

THE CROSSING

Sharing and Caring in Northern Nevada since 1963

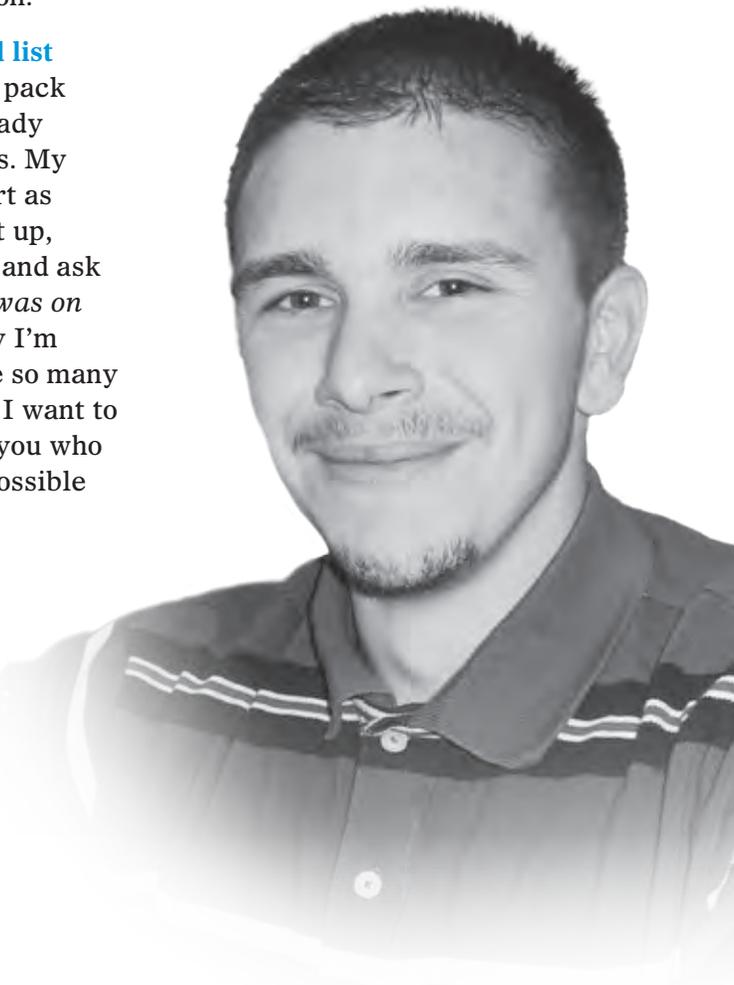
I honestly never knew there were so many *nice people in this world*

My name is Brian. My testimony is all about the difference between night and day . . . of coming out of the darkness into God's light. With God's help and the staff at the Mission, I've made the move from hopelessness to hope. In the past, I thought life was only about harming people. I could do a lot of damage with my bare hands, and the rival gangs knew me by my reputation. What a difference God is making in my life since the court mandated that I come to Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission.

for someone like me. Thank you for the food, the safe shelter, and the clothing. I'm thanking you from the deepest part of my heart. I honestly never knew there were so many nice people in this world. I pray God will continue to bless you as you keep reaching out to people in need wherever they may be.

Your friend,

Brian



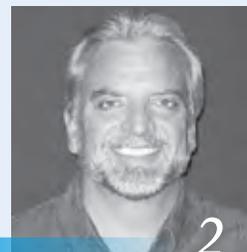
I'm no longer on Reno's most-wanted list

I used to wake up in the morning, pack a pistol, take some heroin and get ready to go out and sell and use more drugs. My objective for the day would be to hurt as many people as possible. Today, I get up, do my devotions, go to a Bible class, and ask God to direct my path for the day. *I was on Reno's most-wanted list twice.* Today I'm happy to say I'm on God's list. I have so many people to thank for my sobriety, and I want to start by expressing my gratitude to you who give so much to make this Mission possible

"I could do a lot of damage with my bare hands, and the rival gangs knew me by my reputation."



