

Our Graduates!

The New Life Discipleship Program is a year long residential, faith based, Christian discipleship program that consists of education and Bible based life restoration classes. The Program is free of charge. If a man is interested in joining the program he may request an interview in person at the Men's Shelter or by contacting our main office and requesting an interview. The men's program currently works with 28 men at a time. For more information about the program please visit our website at www.eurekarescuemission.org and click on 'Men's New Life Discipleship Program' under the 'Services' link.

Joey Mckimney



Joey McKimney came to the Mission a broken man. Joey had serious family problems that could not be resolved and this led him back to the Mission Program. Along with family problems, he also suffered from clinical depression which resulted in a sense of severe loneliness. Joey graduated the New Life Program on November 8, 2017. Through his time in the program he found the joy of the Lord by spending time each day in his Bible. Joey demonstrated a desire to be a part of the ministry of the Mission when he graduated and has since taken the position of House Manager at the Men's Shelter. It is a blessing to have him on board with us and he is doing an exceptional job!

Ray Vogel



Ray Vogel graduated the New Life Program November 29, 2017. Ray was a carpenter by trade throughout his life but a lifestyle of methamphetamine addiction robbed him of all good things in his life. Ray found himself homeless and on the streets of Eureka. When Ray came to the Mission in 2017 he was by far one of the worst methamphetamine addicts that we had ever seen. Ray made the decision to enter the program and it wasn't long after he came in that he truly gave his heart to Jesus. Ray currently attends his local church faithfully and attends bible studies through the week. Currently Ray is using his skills as a carpenter working for friends in the community. We are blessed to see Ray's life match up with the scripture, *2 Corinthians 5:17 If any man be in Christ he is a new creation, old things are passed away and behold, all things are made new.*

Mark Grimes



Mark Grimes graduated the New Life Program on February 28, 2018. Mark came to us completely addicted to alcohol and seriously broken. Mark had no place to go and the streets were killing him having been homeless in Eureka for years, living in the bushes, inside cardboard dumpsters during the rain, under bridges and in doorways of local businesses. Today Mark is a totally new man who loves to help other people. Since graduating Mark has realized that his calling is to be an available servant. He loves helping people who are disabled and also loves visiting people who are hospitalized. Mark enjoys giving back to the Mission by helping with whatever is needed. Currently Mark is an active member of First Covenant Church in Eureka and has a church family that dearly loves him. Mark has saved his money and is looking for an apartment of his own.

Brandon Stinson



Brandon Stinson graduated the New Life Program on 3/14/2018. Over a year ago Brandon moved from North Carolina to California to find a better life for himself and to start over. Brandon was addicted to drugs and alcohol and was homeless. Brandon got on a bus and literally had no idea where he was going to end up. He went through Tennessee, Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and into California stopping at each town and city on the way and thinking, "Is this were I want to start my life over?" Something in the back of his mind told him to keep going and finally landed in Eureka. Brandon's bank card was shut off due to his being so far from North Carolina, something financial institutions do to protect the owner of the account. This caused Brandon to search for any kind of help available and he ultimately found himself at the Eureka Rescue Mission. Once at the Mission, one of our program members shared about the program and Brandon decided to give the program a try. Brandon was far from being a Christian and considered himself to be a borderline atheist. After being in the program for awhile he became convinced that God was truly real and received Jesus as his Lord and Savior. Brandon decided that he was going to read the Bible and 7 months later he finished the whole Bible. Now he is starting over and is on his way reading through it again. Brandon said, "I've never been so blessed to be a part of something so big, I thank GOD that He blessed me and directed my path to the Eureka Rescue Mission."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President <i>Lawana Martin</i>	Secretary / Treasurer <i>Sigrd Weir</i>	Executive Director <i>Bryan Hall Sr.</i>
Member <i>Bob Ow</i>	Member <i>Bob Vess</i>	Member <i>Richard Waters</i>

Eureka Rescue Mission
P.O. Box 76
Eureka, CA 95502

PHONE: (707) 445-3787
FAX: (707) 445-3794

Eureka Rescue Mission

Rebuilding Broken Lives... One Life at a Time

CHANGED LIVES

Serving Our Community Since 1967

A Word from the Director



Bryan Hall Sr.

I would like to thank you all for your continual support of the Eureka Rescue Mission ministry. All of the services that we provide are a direct result of your faithful giving. We recently had our Easter meal at the Mission (photos with this article) and it was a complete success. We served right around 175 people and 275 meals. The ham was extra delicious this year and many came back for seconds and thirds! As you turn to read the inside articles, I hope that you are encouraged by the stories of changed lives. Diana and her children, Mary and Veronica are all ladies that have been staying with us for a while at our Women and Children's Shelter. Since writing this article, Veronica has moved into more stable and permanent housing! In addition, we have an article from one of our Women's Shelter managers, Kristen Freeman. You will also find an article by one of our guests named Joe who graciously volunteered to share his perspective on his experience while staying at our shelter. We also interviewed Wade Lawson, one of our past graduates, who is still doing great. On the last page, but certainly not least, I am excited to introduce to you our most recent graduates of the New Life Discipleship Program. Each of them has a dynamic story of how God has transformed their lives. I also want to update you on our renovation project on the Men's Shelter. Phase 1 (new staircase and former upstairs dormitory partitioned into rooms) of 3, has been completed and we are now raising funds for phase 2, which will transform the bottom floor of the men's shelter into dormitory housing, shower and laundry facilities. Please keep us in prayer because our permit must be pulled and construction started by September of this year. We have a ways to go financially in order to get started on this phase of construction, but all things are possible with the Lord! I pray God's blessing on you and hope that you enjoy this edition of CHANGED LIVES.

