

# the MISSION

## Stories of Second Chances

Lives are  
being saved  
and changed,  
thanks to you.

by Mark



My name is Mark, and when I came to Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, I'd been battling a heroin addiction for about 10 years.

I'd started smoking weed as a teenager. Then, after high school, I began hanging around people that were older. They started getting me into prescription drugs, and someone offered me some OxyContin. That was the drug that really got me. The very first time I used it, I knew I wanted it again and again and again.

**“For 10 years, I was lost in my newfound addiction.”**

For me, OxyContin was a way to escape the pain of having an addict father who made it clear early on that he didn't want to have any kind of relationship with me. For two years I did whatever I had to do to stay loaded. I stole from my parents, I stole from my sister, I stole

from stores. But I started losing everything, including my management job at a hardware store.

I tried a couple of treatment centers, but I just ended up back where I started, high and living on the streets. That's when I switched to heroin, which gave me the same feeling but was cheaper. And for 10 years, I was lost in my newfound addiction.

It got to the point where I was either going to end my life or do something to really change. My sister said she would help. So, I left California for her place in Reno, on the condition that after two weeks I would enter the program at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. I agreed, and it's just been a blessing. This place has the perfect amount of love, sternness, and accountability, and they really care.

**I truly believe God brought me to this Mission and has a big plan for my life. And I'm so thankful for the people who help make it all possible. Lives are being saved and changed, thanks to you.**

# Christmas Already?



We're busting out the Christmas tree and decorations, pulling together a festive menu, and preparing to bless over 800 men, women, and children with our annual **Christmas in July** celebration.

Thanks to support from friends like you, our guests will sit down to a delicious holiday meal with all the trimmings. We'll hand out hygiene kits and give presents to the children. And Santa and Mrs. Claus will even pay a visit.

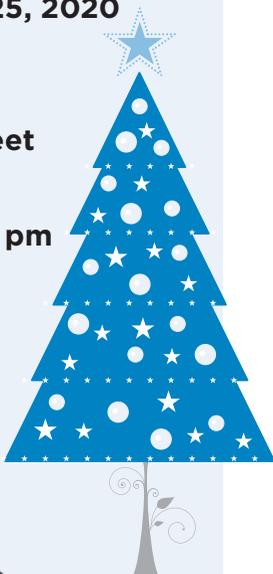
To volunteer, please call Mariah Peaslee at **775-323-0386, ext. 16** to sign up today. You can also learn more at [www.rsgm.org](http://www.rsgm.org).

**When: Saturday, July 25, 2020**

**Where: Reno-Sparks  
Gospel Mission  
355 Record Street  
Reno**

**Time: 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

**Hope you can  
join us!**



**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Luis Santoni**

## Transformed from the Inside Out

Dear Friend of the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission,

I'm always humbled by the compassion of friends like you. Your willingness to help care for homeless and hurting people in the Northern Nevada area is truly noble. And the result is that lives are being transformed from the inside out.

Your kindness is especially appreciated as we face new challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our homeless neighbors are among those most susceptible to the virus, as many of them already suffer from chronic health issues. And the lack of basic sanitation on the streets places them at further risk. That's why I hope I can count on your continued support today.

With your generous gift, you'll help ensure we can compassionately respond to homeless men and women facing great uncertainty this summer. We'll first address their physical needs. Then, once we've got them stabilized, we can work on spiritual issues, employment, social services, and counseling to help them start fresh and reach their God-given potential.

I urge you to spend a few minutes reading this newsletter for a glimpse of the impact you are making. Then, if you're able, please send a generous gift today so that more lives can be changed forever!

Your servant,

Luis Santoni

## Please Help Neighbors Who

The summer months are always a challenging season at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. This time of year, even more people devastated by homelessness and struggling from the heat come seeking our help. Men, women, and children who are desperate for real help and hope.

At the same time, donations to the Mission decline over the summer, as many of our supporters head out of town to visit family and friends.

Hopefully, you will get a chance to get away yourself for a little rest and relaxation in the weeks ahead. But we encourage you to please remember the hurting men, women, and children who will be here at



# I SEE WHAT GOD'S DOING IN MY LIFE

by Shawna

My name is Shawna and I have a 22-year-old son, a 13-year-old daughter, and a degree in accounting.

