



VICTOR VALLEY Rescue Mission

An Outreach ministry of



September 2011

Changing Lives for Good

The Best Decision of My Life

My name is Jim Dixon. I am a graduate and intern at Victor Valley Rescue Mission. Before I entered the Life Recovery Program at the mission, I was homeless and hungry. Everyday I begged for money on the streets, but I used it for alcohol to numb both my physical and emotional pain. I was feeding my addiction and my body was suffering. The addiction was so bad that, one day, I attempted to steal a beer. I was caught and was sent to prison for several years.

After my time in prison, I heard about Victor Valley Rescue Mission and the meals they served the community. I didn't take advantage of this so, unfortunately, I was not in the greatest health because I was not eating properly. One day I saw a guy that was in the Life Recovery Program and he encouraged me to check in. I took his advice and made the best decision of my life.

I went from no regular meals to receiving well balanced meals on a daily basis. The mission showed me they cared by the way they served me. Now that my body was fed, I was open to be spiritually led on my road to recovery.

I presently serve as an intern in the Food Pantry serving the community with food boxes and meals every week. I was a recipient of the love and commitment of our donors; now I get to give back the same way
-WITH A MEAL.



A Meal Changed My Life

Many years ago I was faced with some incredible challenges, much like the people I serve today. At 18 years old, I found myself homeless and addicted to every substance I put to my lips. I had run away from home believing life would be better on my own. Within a couple of months, I had run out my stay with friends and had to face the reality of my addiction. With nowhere else to go, I enrolled in a 6 month alcohol rehabilitation program.



Ron Wilson's beautiful family.

As part of their enrollment process, I was required to sleep at the local rescue mission while waiting for a bed to open. I still remember the meal I was served on that first night. It was S.O.S. (Stuff on a Shingle). That

was the best meal I had eaten since I ran away from home. It was also the first time I actually felt safe and secure in a long time.

I still had many obstacles I would face in my life, but I never forgot that meal. That's why today I am able to say, "S.O.S. saved my life." Today as we serve hundreds of guests each week, I see an opportunity to make someone feel the warmth and loving care that I experienced a long time ago. It is my

prayer that what we do will save the lives of many.

Ron Wilson
Victor Valley Rescue Mission, Director

A Corner of the Mat

Often, when people first come to Victor Valley Rescue Mission, they talk about the sense of isolation they feel. Homelessness, addiction, and abuse have chipped away at their self confidence and left, instead, the feeling that no one cares. But within a few days, these same people realize they are not alone, as the warmth

and love they receive from our staff, volunteers, and other guests surrounds them.

In Luke 5, the Bible tells the story of a man who suffered with paralysis, but was fortunate to have loyal, caring friends. When his friends learned Jesus was in town, they each grabbed a corner of the man's mat and carried him to the house where Jesus was staying. When they couldn't get in the door, they lowered their suffering friend down through the roof right to Jesus' feet. Their love motivated them to action.

When you visit the Victor Valley Rescue Mission, you'll notice this same kind of compassion, loyalty, and persistence in action. You will see it in our volunteers and our staff and in the encouragement and companionship our guests share. Thank you for partnering with us as we each hold "a corner of the mat" and find solutions to homelessness, hunger, and addiction together.



**GIVE AND
YOU SHALL
RECEIVE**



A Charitable Gift Annuity is a gift that provides you with financial rewards for a lifetime. You will receive:

- Immediate tax deduction
- Fixed and secure payments throughout your lifetime
- Satisfaction of helping us deliver vital services to the hungry and homeless in our community

For more information, please call: (800) 876-7958 ext. 2112, Jay Haddix.