Bryan Hall Sr.



Would you like more information?
Find us online at:
www.eurekarescuemission.org



Changed Lives



Diana Gravenmier

Diana Gravenmier was born and raised in Eureka by her mother and step-dad and, she is mother to three beautiful children. Diana's step dad was self-employed and her mother was a stay at home mom. When she was young, Diana dreamed of being a veterinarian because of her love for animals. Sadly, Diana experienced abuse when she was young, which went untold for several years. Diana graduated from Arcata High School and through her life she worked at house-keeping, hotel front desk person, accounting and caregiving for elderly and disabled people. Diana started using alcohol and marijuana while in high school and then methamphetamines when she was around 35 years old. She said that she used drugs to numb herself from the pain of abuse that she experienced throughout her life. This is often the case with many of those we serve at the Eureka Rescue Mission. Diana entered into sober transitional housing around 2 years ago with her children to get away from an abusive relationship. Things didn't work out at the transitional house and that is when she and her three children came to the Eureka Rescue Mission Women and Children's Shelter. Diana said that she had no place to go and refused to go back to her former life and dragging her children with her. We asked Diana how the quality of her life is now since coming to the shelter and she said, "It's good, I love the stability and routine that the Mission provides. I am no longer in fear of CWS coming to take my babies." Diana also said, "I now believe that things are going to be ok. I have a loving environment with emotional support and my kids look forward to coming home after school. The staff is so loving." We asked Diana that if she could say one thing to the supporters of the Mission, what that would be. Diana said, "I am super grateful. I don't have much but without the Mission I would have nothing. I am grateful that I have a place like the Mission to learn about the love of Christ. Thank you all so much."



Wade Lawson

Wade Lawson came to the Eureka Rescue Mission New Life Program in January of 2006. Wade was born in Eureka and had a good upbringing. Wade spent most of his time as a youngster with his grandma and grandpa on their dairy farm. Wade's father was a steam plant operator and his mother was a stay at home mom. He graduated high school and also studied to be an equipment operator along with earning certificates in many other fields. He worked at various jobs throughout his life including a dairy farm, saw mill, Caltrans, Eel River Disposal and currently works for the City of Eureka as a Maintenance 3 on the City's street crew. When Wade was 25 years old he started using drugs and alcohol which ultimately led him down the road to being incarcerated several times. When Wade came to the New Life Program in 2006 he had had enough of that lifestyle. His incarceration gave him some time to think about his life and make the life changing decision to enter into the program. Wade graduated the program on January 31, 2007 and then went to work for Eel River Disposal for 3 months, then on to the City Of Eureka in May of 2007. Wade has been working for the City for over 10 years, is married with four children, two grandchildren and owns his own home. Wade said that since coming to the Mission he has way more faith and definitely more love. It is such a blessing to see one of our long time graduates still doing so well. Wade said, "Thank you for believing in me and giving me a second chance, thank you so much."



Joe Avila

For the past several weeks I have had the opportunity to stay at the Eureka Rescue Mission. One of God's little waystations, a place where God's outstretched hand is immediately evident. For those of us who have nobody and nowhere to go, it is a place to stave off the elements while receiving the basic and not so basic needs of life. All who show up are treated with dignity and understanding in spite of some who have attitudes that have soured toward the hospitality that is given. Even when attitudes are soured, hospitality with smiles attached from staff and program members are continually offered. I'm not a religious man but my own simple logic and experiences give credence to God's existence. The Mission and the attitude of staff are evidence of God's existence to me. The Mission feeds, clothes, shelters and guides the souls of the ones who have been discarded by family and society in general. Some pretend that we don't exist and others wish that we would go away. I have only been in two other shelters through my life and both were either on the brink of closing or full of drugs and thugs. I have just recently had the pleasure of meeting Bryan Hall (Executive Director of ERM) who, in my opinion truly cares about what he is doing by helping to improve the lives of anyone who comes through the doors of the Mission. His staff also follows his leadership example and demonstrates the same kind of love. I am a traveler, disabled by partial blindness with a service dog. The Mission took us in and the people have treated me and my dog with kindness and love. I don't need both of my eyes to see the good that is being demonstrated and the love that drives it. If someone were to ask me if I was living on the streets homeless, I would say, "No! I am living in the hand of God." - **Joe Avila** Rescue Mission Guest



