

Rescue Mission News

Victor Valley Rescue Mission

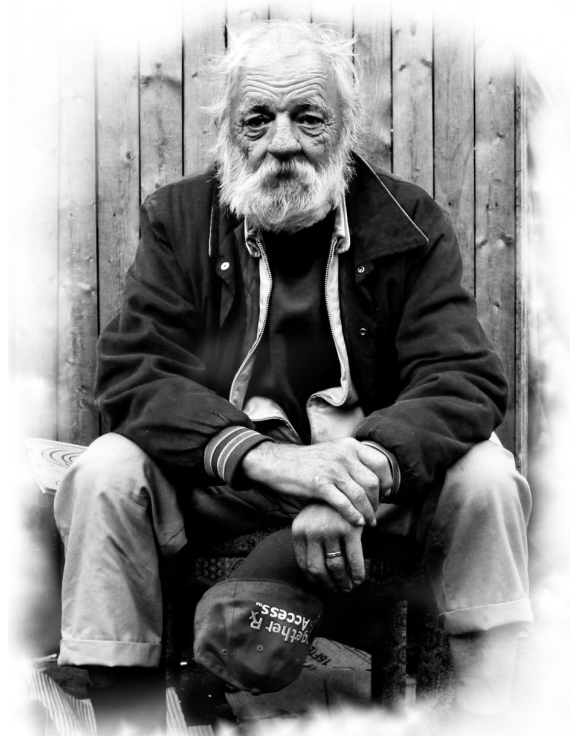
CHANGING LIVES FOR GOOD IS OUR ONLY BUSINESS

From the Director...

Imagine a cold winter night—for most of us, the cold blast of winter means layering and bundling up. Nothing feels better than curling up in front of warm fire, wrapped in a blanket, a hot cup of cocoa in hand, and watching a movie or reading a book. Soon you are warm and you forget the biting wind that blows just outside your door.

For the homeless, however, there are no doors to shut out the cold. Instead, they huddle over fire pits dug in the ground or fires built in empty metal trash cans. When it's time for bed, they climb up into the small space just below an overpass or bridge. Old, worn-out cardboard boxes help block the stiffening cold that comes up from the concrete as they lay down on their makeshift beds. The lucky ones might curl up in the plush luxury of a rundown, abandoned vehicle.

What's more, they don't have hot cocoa or coffee to warm them from the inside out. Instead, many of them turn to drugs or alcohol—all in an effort to simply numb themselves from the piercing cold that surrounds them.



However, you and I are not that different from the Victor Valley's least, last, and lost. While we can close a door and forget the cold, our friends are not so lucky. Through some hardship of life, they ended up on the streets, cold and alone. And as we work tirelessly at the mission to meet the needs, the thought that constantly rings through my mind is, "But by the grace of God, there go I."

Let's exhaust every resource we have to help others stay warm this winter. It could be the difference between life and death.

Ron Wilson

Ron Wilson,
Director



Homeless and Freezing

VICTOR VALLEY RESCUE MISSION



My name is Michael Walls and I am a part of the Life Recovery Program. When I first came to the mission, I was a mess in a downhill struggle with alcoholism.

I entered the Life Recovery program in early March, right around the beginning of spring 2010, and had just come out of a very cold season in my life, internally and externally. I had spent the winter of 2009/2010 homeless and freezing.

My days were spent standing in the rain begging for money to feed my addiction so I would not feel the pain of hunger and cold. Even though I knew I should eat, it became more important to be numb. I would then search for some place to sleep but I had some requirements: 1. Out of view and 2. It had to be DRY. Due to the rain and snow, some days I not only slept in wet clothes but my blankets were also wet. With no walls or doors, the wind would blow the rain and water puddles on me.

When I found Victor Valley Rescue Mission, It was the end of a season of suffering emotionally. I knew I needed help and boy did I find it. The staff and volunteers gave me a felling of hope that I had lost. I now enjoy helping people and, at the same time, it's making me a better man. It really works! I always thought that starting my life over was impossible... but I'm living a new life now. ~ Mike

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! **(760) 955-6644**

www.victorvalleyrescuemission.org

NEEDS LIST

Some of our most urgent needs are listed here. If you can help, please drop off your donation Monday–Friday, 8am to 5pm, at the rescue mission. Thank you!

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|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Shaving cream | • Deodorant | • Soap | • Razors |
| • Toilet paper | • Shampoo | • Conditioner | • Baby wipes |
| • New towels & washcloths | • Foot/baby powder | • Hairbrushes/combs | • M/W white socks |
| • M/W underwear | • M/W T-shirts (L-XXL) | • Backpacks | • Men's gloves/winter hats |
| • Men's sweatshirts (L-XL) | • M/W work boots & sneakers (9-13) | | • Men's gloves/winter hats |
| • Rain Ponchos | • Ladies' sports bras (all sizes) | | • Men's jeans (32-40 var. length) |

for more news log on to www.victorvalleyrescuemission.org

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