

Changed Lives

Easter Meal at the Mission

On Saturday afternoon, the day before Easter, a line of eager faces awaited the annual Easter Meal at the Eureka Rescue Mission. Our dedicated team, including the New Life Discipleship men, hustled to set up the cafeteria, filling meal containers with ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, veggies, and a sweet roll with a side of dessert. This year, we served 274 meals, nearly matching the turnout seen during Christmas and Thanksgiving.

As we gathered to celebrate Easter, the message of hope echoed in our hearts, inspired by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In addition to our regular guests we also had families come for the delicious meal. For many of our guests, the journey to our doors is filled with despair, devoid of hope. Yet, on this day, we were reminded of the enduring hope that surpasses earthly struggles—the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We are profoundly grateful to our community whose support makes these moments possible. Your generosity fills our mission with purpose and provides comfort to those in need. As we reflect on this special day, let's carry the hope that we have to those who are suffering, spreading the great news of the Resurrection wherever we go. Every day is a day to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ! Thank you for being a vital part of this ministry.



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REBUILDING BROKEN LIVES ONE LIFE AT A TIME...

Eureka Rescue Mission

I'm Lina, and I arrived at the Eureka Rescue Mission Women and Children's Shelter on July 21, 2023, seeking a fresh start and aiming to address the challenges that came with homelessness, including outstanding debts affecting my credit and hindering my housing search. During my stay at the Women's Shelter, I wholeheartedly engaged as a hardworking and dedicated volunteer. Each day, I assisted with various tasks such as receiving and organizing donations, laundering house linens, managing recycling, and maintaining cleanliness by taking out the trash. Whenever there was a need, I willingly offered my assistance, reflecting my deep gratitude for the Mission and its pivotal role in helping individuals regain stability. While staying at the shelter I was required to save 75% of my monthly income to secure permanent housing. While simultaneously paying off my debts, I was able to save enough for permanent housing. I found a homeowner renting out their guest house locally. After seeing the ad, I visited the property, met the owner who lives there, and we hit it off. I signed the lease and moved in on March 1, 2024. Despite having stable housing now, I still enjoy volunteering at the Women and Children's Shelter as a way to say thank you to those who helped me along the way. Most of all I am so grateful for everyone who supports this ministry. You made it possible for me to have a fresh start.

"You made it possible for me to have a fresh start"

Deborah's journey reflects the resilience and determination of an individual who has faced numerous challenges throughout her life. Growing up, the oldest of seven kids, Deborah shouldered responsibilities beyond her years when her mother returned to work, taking on the role of caretaker and managing household chores. However, despite the demands placed upon her, she found invaluable life lessons from her grandmother, who taught her skills ranging from cooking to managing finances. As Deborah transitioned into adulthood, she encountered periods marked by difficult decisions and uncertain circumstances. Moving to Eureka at the age of 21, she embarked on a path that included marriage and motherhood, yet her marriage proved short-lived, leading her to figure out the challenges of single parenthood while at the same time, dealing with housing instability. Deborah's resilience was tested further by personal setbacks, including homelessness on three separate occasions. Despite these trials, she remained determined to pursue her dreams, balancing full-time work and education in pursuit of a career in nursing. However, her journey was not without its obstacles, as struggles with substance abuse threatened to derail her progress. Nonetheless, through perseverance and the support of Family Recovery Services, Deborah achieved sobriety, a milestone she maintained for over a decade. The tragic loss of her son Adam in 2022 plunged Deborah into a period of grief, leading her to confront her pain through bad decisions. She made the decision to change and embarked on a journey of recovery which led to sobriety. After staying with us for about five months now, Deborah has secured stable housing and looks forward to a fresh start in her one-bedroom apartment in Eureka, scheduled for occupancy in April 2024. Throughout her journey, Deborah acknowledges the important role played by the Women's and Children's Shelter, which provided her with the support and resources needed to rebuild her life. Grateful for the opportunity to rebuild her life through Christ, she is finally complete in Him. Now, Deborah is looking forward to coming back to the shelter as a volunteer when she has the time, in order to give other ladies hope, that they too can make it through the most difficult life circumstances.

"She remained determined to pursue her dreams"



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“that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness”

Ephesians 4:22-24 NKJV

As the weather begins to warm and the sun shines a little brighter, the Eureka Rescue Mission's New Life Discipleship Program is joining alongside the Eureka Police Department's Community Safety Enhancement Team (CSET). This collaboration marks the ongoing effort to clean up refuse and campsites scattered throughout our city. Members of the New Life Discipleship Program, committed to rebuilding their lives through Christ, are joining hands with the dedicated officers of CSET to make a tangible difference in our community. Together, they work tirelessly to ensure that our streets are cleaner, safer, and more welcoming for all. This partnership is not a one-time event but rather a sustained effort that will continue throughout the upcoming summer months. Through this shared effort, participants in the New Life Discipleship Program have the opportunity to give back to the community while also gaining valuable skills and experiences that will aid them in their journey towards success. Many of our program members were at one time the ones who were camping throughout town, but now have made the decision to accept help to overcome addiction issues and learn service over self. We are grateful for the support and cooperation of the Eureka Police Department's CSET team, whose dedication to serving the community is truly commendable. Together, we are taking steps towards creating a cleaner, safer environment for all who call Eureka home.



