

# the MISSION

## Stories of Second Chances

### I'm Happy with Who I'm Becoming

by Jillian



My name is Jillian, and I was introduced to meth when I was just 14. I was at a party and when I went into the bathroom, these older girls were snorting something. I didn't know what it was. But they seemed really cool, and I wanted to fit in. They said I could try it in exchange for money. That decision would lead to years of heartache.

Not only did I become addicted, but by 16 I was selling drugs with my boyfriend. Then, at 18, just three months after graduating high school, I was arrested for drug trafficking and sentenced to three years in prison.

Upon my release, I managed to stay clean for a while. But I reverted back to selling and using until the police raided my home. I was now facing extended prison time. While I was in jail awaiting my arraignment, I applied to enter the 15-month recovery program at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. Though my attorney assured me the court would never go for it, the judge released me to the program.

This place is such a blessing. I'd been to rehab before, but nothing that's Christian-based or as in-depth. The staff and the classes are so amazing. They care and they want to help you change your life. I wasn't a very nice person before I came here. I was spoiled and rude. But by God's grace and the help of the staff, I really have learned to humble myself. Now I'm loving and happy. I'm happy with who I'm becoming. I don't think I could have come this far except for the work of God in my life.

**“Thank you for your support of this place.”**

Thank you for your support of this place. It's helped me find my self-worth and has restored my family relationships. I'm forever grateful!



## Mobile Pop-Up Pantry Helps Fill the Food Gap

During Jesus’s ministry, he didn’t wait for the people to come to him. He reached out to them. That’s what we’re doing with our Mobile Pop-Up Pantry.

### Here’s how it works:

1. Local churches, Boy Scouts troops, and other community groups volunteer to hold food drives each month.
2. These volunteer groups deliver the food to our warehouse, where they help bag it and load it into our Mobile Pop-Up Pantry truck.
3. On the last Saturday of each month, we station the Mobile Food Pantry at 630 Gentry Way, and the volunteers help give bags of food to families in need from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

To learn more, or to sign up to adopt a month, please call **Charlotte Redding at 775-530-1383.**



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**Luis Santoni**

## You Are Doing More Good Than You Know



Dear Friend of Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission,

Every day, hearts and lives are being transformed here at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, and you are a big reason why. God is faithfully working through you to reach hurting and homeless neighbors. Whether through emergency shelter...hot meals...our Mobile Pop-Up Pantry...or our proven addiction recovery program...you are helping them find real help and hope.

You can read about some of the folks you’re helping in the pages of this newsletter. I know your heart will be touched by their stories of grace and restoration. Please take a few minutes to read about the difference you’re making. Then I hope you will continue your generous support with a gift today.

Summer is always our most challenging fundraising time of the year. That’s because giving declines just as people pour in to escape the heat. And this year, with the rise in inflation, there’s an especially big need for food in our community. Your gift today will go a long way to help meet the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Thank you for your friendship and faithful support—and for all the good you’re doing for the sake of people who suffer.



Your servant,

Luis Santoni

## You’ve Given Me the Tools to Succeed!

by Joshua



My name is Joshua, and growing up I never imagined my life going off the rails. My parents were wonderful, I got good grades in school, I played all the sports. But in my teens, my circle of friends started drinking, and what started out as a social thing soon began to take hold.

Throughout my 20s, my reliance on alcohol only grew. And by my mid-30s, life began to unravel. I lost my job, racked up multiple DUIs, and did time in county jail. As much as I wanted to stop drinking, I couldn’t resist. After my last DUI, I spent a year in prison and when I got out, things were better at first. But eventually I returned to alcohol and wound up living on the streets. One day, after drinking myself into oblivion, I ended up in a hospital with alcohol poisoning. That was a turning point.

You see, I had reconnected with an old girlfriend and learned she was a graduate

of the recovery program at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. She said it had helped her overcome her addiction, and it could help me too. So, she brought me from the hospital straight to the Mission.

**“My faith is helping me change my way of thinking.”**

I was welcomed with open arms and quickly realized the staff here understand me because they’ve been in my shoes. They’ve slept under the tree. They know about the struggle, the hurt, and the loneliness. In addition to the counseling and the meetings, they’ve been guiding me along my faith journey. And God is making a real difference in my life.

Today, I see the changes in myself. My parents are proud of me, and my daughter is awesome. Thank you for giving me the tools to succeed!

## Volunteer for Christmas in July

Christmas in July is one of our most anticipated events of the year and such a gift to hurting families in the area. Already we’re pulling out the Christmas decorations and planning a festive holiday menu to bless more than 800 men, women, and children with a joyful celebration.

Through the generous support of 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. But volunteers are needed!

If you’d like to help, please call Mariah Peaslee at **775-323-0386, ext. 16** to sign up today. You can also learn more at **www.rsgm.org.**

**When:** Monday, July 25

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

Come join us!

## Please Help During the Challenging Summer Months

Over the next few months, Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission will experience a large influx of homeless men and women seeking shelter from the brutal heat. This is in addition to the many people we already serve daily.

We stand ready to help each and every person who comes to us. But the reality is that contributions to the Mission drop significantly during the summer months, when many of our supporters are away visiting friends and family. May we count on your support today?

### Give to touch the lives of neighbors in crisis!

Please send a gift today to help folks devastated by homelessness and addiction—people like Joshua and Jillian. They came here in search of much-needed hope. And because of the generosity of friends like you, they are looking to new lives filled with promise.

To send a generous summer donation today, please use the enclosed remit slip or give securely online at **www.rsgm.org/donate.** You may also call us at **775-323-0386.** Thank you for caring and sharing!

**“Encourage one another and build each other up...”**

— 1 Thessalonians 5:11

# You Are Making a Lifesaving Impact



When you give to Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission...

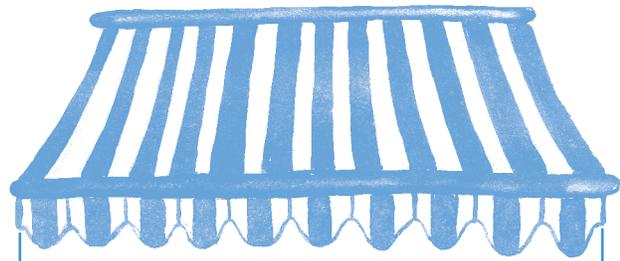
YOU strengthen Northern Nevada's largest faith-based provider of services to hurting and homeless people, which provides 150 warm, clean beds for men, women, and children and serves nearly 500,000 meals annually.

YOU keep our 100-bed addiction recovery program going strong to bring hope and healing to struggling men and women.

YOU bless the community through our men's residence, women's shelter, emergency lodging (for women and children), transitional/rental housing, and four thrift stores.

YOU help minister to vulnerable neighbors 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.

Connect with us!   



## 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 contributing to the life-changing work of the Mission.

### 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

### Hours (all locations):

9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Mon. - Sat.

Please continue your kind support this summer!  
Send your generous gift with the reply slip below. Or give now at [rsgm.org/donate](http://rsgm.org/donate). Thank you!

## MY SUMMER GIFT

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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/donate](http://www.rsgm.org/donate). You will receive a receipt.