

# the MISSION

## Stories of Second Chances

### The Missing Piece Was God



**Last Easter, just as many American families dressed up in their Sunday best** and drove off to church, Dawnyel hit a new low. She'd just racked up another DUI. And instead of leading her 8-year-old boy on an Easter egg hunt, she prepared to bid him a temporary, but heartbreaking, goodbye.

This time, Dawnyel promised herself, she'd get clean and stay that way for the good of her son. And after sending him off to stay with her father in Phoenix, she took stock of her life.

**“I was looking to fill a hole in my life.”**

A clear and troubling pattern emerged. In between DUIs, she had always entered into violent relationships with jealous, controlling men. Even when she managed to escape those abusive situations, meth use remained a constant.

### Putting in the Work

With Christ's love urging her on, Dawnyel made a crucial decision: She entered Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. Since then, day by day, you've helped her turn her life around.

Coming to the Mission deepened Dawnyel's relationship with the Lord. She's learned to focus exclusively on the things she can control — beginning with her sobriety. She's found fulfillment in her work at the Mission, which involves coordinating distribution to our Thrift Depots. After months of rigorous study, Dawnyel expects to complete her GED soon.

Now, a year removed from her darkest day, Dawnyel is looking forward to a season of forgiveness and new beginnings. She hopes to reunite with her son very soon — perhaps even in time for Easter. And in the meantime, she's thankful for the part you've played.

“Thanks to you, I'm changed. I'm finally becoming the person I always hoped I could be.”



It's time to put on the walking shoes and join hundreds of others in our annual **"Walk a Mile in My Shoes"** event set for **9 a.m. Feb. 24, 2018**, at **Wingfield Park** in downtown Reno.

Rain or snow won't hinder the more than 600 people who will make the mile-long walk in support of our services to the area's homeless and hurting people. The walk ends at the Mission, where walkers can tour the Mission and learn more about our operations and the homeless campus at Record Street.

Vans will be available to transport participants back to Wingfield Park.

The event attracts families, individuals, businesses, student groups and others. Trophies are awarded to the three largest groups — so invite your friends and coworkers!

Suggested registration is **\$25 per adult/teen** (12 and older) or **\$20 per adult for groups of 20 or more**. We highly encourage registration prior to the walk to avoid lines on the day of the event.

All proceeds directly help the homeless and needy in Northern Nevada.

To join us, please contact **Mariah Peaslee** at **775-323-0386, ext. 16** or just show up at the park before 9 a.m. Feb. 24.



**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Rick Redding**

That Feeling in the Air

**God's forgiveness flows through each and every donation you make**

Dear Friend of the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission,

*"What I received I passed on to you. And it is the most important of all. Here is what it is. Christ died for our sins, just as Scripture said he would. He was buried. He was raised from the dead on the third day, just as Scripture said he would be." – 1 Corinthians 15:3-4*

It's my favorite time of year at the Mission, when there's a noticeable bounce in everyone's step. Voices ring out crisp and bright. Smiles stretch wide enough to be seen clear across the largest room. Can you feel it?

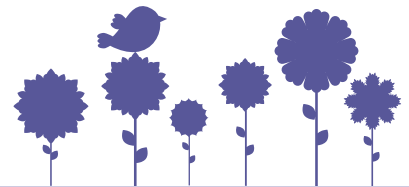
Of all the special days we mark on our calendar, Easter stands apart. Christ's ultimate sacrifice at Calvary means we all can enjoy the promise of eternal life. All that's asked in return is our belief.

I cannot thank you enough for believing in our Mission's work — and the series of miracles that take place here on a daily basis. God's forgiveness flows through each and every donation you make. From the hot meals you help provide to the spiritual services you make possible, thank you for your support of Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission.

He is risen! And if that's not worth celebrating, I don't know what is. Thank you for your steadfast support during this holiest of seasons. May you and your family enjoy a peaceful, joyous Easter, filled with blessings.

