

# the **MISSION**

Stories of Second Chances

Thanks to you...

**KASSANDRA**  
**HAS HOPE THIS**  
*Christmas!*



**RENO-SPARKS**  
**GOSPEL MISSION**  
INC.

## **DON'T MISS...**

**2** Celebrating the HOPE of Christmas

**2** Double Your Impact

**3** "Your Compassion Saved Me"

## Celebrating the HOPE of Christmas

**How comforting it is to know that our Lord, Jesus Christ, has shared in our humanity. He knows our struggles and the struggles of our brothers and sisters in need too!**

On the eve of his birth, Jesus and his earthly parents Joseph and Mary experienced being turned away and told there was “no room at the inn.” It reminds me that Christ understands the pain and fear of our guests who also have nowhere else to turn.

Here at the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, we will always do everything in our ability to welcome and support a hurting person who comes to our doors. Even so, many of our guests have faced years of homelessness... poverty... and other challenges that have left them feeling unloved and unwelcome.

During the holidays, caring friends like you help remind them they are not forgotten. Your gifts to provide hot meals, safe housing and recovery are meaningful expressions to them of the Lord’s kindness and care in their life.

**This Christmas, I invite you to extend Christ’s love and grace to our neighbors – like *Kassandra* (whose story is on the next page).** Your generosity will surround them with hope this holiday season! Thank you, and may God bless you now and into the New Year.



Luis Santoni  
Executive Director

## Share Hope AND A Christmas Meal...

It’s hard to have hope when you’re struggling with hunger or homelessness. **YOU can make this Christmas a time of celebration for our neighbors in need with your gift to help them today!**



**\$2.17**  
for 1 hot meal



**1 night**  
of safe housing

**CAN GIVE  
SOMEONE**



### Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!

## \$25,000 Year-End Matching Challenge DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!



Here’s a huge blessing as we end this year: Thanks to a generous group of partners, **when you give between now and December 31, your generosity will go 2x as far** to provide food, housing and care... and above all *hope* for our struggling neighbors!

### DEADLINE TO GIVE: 12/31

- ✉ Add your special year-end gift to the reply card and send it today.
- 🖥 Give online anytime at [www.rsgm.org](http://www.rsgm.org).

**THANK YOU**  
for doubling your  
impact during  
our Matching  
Challenge!

# “Your Compassion Led Me to the Light.”



**B**efore I came to the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, I was lost in the dark, broken by fear and drugs. This Christmas, thanks to you, I live in the light – but I will never forget the darkness I left behind.

My mother was lost in her own world of drugs and alcohol. My father abused me mentally, emotionally and physically. I suffered things I can't talk about, and I was left with PTSD. It was my father who, when I was a teenager, introduced me to drugs.

Eventually, my father went to prison, but by that time drugs controlled my life. I soon fell into homelessness, jumping from couch to couch, friend to friend. When I got pregnant and gave birth to my son, it broke my heart to leave him with my grandmother.

When I finally went to jail last year, it was the best thing that ever happened to me, because it gave me the chance to come to the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission.

All the women here were so open and welcoming. They loved me like I'd never been loved before, and they shared with me how God had changed their lives – and I wanted God to do that with me. Through Christian therapy, I was able to overcome the trauma

of my past. I learned how to follow God on His path and that I can do all things through Christ. Slowly my life changed.

Today, I'm nine months sober and I have found myself and my self-worth in Christ. My son is back in my life and I have found my purpose: God created me to be a Christ-like mom.



**“I have found myself and  
my self-worth in Christ.”**

I am so grateful, because this Mission and donors like you never gave up on me. You believed in me and my life will never be the same. I've left the darkness behind. Today, I live in the light.

**Kassandra has hope this Christmas – and she wants to thank YOU for supporting her journey toward a new life.**

# Colder Days = Increased Needs

**Falling temperatures will put lives at risk this holiday season.**

With average lows of 25° in Northern Nevada – and added factors like rain and wind – our neighbors are at risk of hypothermia and other health challenges as the weather sets in.

Help us bring them in from the cold at the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission:

- **Safe housing.** We provide a warm bed and a roof over their heads.
- **Hot food.** Each plate of food offers comfort to cold, weary neighbors.
- **Winter clothes.** Warm winter coats, clothing and shoes go faster than we can stock them.

**To see our most urgently needed items, visit [www.rsgm.org/needslist](http://www.rsgm.org/needslist)**

*“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

## May God fill your life with love, joy, and peace this Christmas and throughout the New Year!

As we look forward to celebrating the life-changing coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, we want to take a moment to thank you for being such a caring part of God’s miraculous work at the Reno Sparks Gospel Mission. God is using YOU to bless so many of our neighbors experiencing hunger and homelessness.

This year alone, your generosity has opened the door for healing and transformation through God’s unending love by providing:

**474,500 nourishing meals**

**27,375 nights of safe housing**

**Hundreds of lives changed in our life recovery programs**

**Thousands of hours of mentorship**

Just as you have given generously to help the Mission meet our needs, may God meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory. *Thank you for your caring and compassion, and have a wonderful Christmas!*