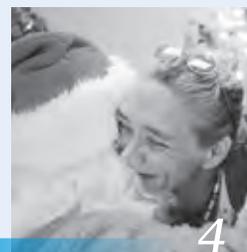
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“Walk a Mile in My Shoes!” 2014

More than 500 people participated in the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission’s fifth annual “Walk a Mile in my Shoes!” event to support the homeless and hungry in Northern Nevada.

Starting at Wingfield Park, the walkers at times overflowed off the downtown sidewalks into the street as they headed toward the Mission on Record Street.

Families, individuals, neighbors, corporations, organizations, college students and church groups all came together to support services for those less fortunate in the community. Walkers passed out hygiene kits to the needy along the way.

Walmart took the coveted Golden Shoe award for having the largest group. Triad Technologies took silver and Best Buy brought home the bronze.

“Thank you for the privilege of participating in this great event!” said Greg Latimer, owner of Triad Technologies. “We appreciate the work you do so much, and we pray for you often! May God multiply your efforts one-hundred fold!”

The next “Walk a Mile” event is scheduled for Feb. 21, 2015.

An Encouraging Word from Rick Redding

Dear Friend of Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission,
You know what it’s like to be in the dark, and so do I. We’ve all been in a place where it was so dark we couldn’t see our hand in front of our faces. And then, we discovered a sliver of light. Suddenly, we knew we would not be in the darkness much longer. Then, we were suddenly bathed in light and we knew all would be well with the world. The residents of Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission also know a lot about darkness — and not a lot about light. It’s a kind of darkness where they don’t care whether they live or die. They simply exist from day to day. They live for their next fix, their next high, or for that scrap of bread, wherever they might be able to find it.



“For many, the sudden light of God’s love is so bright that they find themselves squinting to see what’s in front of them.”

God’s light of healing and hope is changing lives

Then, one day, God directs their steps to the Mission. For many, the sudden light of God’s love is so bright that they find themselves squinting to see what’s in front of them. They no longer need to watch their backs. They find they can trust people. They see sunsets for the first time. They hear birds singing. Parents and grandparents see their children and grandchildren as they’ve never seen them before. No longer are they stumbling around in the darkness. Miraculously, Jesus, the light of the world, is bringing illumination to their paths. And this is what the Mission is all about: bringing God’s light of healing and hope to those who have lived in darkness. It’s what we do . . . and you help us do it. Please accept my deep gratitude for how you help make this light known to so many. God bless you for being one who cares.

Your servant,

Rick Redding, Executive Director

Hunger, loneliness and despair refuse to take a summer vacation . . .

One of our most common fears is loneliness. If that’s true for most of society, imagine how lonely and despairing it is for those who have little or no food, rags for clothes and no place to rest their weary heads. That’s why the Mission’s doors are open 365 days a year, seven days a week. The lonely are welcome here. The hungry will always find a good meal at no cost. Those seeking spiritual guidance can count on receiving God’s great comfort when they need it most.

During these summer months our compassion for the poor is as strong as it is during the most violent of winters. And that’s why we need your ongoing support today . . . *because hunger, loneliness and despair refuse to take a summer vacation.*

“During these summer months, our compassion for the



There was a time when *all I thought about was drugs*

My name is Donna. My most favorite thing in the world is praying to God. Just knowing He is there makes my heart feel better. Something else . . . I'm from Brooklyn and my God speaks with a Brooklyn accent. He's that personal to me. But it hasn't always been that way. My dad started abusing me when I was four and he didn't stop until I was 12. Years later my twin sister died of a heart attack and my husband was shot. Eventually, I turned to drugs. You couldn't give me enough meth. But eventually my addiction caught up with me. I got in trouble with the law in 2011 and I spent 77 days in jail. Everyone around me said I was worthless and that I would never get a job. But then someone said: you need God. *I said God? He doesn't even know who I am.* That was my background before I came to Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission.

"I now know my heavenly Father exists and that He has something amazing for me."

I'm finally finding joy and happiness

The first few weeks when I was here, I saw so many happy people. I wanted that happiness for my life. I'd been sexually abused hundreds of times by my earthly father, so it was a challenge for me to think of God as my Father. But now that is changing. I now know my heavenly Father exists and that He has something amazing for me. I'm so grateful to God, to the Mission, and to you who give so much of your time and money to keep these doors open. I can honestly say I've never been happier in my life.