Mary Fraraccio

Mary grew up in Eureka with a great life, she had a huge family of five sisters and two brothers. Her parents were good people who took the kids to Sunday school each week and also took them on family vacations all over California. Her mother was a 24/7 mom and according to Mary, "mom never got enough credit for her unconditional love and devotion." Mary's dad worked for Mercer Fraser for 50 years! Mary said, "When I was little I wanted to practice holistic health and help save the world but most of all I just wanted to be me and no one else." Mary graduated High School with her diploma and earned more credits at College of The Redwoods than she can count. In addition to her college education she said the rest of her education came from being a student of the Bible. Mary held various jobs throughout her life, cooking, waitressing, conservationist, yacht building, traffic control, buy sell & trade with her husband, care giving as a CNA and also was a certified home health assistant. Mary experimented with drugs and alcohol as a teenager until she got married and then when her husband died she went back to drugs and alcohol. Mary became homeless on January 1, 2017 and has been without a home since. She tried living in motels but couldn't afford it for long and then resorted to staying with friends and family. That came to an end and Mary found herself sleeping outdoors, under bridges, behind churches, in doorways, bus stops and occasionally spent nights awake in local restaurants. Mary expressed that she could no longer withstand the craziness of the streets, has a strong will to live and heard from someone that she should try the Eureka Rescue Mission Women and Children's Shelter. Since arriving at the shelter she finally feels normal. Mary loves the nightly chapel services and enjoys the good food as well. Mary has her needs met daily and has once again begun to look forward to becoming independent. We asked her what she has now that she didn't have before coming to the shelter and she said, "Through the Mission I have been able to get myself back. I have faith that things will get better and I have a desire to keep on keeping on. I now have hope that my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will guide and guard me every step of the way." Mary said, "Thank you and God bless you for supporting such a cause that helps women and children get their lives back on track and working. It's a place close to the streets that is clean and sober where people can come in, have chapel, get food, clothing and showers. Here we get next to God instead of struggling out on the streets. It's really tough on the streets. God bless you all for really helping the homeless people to get in touch with living in God's love and grace. You have completely helped strengthen my soul and relationship with Christ. Thank you so much!"



Veronica Allen

Veronica was born in the city recognized as the historic heart of the American automotive industry, Detroit Michigan. Veronica is the mother of three children, two girls and one boy. During her childhood, Veronica's father worked in home maintenance and her mother was a stay at home mom. Through her younger years, life was extremely difficult for her due to a lot of abuse from the people who said that they loved her. Veronica finished her high school education by getting her GED and was employed throughout the years at Taco Bell, Hardees, Walmart and AM/PM gas station and service stores. Veronica moved to Eureka in 2011 and became homeless. She started using alcohol at a very young age and slowly got into methamphetamines at around 45 years old trying to escape from depression and homelessness. She lived behind the Bayshore Mall until the City evicted all of the campers and then went to Betty Chin's containers for a short time and then left there. After about one year of sleeping on the streets, Veronica came to our Women and Children's Shelter for help. We asked Veronica why she came to the Eureka Rescue Mission and she said, "I was tired and ready to be clean and sober. I needed a stable and sober environment in order to be able to achieve this goal. I needed to be able to shower and start looking for more permanent housing and the Mission offered me this." We asked her how the quality of her life is now and what she has that she didn't have before coming to the Mission. Veronica replied, "My life is so much better than ever before, I'm not being abused, neglected, used or mistreated anymore. I've never really had the experience of love except when I was with my kids and ex-husband. In the past when I was living outside it was scary and oftentimes I was alone. Now I have hope, faith, love and gratitude." Veronica says, "thank you so very much for your loving support of the Mission and God bless you all."



Kristen Freeman

"I have worked for the Eureka Rescue Mission Women and Children's Shelter for a little over two years and every day is a brand new experience. It's such a blessing to be a part of such a wonderful ministry. Upon intake we have a "goals form" that we have our ladies fill out so we can get an idea of where they are in life and what their needs are. We do our very best to try and meet each person right where they are and assist them in reaching their goals. The Rescue Mission provides a solid foundation for people to rebuild their lives one step at a time and I am a living testimony of what the mission can do for others. At times, illness sweeps through the shelter and many times our staff members contract whatever is going around. It's beautiful in a way because the ladies come together to offer help in taking care of each other including being very helpful to staff. Hot teas and soups are made and it's a beautiful blessing to watch the love of God pour out through them. We rely on donations and I am overwhelmed by the outreach from our community. The gratitude flows throughout the shelter on a daily basis. Through our community we are able to provide shelter, clothing, food and all that children need including medicine during times of illness. Oftentimes the ladies want to give back to the mission. They do this by offering to do extra cleaning as well as cooking meals for each other in our community kitchen. It's beautiful to see so many different people from so many different walks of life come together and encourage each other. None of this would be possible if it wasn't for our generous supporters who donate to keep us up and running. We would like to say thank you very much and God bless you all." - **Kristen Freeman**