

the MISSION

Stories of Second Chances

**“I Didn’t
Have a
Plan B.”**



Josef was in a battle for his life. For seven long years, he’d been beaten up by a severe alcohol addiction marked by numerous bouts of alcohol poisoning and hospital stays. He’d tried several recovery programs, but nothing was working, and life seemed to grow more hopeless with every passing day. Deep down, Josef knew he needed God in his life. But where to start?

“I knew about Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission,” Josef says, recalling a low point last December. “I’d been drinking and I was sick, so I decided to go to detox and then straight to the Mission. I didn’t have a plan B.”

At the Mission, Josef discovered that God is at the center of our proven recovery program, and he began a journey away from addiction and toward the cross.

“Before I came to Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, I knew I needed to build my relationship with God,” Josef says. “But I didn’t know how to go about finding God or

talking to Him. Now I’m talking to God throughout the day.”

Josef is grateful for the love and accountability he’s found at the Mission, and he’s doing the hard work to overcome his alcohol dependency and move on with the life God has planned for him.

“I didn’t really know the effect my addiction had on other people’s lives,” Josef says. “Now I’m aware this doesn’t just affect me, and I’m not as selfish as I used to be. The Mission is helping me build good habits, I’m doing really well, and I’m confident in my faith.”

Josef is also feeling confident about what lies ahead. “I know there’s so much more for me out there,” he says.

Your continued support today will help others like Josef find a fresh start and new hope for a brighter future. Thank you!

**“I’d been drinking
and I was sick...”**

I'm Not Broken Anymore

by Tiffanie



“The hurt of losing my kids was indescribable.”

My name is Tiffanie and when I first walked in the door of the Mission, I was broken and lost. Eighteen years of drug addiction had taken everything from me, and I just didn't want to feel anymore.

Ironically, my battle with drugs began when my sister died from a heroin overdose. We had been very close, so to numb my pain, I started taking my husband's prescription pain pills. Before long, the pills took over and I was addicted. I spent my time either high or sleeping, and my two boys, ages three and five, were eventually removed from the home by Child Protective Services. Soon after, my marriage ended and I signed my parental rights over to my other sister.

The hurt of losing my kids was indescribable. That's when I turned to meth to escape my misery. Homeless

and all alone, I bounced around from dope house to dope house.

Thankfully, that's not the end of my story and I have the Mission to thank for that. The love, compassion, and empathy they give you here is amazing, and now I know I was missing God in my life. Today, God is in my heart and I'm a new person. I'm not broken anymore, and I've learned to love myself again.

I'm so grateful for this place and the impact it's had on my life. I've reconnected with my boys, who are now young men. And when I graduate from the program, I want to dedicate my time to being the mother they always needed me to be.

Thank you for walking alongside people like Tiffanie and helping them discover new life in Christ!

THE CHILD OF AN ADDICT

Following is an excerpt from a touching poem Tiffanie wrote for her two sons.

My child, I've always longed to be the mother that I wasn't. I need for you to know how sorry I am. For every time I chose a man over you. Every time I put drugs into my body instead of your hand in mine. I'm sorry I chose the dope houses instead of your birthdays or holidays.

I wasn't there to chase the monsters away or watch you play at school, and I regret with all my being I wasn't what you deserved. But I want you to know I do love you. I see the person that you are today. You have become a beautiful child of God. I am so proud that you are mine and I love you eternally.

—Tiffanie

hope and new life this Christmas!

Your love can change a life today—and for eternity

Love transforms lives. And that's never more true than at Christmas. As we enter this holy season, so many of our struggling neighbors need meals, shelter, long-term care—and, yes, a love that will change their lives today and for eternity.

So please remember our neighbors who are homeless seeking hope and new life by returning the enclosed remit slip with your donation today. You may also give your donation by visiting us online at www.rsgm.org/HolidayNews or calling us at **775-323-0386**. God bless you...and Merry Christmas!

“Love transforms lives. And that's never more true than at Christmas.”



Give Warmth & Comfort to a Neighbor in Need

Another wonderful way you can help this holiday season is to provide warm clothing and hygiene items for our homeless guests. The Mission is currently in need of:

- Winter coats/jackets for men and women
- Warm socks
- Knitted caps
- Blankets
- Gloves
- Thermal and regular underwear
- Comfort kits (soap, toothbrush/toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, etc.)

Your generous Christmas 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. Thank you!

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.’”

—Luke 2:10-11, NIV



MY CHRISTMAS GIFT

YES, Luis, please use my gift to help bring new life to struggling neighbors this Christmas season. **Here is my donation 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.
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/HolidayNews. You will receive a receipt.



We Have “Room in the Inn”

Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission currently has availability for new guests to enter our life-changing, 13-month recovery program.

If you or someone you love is struggling with an addiction to alcohol or drugs, please call us day or night. We'd love to help start a journey that leads to new life filled with hope.

Call us 24/7 at: **(775) 329-0485**



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Luis Santoni



'Tis the Season to be Grateful!

“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” —2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV

Dear Friend of the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission,

I'm so glad God is in control...

This year, the coronavirus pandemic has brought a whole new set of challenges to Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. From new health and safety protocols...to the temporary shut down of our warehouse...to unexpected numbers of hurting people in need of food and other basics. Yet through it all, God has continued to work through friends like you to meet the need—and to transform the lives of men and women who were once held captive by addiction and homelessness.

When I think about it, I can't help but get a little emotional. Through your overwhelming generosity, you've stood arm in arm with us to push through these difficult times and make a difference for the kingdom of Christ. We couldn't have made it this far without you.

As we welcome the Christmas season, please accept my deepest gratitude and appreciation for all you do. And know I'm praying for you—that you would experience God's grace and peace, and the abundant joy of the season. Blessings!

Your servant,

Luis Santoni

Give the life-changing gifts of

Christmas is all about love. It's about God loving people like you and me through the gift of His Son. But it's also about love for our families, friends, and neighbors. Your gifts to Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission reflect that kind of love as you help provide those who are hungry and homeless with critical food, clothing, and safe shelter.

But there's more. Your gifts also invite hurting people to experience Christ's life-changing love for themselves. Thank you for loving and caring for men, women, and children at the Mission this holiday season and throughout the year.