



the MISSION

Stories of Second Chances

My Heart Has Experienced a Change

by Stephanie



My name is Stephanie, and I never imagined I would become an alcoholic. I graduated from Berkeley with an MBA, had a thriving upper management career with a large company, and was engaged to be married. But I lost all of that to an alcohol addiction that has haunted me for the past 20 years.

I had periods of sobriety during that time when I thought I would never drink again. But I would always relapse, and each relapse was more devastating than the last. Several times I was arrested for driving under the influence, and it got to the point where I had completely given up on life and was homeless.

One day, I was found in some bushes behind a convenience store with a blood alcohol level of 0.5, which should have killed me. I was taken to a local detox center and once I began to come to, I begged them to not release me until I could go straight into a recovery program. They recommended Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission.

That was last October, and all I can say is this Mission is a miracle. I've had quality counselors and care in other programs, but the authenticity and genuine love shown by the staff here is unlike anything I've ever seen before. They've shown me that God didn't quit on me. As a result, I have a new life now. My heart has experienced a change, and going forward my identity is going to be based in Christ.

“I had completely given up on life.”

I'm so grateful for everyone who supports Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. And I want them to know they're saving lives and that people are being transformed.

Is Your Loved One in Need of Help?

Do you know someone who is struggling with addiction and urgently needs the life-changing help of Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission? If so, we've got good news. 100 beds are now available in our **Christian Addiction Recovery and Education (CARE) program**.

This no-cost, 13-month residential program guides hurting clients to the heart of their spiritual, psychological, educational, physical, and emotional needs, then equips them to overcome their addiction and begin a transformed life in Christ.

If someone close to you needs help, we're here for you both. Please contact us today at **(775) 323-0386, ext. 0**. And help them start a journey that will change their life forever.

There's Hope at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission!

**Call Today:
(775) 323-0386, ext. 0.**



**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Luis Santoni**



We Give Thanks for You

Dear Friend of the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission,

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, I want you to know how grateful I am for you. The compassion and support you continue to show is a beautiful expression of your love for our community and our most vulnerable neighbors. And I can't thank you enough.

It is such a blessing to be serving alongside caring friends like you to reach those who are hungry, homeless, and hurting. These are people like Stephanie and Michael, who are featured on these pages. They came to us lost and broken, but have found new life filled with hope.

Now, as we head into our busiest time of the year, I'm excited about some of the unique opportunities we'll have to bless more of our neighbors in need. Next month, for example, we'll be hosting our annual Street Treats event for homeless children and families (see page 3). A few weeks after that, we'll be serving a special Thanksgiving dinner for hundreds of hungry and homeless people. But we can't do it without you.

I pray you'll continue your support today. God is doing a mighty work at the Mission. And He's working through caring friends like you to make it happen. Thank you for all you do for the sake of people who suffer!

Your servant,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Luis Santoni'.

Luis Santoni



Many of Our Neighbors are Str

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." — 2 Corinthians 9:11-12

That's what your generous gifts do in the hearts of men and women finding hope at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. Your faithful generosity provides more than food and shelter. You give our neighbors facing devastating hardship the chance to experience grace, healing, and salvation, which transforms lives for all eternity.

Everything Has Changed for Me

by Michael



No Tricks, Just Treats

Growing up, I was a good student and I went to church regularly with my family. But I always struggled with a lack of self-confidence and found myself seeking the approval of others. That led to experimenting with alcohol and drugs as a teenager.

But my real downfall occurred when my older brother was in a terrible accident and suffered a traumatic head injury. I spent a lot of time taking care of him and helping him manage his pain pills. And I eventually started taking the pills too. Then things began to really spiral.

When the pills weren't working anymore, I turned to heroin. I lost jobs, my marriage to my high school sweetheart, and I ended up homeless and living on the streets. I started doing shady stuff and stealing just to support my drug habit.

At one point I managed to stay clean for about a month, but then I gave in. I felt

hopeless, like I'd hit rock bottom emotionally, mentally, and physically. There was just an emptiness inside, and I was filling it with drugs and alcohol.

I'd been to AA before, and my sponsor urged me to come to Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. I walked through the Mission's door last summer, and I'm so glad I did. Everything has changed for me. I've done a complete 180.

There's so much love here, and I've learned that what I need is to center my life around Christ. I've also learned my worth and significance is in God, not in what the world thinks of me. It's great to know God is filling the void in my heart.

Michael will soon graduate from our Christian Addiction Recovery and Education Program. Thank you for opening your heart to help him discover a new life in Christ, free from the pain of addiction and homelessness!

Homelessness is miserable at any age. But for young girls and boys who are homeless, it means missing out on much of the childhood fun other kids take for granted.

So, on October 31, we're planning to treat the children in our care to an annual Halloween-themed event we call "Street Treats." Thanks to our many community partners, and generous friends like you, the children will enjoy candy, face painting, games, and prizes. And their families will receive hygiene kits and other essential items.

Just one more way you are loving and caring for some of our most vulnerable neighbors!



Struggling this Fall. Please Help.

Please help people in need this Thanksgiving

As we head into the Thanksgiving season, more men and women are seeking help, hope, and a new start at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. Your gift today will help meet their immediate needs and introduce them to God's life-transforming power. Please use the enclosed reply slip and mail it with your gift today. You may also give your donations by visiting us at www.rsgm.org/ThanksgivingNews. Thank you!

You give our neighbors facing devastating hardship the chance to experience grace, healing, and salvation.

MISSION WISH LIST

Donations of the following items are greatly needed at this time:

- Personal hygiene items (toothbrushes, deodorant, etc.)
- Underwear
- Clothing & Shoes
- Non-perishable foods
- Cleaning solutions
- Gloves
- Disinfectant wipes

Your generous donations of clothing and comfort items can be dropped off at the Mission at 2115 Timber Way. Please call to confirm hours of operation: (775) 323-7999.

Give Meals, Shelter, and Life-Changing Hope

Your continued support this Thanksgiving season will mean the world to our hungry, homeless, and hurting neighbors. Please give generously to help provide...

- ✓ Emergency Housing for Women & Children
- ✓ 150 Warm, Clean Beds
- ✓ Thousands of Holiday Meals Served
- ✓ Addiction Recovery Services
- ✓ Coats & Blankets
- ✓ Hope that Transforms Lives

Thank you!

Connect with us!



Be sure to follow us for the latest news and updates on the impact you're making!

MY FALL GIFT

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YES, Luis, I want to help reach hurting people with food, shelter, and new life this Thanksgiving season. **Enclosed is my gift of:**

- \$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.
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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/ThanksgivingNews. You will receive a receipt.