Thank you for being there for me.

Sincerely,

Donna



FROM BOARD MEMBER TO HELPING HAND

"God's not done with them, because their story is not over. There is still hope," Pastor Bill West says of the Mission clients he ministers to during chapel services twice a month.

A Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission board member for four years and The Bridge Church senior pastor for five years, West enjoys being a part of the clients' lives on a more personal level. He says he loves speaking to the group, because they are real and down to earth.

"I believe in the mission of the Mission," he says.

West has been around other missions, but says the Mission is the most effective in addressing real-life needs, both spiritually and practically. He also points to the longevity of the staff and the strong financial growth, which he says builds positive momentum for change.

His sermons focus on meeting the clients where they are in their programs. The feedback West says he receives affirms that the clients are listening and relating to his messages. "They'll tell me, 'This is what I needed to hear: 'This is something I am dealing with and going through.' 'God is working in my life.'"

West recently returned from a trip to Nairobi, Kenya, to explore The Bridge Church partnering with the international organization *When I Grow Up* and the local Nairobi *Furaha Community Foundation*. "We have been given a lot, and we have to figure out 'How much do I really need?'" West says. "God blesses us, not just for ourselves, but so that we can give to others through those blessings."

and that's why your investment today is so vital

Our guests will long remember your kindness

You've helped meet the concerns of so many in recent weeks, and we thank you. Now, with summer upon us, we have the opportunity to work together again to show our guests there's a better way to live. To keep reaching out to the needy, please use the remit slip in this newsletter and mail it to us today along with your generous summertime gift. Or you may make your donation on our secure website at www.rsgm.org. Thank you for being a friend to the homeless during these critical summer months and throughout the year. God bless you for being one who cares.

poor is as strong as it is during the most violent of winters."

Christmas in July

It's beginning to look a bit like Christmas . . . in July?

Holiday lights, wrapped toys, new clothes, hygiene items and hot meals will highlight the Mission's annual "Christmas in July" event, which provides our area's homeless and needy with much-needed basic necessities and services during the hot summer months.

Mission staff and community volunteers will serve more than 500 men, women and children at the dinner beginning at 4 p.m., Friday, July 25, at the Mission, 355 Record St. in Reno.

We need volunteers to help serve meals and pass out gifts, hygiene items and clothing to uplift those less fortunate in our community. We also need **hygiene items** like lip balm, sunscreen, toothpaste, etc.

Call Tammie at 775-323-0386, ext. 16 to volunteer or donate.



CALLING ALL GARAGE SALES AND APPLIANCES DONATIONS!

Wonder what to do with leftover garage sale items? The Mission is asking local residents to donate these items to help with services for the poor and homeless. Just call us before or after your garage sale and we will send a truck to pick up your items and anything else you may want to donate.



How about those old and used appliances? We will gladly take them, because they are not only repaired for sale in our Thrift Depot stores, but are used in providing new skills to the Mission clients.

A trained technician uses the working and non-working appliances to teach Mission clients how to diagnose and repair washers, dryers, refrigerators, stoves and other kitchen appliances. These refurbished appliances are then sold in the Thrift Depot stores with the proceeds going to help the homeless and addicted.

All together you get a clutter-free garage, a tax-deductible receipt for your donation and the opportunity to help the unfortunate in our community.

To donate or arrange free pickup, please call 775-323-7999 (weekdays) or 775-848-1645 (weekends), or email us at dispatch@rsgm.org to schedule your pickup.



MY SUMMERTIME GIFT

RM_44-0603_B03RE

YES, Rick, you can rely on my ongoing support during these critical summer months.

Here is my donation of:

- \$20.50 to provide **10** meals and other assistance
- \$30.75 to provide **15** meals and other assistance
- \$61.50 to provide **30** meals and other assistance
- \$_____ to provide as many meals and as much care as possible

Please bill my credit card: (please print) VISA MC

ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME ON ACCOUNT _____ SIGNATURE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, Inc.
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Reno, NV 89513-5956

Please use this completed form and return it with your generous summertime donation in the envelope provided. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You may also share your compassion online at www.rsgm.org. You will receive a receipt.