

the MISSION

Stories of Second Chances

I Can Picture a Future for Myself

by Kyle



Kyle is one of those guys most people would never imagine falling into addiction and homelessness. He was raised in a Christian home. He graduated from high school with honors. And he was cruising through college, just a semester shy of his bachelor's degree. Then the wheels started coming off.

His downfall began with pain pills he was prescribed for a back injury. By the time his prescriptions ran out Kyle was craving the pills, so he began buying them on the street. When he could no longer afford that, he switched to heroin, which is much cheaper.

Throughout his eight-year addiction, Kyle dropped out of school, lost his job painting cars, and found himself living on the streets. He tried a number of different short-term programs, but nothing worked. Feeling more hopeless with each passing day, Kyle reached the point of giving up.

"I didn't have any money, nowhere to go," Kyle says. "I was pretty much throwing in the towel."

Kyle was taken to a five-day detox center, and the folks there connected him with the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. At first, Kyle was a bit reluctant, not wanting to dedicate an entire year to his sobriety. But now, 10 months into our recovery program, he can't imagine not being here.

"I was 110 pounds and completely lost."

"When I came to the Mission, I was 110 pounds and completely lost," Kyle says. "I didn't want to live anymore. But since I've been here, I've found hope. This is the first time in 10 years I've had more than 30 days of sobriety. And I can picture a future for myself that's not only just surviving, but thriving.

"I'm extremely grateful for people who support the Mission, and for the chance to enter this program, change my life, and build a relationship with God."

Stuff a Sock This Holiday Season!

Here's a creative way to help people facing homelessness this Christmas. And it's easy as 1-2-3-4!

1.

Purchase a pair of tube socks, then place one sock inside the other.

Stuff the remainder of the sock with travel-sized personal items, such as toothpaste, a toothbrush, deodorant, soap, lip balm, antacids, mittens, gloves, etc.

2.

Tie the end of the sock with a ribbon (pink or red for women, blue or green for men).

3.

Bring your stuffed sock(s) to the Mission (2115 Timber Way) for us to pass along to homeless men and women.

4.

Feel free to call us with any questions at (775) 323-7999. Thank you!



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Luis Santoni

Real Christmas Miracles Happen Here



Dear Friend of the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission,

I've noticed many holiday movies loosely refer to "Christmas miracles." Well, every year here at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, we see the *real deal*. Men and women walk through our doors with unimaginable, heartbreaking stories of addiction and homelessness—real-life accounts that many would consider hopeless. But through our recovery program, God plants a seed that takes hold and blossoms into a brand-new life filled with hope.

This Christmas is sure to be no different. Exciting things are already under way, and God is working through caring people like you to make them happen. This includes *providing food for 1,300 every single day!*

With your support this Christmas, we want to touch lives by meeting basic needs for shelter and nourishment. But we also want to just love on hurting people and let them know God cares about them.

Thank you for joining hands with us to restore hope and dignity to our homeless neighbors this holiday season and throughout the year. You are a blessing to each and every person we serve. And you're a blessing to me too. Merry Christmas!

Your servant,

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

Luis Santoni



Give Christmas hope to our neighbors

For the wise men following the star of Bethlehem, that star was far more than a celestial miracle. It was a star of hope—and our only true source of hope: Jesus Christ.

To the men and women we serve at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, there is nothing more important than hope. Thank you for giving us the privilege of sharing our Savior with so many of our neighbors in need. Your friendship and support are absolutely vital, offering healing and restoration to all who come through our doors.

Your friendship and support are absolutely

Learning to Love Myself Again

by Betsy



My name is Betsy and when my husband was put on disability for a heart condition, we suddenly found ourselves in a financial crisis. I needed to find a job, and quick. But because I also needed to care for my husband, I needed something I could do from home.

I started an e-commerce business, selling collectible books and antiques. But it wasn't making enough money, and I was getting desperate. A friend mentioned he was getting oxycodone pills every month, but only needed a few, and that he was willing to sell them. I knew someone else who was willing to buy the pills, so I became the middleman and doubled my money. That started the ball rolling.

One day, a "client" paid me in meth and I realized the money that could be made from that. I started selling it to make ends meet and went from a little bit every couple of days to selling well over a pound a week. My life had suddenly

spiraled out of control into a world of drugs and dealing. Eventually, I was arrested and put in jail for seven months.

When I came to the Mission last fall and learned about the program, I was skeptical because I'm really not religious. But I watched and there's just such love and joy and peace here. I thought maybe there's something to this and decided to stick it out. And I've seen miracles happen!

The staff are the most amazing, loving, caring group of people. They actually care what happens to us. They actually want to see us succeed and experience life change, and they go to any extent to make that happen. With their help, I'm preparing to return to school for medical billing and coding. More than that, they've helped me learn to forgive and love myself again, which I haven't for a long, long time.

Thank you for giving women like Betsy a chance at redemption and restoration!

There's "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 you start a journey that leads to new life filled with hope.

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

Neighbors experiencing homelessness.

Help us share the Christ of Christmas

This coming holiday season, your generous support is critical. Costs for operating Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission continue to increase. Food is more expensive. The cost of utilities is rising. And every day, more people come seeking physical and spiritual support.

So please remember our neighbors in need of hope and new life this holiday season by returning the enclosed remit slip with your donation today. You may also give your gift securely online at

www.rsgm.org/HolidayNews. God bless you for reaching out to so many during this special time of year.



vital, offering hope and healing to all who come through our doors.

Wrap a Hurting Neighbor in Christmas Warmth

This holiday season, our hurting and homeless neighbors are in critical need of warm clothing and hygiene items. And we're currently running low on:

- 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.)



You can help us restock by dropping off donations of clothing and comfort items at 2115 Timber Way. Just one more way you can help people in need this holiday season!

Please call to confirm hours of operation: (775) 323-7999. Thank you!



Blessing Families at Christmas With Random Acts of Kindness

One of the Mission's favorite annual holiday traditions is an event we call Random Acts of Kindness. It's a special day when we go out of our way to bless families living in a low-income neighborhood near our warehouse.

On December 15th, we'll load up a couple of our trucks with holiday food items and household essentials. Then we'll roll into the neighborhood, where volunteers will go door to door, handing out turkeys, pies, potatoes—complete holiday meals and even Christmas trees.

This is only possible because of the generosity of friends like you. Thank you for your continued acts of kindness and for sharing the joy of the season with people in need.

"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve..."

—Matthew 20:28, NIV



Connect with us!



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



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



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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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