Until my early 30s, I was a social drinker. But then I began using alcohol to numb the pain of a marriage gone bad. My husband was emotionally abusive, and my response was to escape by drinking more, which kind of made the whole situation snowball. Eventually, my marriage ended, and for 10 years my drinking just spiraled out of control.

It soon began affecting my job. There were days I'd call in sick because I'd been drinking the night before. Other days I'd call in sick so I could stay home and drink. A number of times I passed out drunk at work.

Over time, I lost multiple jobs. But my lowest point was being separated from my daughter for three years because I just couldn't stay sober. Thankfully, I learned about Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission from a friend whose brother had graduated from the recovery program here.

I'd been to a couple other programs over the years, but it's different here at the Mission. The other places just focused on how to stay sober, but this is so much



**“Before, I would just run from my problems and drink.”**

more. Here I'm also learning how to really live and deal with things in a healthier way. Before, I would just run from my problems and drink. Now, I'm learning to step up and handle whatever comes at me.

I'm also growing spiritually. Though I always believed in God, I never had a close relationship with Him. But now I see what God's doing in my life. I used to seek outside validation, now I'm just with God.

I'm excited and confident about what lies ahead, and I can't wait to be reunited with my kids upon graduation from the program. *Thank you for your support of the Mission because without you, I wouldn't be who I am today.*

## SHOP OUR STORES

Another way you can help homeless and hurting people is to shop at one of our four thrift stores. That's because every time you make a purchase, you're making a contribution to the Mission. Check us out:

**Thrift Depot McCarran (Reno)**  
2900 Clear Acre Lane (at McCarran)  
(775) 433-1737

**Thrift Depot Reno**  
575 E. Fourth St. (at Elko)  
(775) 786-4499

**Thrift Depot Sparks**  
640 Greenbrae Dr.  
(Greenbrae Shopping Center)  
(775) 331-5020

**Thrift Depot North Hills (Reno)**  
1075 North Hills Blvd., Ste. 360  
(Raley's Shopping Center)  
(775) 677-2266

**ALL LOCATIONS**  
Open 9:30 am - 5:30 pm,  
Mon - Sat



## Are Hurting This Summer

Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission this summer by sending a special gift today.

### Changed Hearts, Changed Lives...

Your generous gift today will go a long way to touch the lives of people like Mark (page 1) and Shawna (page 3). They came here in their darkest hours only to be received with love, grace, and dignity. And because friends like you care, they are filled with hope for a brighter future.

To give your generous gift today, please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your donation online at [www.rsgm.org](http://www.rsgm.org). You may also call us at **775-323-0386**. Thank you for being a caring friend to men, women, and children who need your help this summer.

**Your generous gift today will go a long way to touch hearts and transform lives.**



## You're Making a Significant Impact!

Thanks to generous friends like you, the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission...

- is Northern Nevada's **largest faith-based provider** of services to hurting and homeless people, which provides **150 warm, clean beds** for men, women, and children, and serves nearly **500,000 meals** annually.
- offers one of Nevada's largest **addiction recovery** programs, with **100 beds for men and women**.
- operates a men's residence, women's shelter, **emergency lodging** (for women and children), transitional/rental housing, and four thrift stores.
- ministers to the community through numerous outreaches and services, including a **food pantry**, holiday meals, coat and blanket drives, and annual **"Random Acts of Kindness"** events in low-income neighborhoods.

*"The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made."*

*— Psalm 145:8-9, NIV*

Please continue your support this summer!

Send your generous gift with the reply slip below. Or give now at [rsgm.org](http://rsgm.org). Thank you!



## MY SUMMER GIFT

**YES, Luis!** I want to help during the challenging summer months. Please use my gift to bring new life to hurting and homeless neighbors. **I've enclosed:**

- \$21.70** to provide **10** meals and other assistance
- \$30.38** to provide **14** meals and other assistance
- \$60.76** to provide **28** meals and other assistance
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to provide as many meals and care as possible
- Please bill my credit card: (please print)     VISA     MC     AMEX

ACCOUNT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, Inc.  
P.O. Box 5956  
Reno, NV 89513-5956

Please mail this completed form and return it with your generous donation. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. You may also give online at [www.rsgm.org](http://www.rsgm.org). You will receive a receipt.