

# the **MISSION**

Stories of Second Chances



## James has a **NEW LIFE** this Easter!

Thank you for opening  
the door to his  
transformation.



*Easter*  
2025



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

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

**2** All things new...

**2** You Changed Lives  
Last Year!

**3** "I feel the weight lifted  
off my shoulders."



## I FEEL THE WEIGHT LIFTED OFF MY SHOULDERS.

James was taken away from his mom when she was 16 years old because she didn't know how to take care of him.

He was placed in his grandparents' care, which turned out to be an abusive environment. "I was scared to be home," James recalls. "They threatened that if I told my mom, they would beat me even more."

He finally mustered the courage to tell her. For the next several years, they lived in halfway houses while she went through rehab and got custody of him.

The trauma continued when James was assaulted by his first therapist. "That was a big part of my life that made me introverted and not trust people," he shares.

As an adult, he self-harmed to cope. He also turned to prescription pills and then illegal substances to escape reality. **"I hated being myself," he says. "I wanted to fill the void by not feeling any more pain."**

His mother told him about our program at the Mission. He was initially resistant but when he arrived, he was touched by the warm welcome.

"The Mission is drastically changing my life," he says. **"I'm learning to accept myself and forgive those who hurt me."**

James is especially thankful for his teacher who had similar experiences as he did and was in the same program. "It made me relate," he says. "She has changed me and gives me hope."

James is optimistic about the future and plans to do vocational rehab and learn a trade. "I'm blessed with what I'm able to do and things are looking up for me," he says.

## "I KNOW GOD IS THERE BECAUSE HE'S DOING MIRACLES IN MY LIFE RIGHT NOW."

**This Easter, James is experiencing the gift of new life! He has been transformed and empowered to begin his next chapter – thanks to your support!** "I'm thankful to the Mission for the brotherhood, the love they give and for giving me a place of hope and a new version of myself."



### The Gift of New Life in Christ

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." - 2 Corinthians 5:17*



A Message from LUIS SANTONI

*All things new...*

Men and women often come to us on the worst days of their life. They're tired, hungry and struggling with shame. For many, the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission is a last resort.

But the fact that they come to us at all means they still have a glimmer of hope. Because they're trying to change, part of them still believes a new life is possible. **Generous friends like you provide the services and programs that help rebuild their lives!**

We believe God is "making all things new" (Rev. 21:5) for our hurting and homeless neighbors. Whether they come for a meal, a safe place to sleep or life recovery - your generosity helps transform lives like James', whose story you can read on page 3.

Especially now during the Easter season, the hope of new life carries a special meaning. We're reminded of the empty tomb - a symbol that nothing is impossible with God. We hold that promise for each of our neighbors in need.

**Thank you for believing in our brothers and sisters in need.**

Through your gifts and prayers, you show that you have faith in their future and the power of God's redeeming love!

Happy Easter... and God bless!



Luis Santoni  
Executive Director



**YOU** changed lives last year!

In 2024, friends like you joined together to make an incredible impact for our neighbors who are homeless and hurting...



**474,500** meals filled hungry bellies



**27,375** nights of housing kept people safe



Your compassion opened the door to other life-changing services & care

**Thank you!**

Because you showed you care, our community's most vulnerable men, women and children are looking forward to a brighter future!

## This Easter... **EVERY MEAL MATTERS**

Just \$2.17 for a meal & hope for a new life!

Each meal served with love at the Mission is so much more than a plate of food. It can also open the door to life-changing services like safe housing, Christ-centered care and healing in our recovery programs!

**Every meal you provide this Easter matters!**

Just \$2.17 provides a hot, nourishing Easter meal to someone in need... and shares hope for a new life in Christ.

✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.

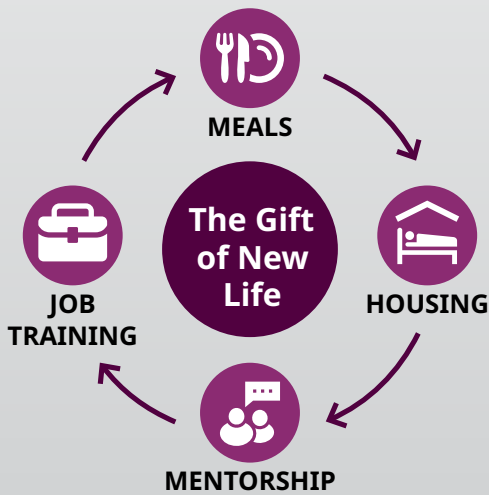
✨ Give online anytime at [www.rsgm.org](http://www.rsgm.org).



# GIVE MONTHLY. **SAVE LIVES ALL YEAR!**

You can make a lasting difference in our community when you become a monthly partner!

These days, it costs more than ever to provide the life-changing care our hurting neighbors at the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission need... By becoming a monthly giving partner, you can help our residents start their journey to a new life by providing:



## HELP HUNGRY NEIGHBORS **THIS EASTER**



### Donate food items for our Easter Celebration! **Sunday, April 20**

You can help provide **thousands of meals** for our hungry neighbors this Easter! Donate these much-needed food items to help welcome our guests with a good meal – and give them hope for a new life.

#### **URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS!**

Drop off any of these items **by Friday, April 18:**

- SPIRAL SLICED HAMS
- INSTANT MASHED POTATOES
- BUTTER
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- POWDERED MILK
- DESSERTS (homemade or store-bought)
- COFFEE
- CREAMER



**Start giving  
monthly now!**



Drop off donations at the Mission, 2115 Timber Way in Reno.

No time to shop? Donate now!  
**(775) 323-0386** ✨ **www.rsgm.org**