –
Faithful Volunteers*

In 2008...

33,355 donors supported us financially

100,022 people donated clothing and household items

17,248 volunteers donated 337,966 hours of service

Retail Ministries



In 2008, a new thrift store was opened in Santa Maria to support the outreach of the Central Coast Rescue Mission.

The Rescue Mission Alliance operates six thrift stores that sell quality, low cost, previously owned merchandise. The revenue generated by the thrift sales helps support the ongoing work of the ministries of the Rescue Mission Alliance. 100% of the profit is put to use feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and helping people become productive citizens again.

Our thrift stores provide wonderful job training and employment opportunities in our community. In 2008, there were 122 people employed in our retail ministries.



Customers enjoy shopping with us. In 2008, over 500,000 people shopped at our thrift stores. Customers keep coming back because of the great deals, product selection, and the satisfaction of helping the poor and homeless.

Vehicles of Change

At our Auto Donation Center, formerly homeless men are trained to detail, repair, and sell cars. 100% of the net proceeds from our vehicle donation program go to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the poor, and rehabilitate people into productive citizens again.



Our Auto Vocational Training Center provides excellent career opportunities for the men in our recovery program and affordable vehicles for low income families in our community.



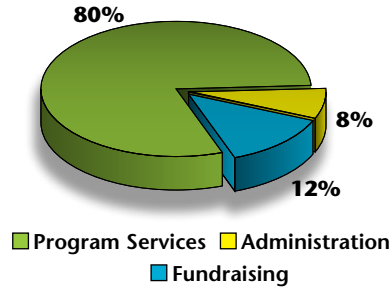
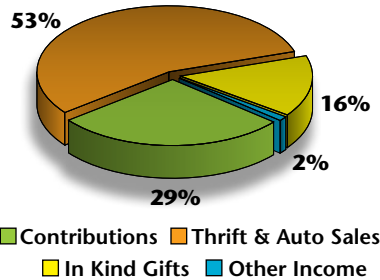
"I've been through recovery programs in the past, but the Rescue Mission has introduced me to a whole new way of life. I love working with my hands and the auto program has given me the opportunity to learn valuable skills. Life keeps getting better thanks to the mission."

Dan - Vocational Training Recipient

Through the generosity of our community, we received **465 vehicle donations** in 2008 and our Life Recovery program participants received **approximately 4,500 hours of valuable training** in auto repair and sales.

Financial Information

The Rescue Mission Alliance is firmly committed to the highest standards of financial and institutional integrity. We are a member in good standing with the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) and are “Certified Excellent” by the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions (AGRM). You can trust your donations are used wisely to assist the poor and needy.



Revenues

Contributions.....	\$3,640,498
Thrift & Auto Sales.....	\$6,843,785
In-Kind Gifts	\$2,098,910
Other Income.....	\$217,629
Total Support	\$12,800,822

Expenses

Program Services	\$10,268,308
Administration	\$1,003,060
Fundraising	\$1,577,804
Total Expenses	\$12,849,172



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Owens, Chairman
Contractor

Tim Hughes, Vice-Chairman
Realtor

MaryEllen Rasnick, Secretary
Marketing

Andy Stay,
Small Business Owner

Oliver Mahannah
Retired - Sales

Janet Nickel
Human Resources

Paul Iannaccone
Financial Advisor

Uel Leite
Engineer

*FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2007 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2008

Locations

Headquarters

Rescue Mission Alliance
315 North A Street
Oxnard, CA 93030
(805) 487-1234

Outreach Ministries

Ventura County Rescue Mission
234 East 6th Street
Oxnard, CA 93030
(805) 487-1234

Central Coast Rescue Mission
1207 North McClelland Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454
(805) 614-0220

**San Fernando Valley
Rescue Mission**
13422 Saticoy Street
North Hollywood, CA 91605
(818) 785-4476

**Lighthouse Women &
Children's Mission**
150 North Hayes Avenue
Oxnard, CA 93030
(805) 240-1644

Victor Valley Rescue Mission
16611 Tracy Street, Suite C
Victorville, CA 92395
(760) 955-5958

Valley Food Bank
12701 Van Nuys Boulevard
Pacoima, CA 91331
(818) 510-4140

Retail Ministries

Mission Bargain Center/Auto Sales
125 South Harrison Avenue
Oxnard, CA 93030
(805) 201-4341

Oxnard Super Thrift
815 North Oxnard Boulevard
Oxnard, CA 93030
(805) 201-3750

North Hollywood Super Thrift
13422 Saticoy Street
North Hollywood, CA 91605
(818) 474-1291

Reseda Super Thrift
18344 Sherman Way
Reseda, CA 91335
(818) 654-4806

Santa Maria Super Thrift
306 North Broadway
Santa Maria, CA 93454
(805) 357-1214

Victor Valley Super Thrift
17376b Main Street
Hesperia, CA 92345
(760) 947-1747



www.erescuemission.org

