

MISSION *in* MOTION

A NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN DIEGO RESCUE MISSION • FALL 2024

The power of
your love...
in action

Giving thanks for **YOU**

INSIDE: Erica shares
how your support
changed her life!



Giving thanks for YOU this fall



A Message from DONNIE DEE

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

I think of people like Erica, 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!

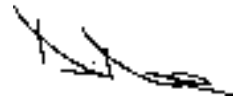
I thank God for how YOU are providing hope, help and healing to people who are hurting in our community.

From the essentials of food, warm clothing and safe shelter... to long-term healing and stability through our recovery program – with you beside us – our ministry

can provide all this and even more life-changing services this fall. Your support has allowed us to expand these vital services to even more of San Diego County, through our newly opened emergency shelter in National City!

As we prepare to serve an estimated 128,936 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 guests at the San Diego Rescue Mission – a reason to give thanks this fall!



Donnie Dee, President/CEO



We are proud and honored to share that in June, our **Oceanside Navigation Center was selected as a 2024 California Nonprofit of the Year** by Assemblywoman Laurie Davies in recognition of overall excellence, service to the community and positive impact!

The Oceanside Navigation Center – the city's first-ever 30-day shelter for men, women and families – has been a valuable resource for our community, bringing vulnerable neighbors off the street since its opening in August 2023.



We share this honor with every person who has donated their time, money and resources to help serve our neighbors in need.



While the facility is owned by the City of Oceanside, the

San Diego Rescue Mission operates the shelter without government funding. **Your kind generosity helps us end homelessness one life at a time.**

See what we do at our three locations:
sdrescue.org/what-we-do



Join Our

2024 THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN

128,936

Meals Needed this Thanksgiving Season

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


For just \$2.72, 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 shelter & housing assistance



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 sdrescue.org.



Scan to see how you can help this fall!



**“GOD IS BIGGER
THAN MY
STRUGGLE.”**

Erica was only 6 when her mother tried to take her own life, and her grandparents became her guardians. Her grandmother – whom Erica describes as a career lady and Christian role model – grew to be the little girl’s rock and guided her through tough teenage challenges.

When her grandmother passed away, Erica was lost. “I didn’t know how to do this thing called ‘life’ without her,” she says. She filled the void with substances to numb her pain and fell into a toxic lifestyle that left her broken, experiencing homelessness and in constant fear for her safety.

“I was on the streets for two years – laying my head on the concrete, not knowing what I would eat, how I would survive or even if I would wake up the next morning.”

Her anxiety led to a panic attack so severe she was hospitalized. But it was the turning point she needed. She learned from the authorities about the San Diego Rescue Mission – a safe place where she could build a new life.

Once inside our doors, Erica says, “I felt a weight lifted off me immediately. It was like a big breath of fresh air.” Most importantly, in our faith-based environment, she says, “I definitely indulged in the Word again (as she had when her grandma was alive) and I felt my prayer life increase. Getting fed spiritually is amazing!”

In our Mission Academy program, daily chores and responsibilities, classes such as financial literacy and anger management, and life-skills and job training are preparing her for a stable future. She currently works as a caregiver for a man who also follows Jesus, and she enjoys sharing her transformation story. “I have struggled, but God is much more real and bigger than my struggle.”

This fall, Erica gives thanks for YOU and your incredible generosity. Your prayers and support have given her a new beginning. “This is definitely a life-changing place, and I’m going to be a success story. I’m grateful for everything here.”

**“IT’S BEEN A GOOD JOURNEY. I SEE GOD’S HAND IN MY LIFE –
IT’S SO POWERFUL AND I’M GRATEFUL FOR IT.”**



SOUTH COUNTY LIGHTHOUSE

Providing shelter & a beacon of hope in National City!

Since June, our South County Lighthouse – a new emergency shelter in National City – has been providing safety, hot meals and life-changing care to move more people off the streets permanently. It's all possible thanks to the support of caring people like you!

Through our mobile shower program and a strategic partnership with the police department's Homeless Outreach Team, we invite people currently living on the streets to begin a new way of life inside our doors.

At the South County Lighthouse, struggling men, women and families find:

- A safe place to sleep (162 beds available!)
- 3 warm meals a day
- Hot showers
- Classes & resources to overcome homelessness

Guests may stay for up to 30 days at our shelter, and are referred at the end of this time to our long-term residential program, Mission Academy, or other longer-term housing options. A stay at our emergency shelter is often the first step someone takes to transforming their life!

Thank you for your continued support to provide hope and *help that works* for more of our neighbors in need.



Meet Our Director!

"I'm committed to fostering an environment where everyone feels valued and supported on their journey toward stability and self-sufficiency."

– Mario Montoya, Director of the South County Lighthouse



Mario Montoya previously served as the San Diego Rescue Mission's Director of Outreach. His proven track record of leading homeless services in our community, combined with his deep commitment to serving those in need, make him the perfect leader for this new emergency shelter in National City.