In the heart of Los Angeles, Helio's life began in the shadows of despair. Born into a world of darkness, his upbringing was marred by the grim reality of human trafficking. His parents, guilty of this heinous crime, offered him no resemblance of a normal childhood. For Helio, hope was a foreign concept, and faith seemed like a distant dream. Uncertain of his future, Helio said survival was his only education, navigating a dangerous path just to stay alive. Despite his difficult circumstances, Helio possessed a gift for language, fluent in speaking and reading Spanish and able to speak English. In his youth, Helio found himself trapped in the illicit trade of cultivating marijuana and opium poppies. As he reached adulthood, the void within him grew deeper, leading him down a path of substance abuse in a desperate attempt to fill the emptiness he felt inside. By the age of 19, he was already grappling with addiction, teetering on the brink of homelessness. In 2006, Helio found himself without a home, completely lost in a world that had shown him little kindness. His journey led him from Guatemala to Redding, California, but escape seemed elusive. Meanwhile, his mother and stepfather faced justice, currently serving several years in prison for their crimes against humanity. Tragically prior to his parents being incarcerated, both Helio and his sister fell victim to the dangerous grasp of human trafficking, with his sister forced into the sex trade and Helio subjected to forced labor. Yet, amidst the darkness, a glimmer of hope emerged after the arrest of his parents, Helio decided to escape and seek refuge in the Eureka Rescue Mission Men's Discipleship Program. We asked Helio why he decided to come to the Eureka Rescue Mission Men's Discipleship Program and he said, "I wanted to get away from Redding, hopefully to make a change in my life for the better, rather than ending up in prison." We asked Helio what he now has in his life since coming into our program that he didn't have before and he said, "For the first time in my life I'm starting to actually feel. I am sensing that my life has a purpose because of being exposed to the teaching of the Bible, and now I am considering salvation in Christ. I feel like I am waking up. Helio said that his goal is to complete the New Life Program and then see what happens after that. In the face of adversity, Helio's story serves as a testament to the power and love of God. From the depths of despair, Helio is rising, motivated by his newfound hope and is learning what it means to have faith in Christ. As he embarks on this journey of redemption, may his story inspire us all to never lose sight of the hope that is in Christ, even in the darkest of times.

NLPD Graduates

The New Life Discipleship Program is a free, year long, residential, faith based, Christian discipleship program that consists of education and Bible based life restoration classes. Congratulations Graduates!



John Bardot Graduated on 9/6/2023. John worked as our volunteer overnight desk manager and has now moved into looking for full time employment. John did a great job for us at the desk.



Richard Brown graduated on 10/11/2023 and is currently saving money to move out into permanent housing. Richard has made himself available for janitorial duties while staying at the shelter.



Christopher Daves graduated on 1/10/2024. Christopher is working full time at our Thrift Store as a warehouse worker and backup cashier.



Keith Dingman graduated on 3/27/2024 with his service animal Boomerang aka Boomer. Keith is now volunteering as our overnight front desk manager at the shelter.



Jeffrey Dean graduated on 10/18/2023. Jeff is saving money and is volunteering full time at our Thrift Store as security.



Johnny Huusfeldt graduated on 10/25/2023. Jonny is currently in between jobs seeking gainful employment.



Corbett Peterson graduated on 11/8/2023. Corbett works full time as an in home health care provider.



Keith Turner graduated 11/15/2023. Keith is in between jobs and is actively searching for employment.



Andrew Johnson came to the Eureka Rescue Mission New Life Discipleship Program on December 19, 2023. Originally from Porterville, California, Andrew grew up with loving parents and basic necessities readily available. Dreaming of reaching for the stars, at a young age Andrew aspired to become an astronaut. However, life took an unexpected turn when Andrew's path became entangled with substance abuse at a young age. By 15, he found himself in the grip of methamphetamine addiction, influenced by familial circumstances. Despite his initial stability, Andrew's life spiraled into homelessness at the young age of 17, navigating the streets of Tulare, Visalia, Lake Isabella, and finally, Eureka, California. It was amidst these challenging circumstances that Andrew found his way to our program, weary from the instability that had plagued his life for years due to homelessness and addiction. When asked about the transformation he's experienced since joining the program, Andrew said, "It is a night and day difference," he shared. "I have found comfort in my faith in Jesus, clarity in my mind, and an overall brighter outlook on life." Currently, Andrew is diligently working toward successfully graduating the program and eventually obtaining his GED. With previous experience as a ride operator for a carnival company, Andrew is confident of securing gainful employment in another field of work and ultimately returning to school to further his education. Reflecting on his journey, Andrew expressed heartfelt gratitude to our supporters, he said, "You all have helped me so much, thank you for supporting this program," he emphasized. "This place saved my life; your efforts aren't in vain!" Andrew's story is a testament to the power of Christ and the impact of our New Life Program which provides a safe place to grow in the Word of God. As we celebrate the progress of Andrew, we can't help but recognize that it is the awesome power of the Lord working in individual lives, one life at a time.

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In an effort to minimize the cost of mailing, and the number of solicitations you receive from us, the Eureka Rescue Mission would like to know what materials, if any, you would like to receive from us. Please take a moment and mark the box next to your preference on the "Correspondence Questionnaire" below, and return the questionnaire to us.

Correspondence Questionnaire (preferred options and additional information in parenthesis)

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