Your servant,

Rick Redding



## Your Support Breaks the Cycle

No one sets out to be hungry, destitute, and barely surviving on the streets of Reno. Get to know these homeless men and women, and you'll hear about a complex series of circumstances, events, and choices that brought them to rock bottom. Simply existing from one day to the next becomes their only goal. It's no joy to live.

All of that begins to change the moment these homeless men and women walk through the doors of Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. Your kindness breaks the harmful cycles of addiction and abuse that had been formed over the course of a lifetime. And it happens with a speed and intensity that's incredible to behold! A hot meal, served

# CHANGE THAT'S BUILT TO LAST

By Michael

## **Alcoholism runs deep in my family.**

For years, I denied that it would get me like it had my parents. But I started drinking at 17, when I worked at a roller rink on the weekends. The party lasted decades — well into my 30s.

Nevertheless, along the way, I was highly successful. I had a high-profile job, a flashy car, and an expensive home in an exclusive neighborhood. But despite my success, I didn't feel that way. My wife knew the truth: because of alcohol, I was just barely keeping it together. After my kids were born, I agreed to quit cold turkey for their benefit. I even stayed sober for eight years, white-knuckling it all the way. When I relapsed, my wife divorced me.



Coming to Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission was the best choice I've ever made. I arrived feeling as though I'd lost everything, but this place taught me that, by God's grace, the important things in life are well within reach. I've learned to celebrate the simple things: the food I'm so lucky to receive here and the clean clothes on my back.

Above all, I appreciate my kids. I'm working to rebuild our relationship. Recently, we met up and I noticed the most amazing thing. They weren't studying me to find cracks in a sober facade. Thanks to you, they could see that I've really changed this time.

**“Thanks to you, my kids can see how much I've really changed this time.”**

Without my family to keep me anchored, I dove headfirst into my addiction. After losing my house and car, I spent five months homeless in Reno. My pathetic routine involved scrounging up enough money to get drunk in a back alley. On the rare occasions when I saw my kids, they begged me to get help. Finally, I listened.

with love, might well be the first act of compassion they've experienced in a long time. Thanks to you, it won't be the last.

Your support ensures that our Mission guests receive clean clothing, and safe shelter — all of life's basics. From there, we're able to address the root of their problems with spiritual counseling, drug and alcohol recovery, and more.

To give again today, use the enclosed reply slip, 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 friend to men, women, and children who need your help.

**Thank you**  
for helping us  
help thousands  
during the  
recent holidays!

During the last two months of 2017, we served **over 80,000 hot meals** to our homeless and hurting neighbors; **provided 9,150 nights of safe lodging** for men, women and children; and **helped thousands** in our community through special events.

From street events to Christmas meals to bringing food to people's doors, you made a difference for many in Northern Nevada.

We know 2018 will be another busy year and we look forward to you helping us help others!

If you'd like to volunteer, donate or know more about us, please visit us at [www.rsgm.org](http://www.rsgm.org). You can also **call Mariah at 775-323-0386 ext. 16**.



**“Your support ensures that our Mission guests receive clean clothing, and safe shelter — all of life's basics.”**



Our Mission food services department serves more than 450,000 meals...



We are excited to announce that we have more than doubled our food pantry capacity to better serve those in need across Northern Nevada.

“It breaks your heart to see anyone who is hungry.”

For two months, maintenance supervisor Pat Sladek and a crew of volunteers installed refrigeration units, tore out walls, erected heavy-duty shelving, added lighting and painted walls and signs. The now 4,700-sq. ft. area includes five walk-in freezers/refrigerators, extensive storage shelving and hundreds of pallets of food and non-food items.

Our Mission food services department serves more than 450,000 meals every year as well as provides items to several dozen outside groups that distribute the food in rural areas to those in need.

“It breaks your heart to see anyone who is hungry,” said Paul Parent, food services manager. “This allows us to serve even more hurting families and people in our community.”



To donate or arrange pickup of items for the food pantry, please call Marie at 775-323-7999.

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## MY EASTER GIFT

**YES, Rick,** please use my gift to bring the hope of Easter — a fresh start and new life — to men and women in desperate need. **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 care as possible
- Please bill my credit card: (please print)     VISA     MC

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

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