

# Off to the Races



Nearly all of our New Life Program members have struggled with substance abuse and alcoholism in one form or another prior to coming to our program. They know how it feels to be stigmatized and labeled as worthless homeless drug addicts. Our program gives men the opportunity to experience life clean and sober with the Word of God being the foundation for their lives. This new beginning opens up doors of opportunities in our community that would otherwise be closed to them. For the past few weeks, a few of our men were selected to participate in volunteering at the Samoa Dragstrip to help prepare fencing and other odd jobs for the up and coming drag races this season. Recently those same men were allowed to actually be a part of the racing action. Vinny Lombardi, an employee of Lithia Dodge who organized the races, invited our men to help with the BIG event, top fuel funny cars! Two of our guys were right there on the staging area of the track working hard at keeping it clean and wet for the hot rods to roast their tires on their way to the starting line. The smiles on their faces were priceless. We also brought two suburban loads of program members to enjoy the races. The impact of being included in this gives our men a sense of belonging and purpose. They will never forget this experience. This is one way that our community participates in helping us change lives, one life at a time. Samoa Dragstrip staff wrote, "We'd really like to thank the Eureka Rescue Mission. They have been out there every race and every track clean-up we've had this season. As a thank you for all the help we invited them down to watch the CIFCA (California Independent Funny Car Association) Funny Cars. Some of them have never seen anything like the show James Maher and the rest of CIFCA put on. We at the Samoa Drag Strip always like to help those who help us." Thank you so much Vinny Lombardi from Lithia Dodge for inviting us to be a part of something so awesome! Also, thank you to Samoa Dragstrip President, Danny Wright, for personally helping our guys and showing them the ins and outs of what to do.

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# Eureka Rescue Mission

Rebuilding Broken Lives... One Life at a Time

www.eurekarescuemission.org

# CHANGED LIVES

Serving Our Community Since 1967



## Lending a Helping Hand



**Charlotte McDonald**  
Executive Director  
Eureka Main Street

For more than 20 years now, the Eureka Rescue Mission has been Eureka Main Street's go-to volunteer partner, assisting us with everything from special events (4th of July, Bounty by the Bay etc.), to decorating the Gazebo for the holidays, watering hanging basket flowers, providing the manpower for street clean-ups, graffiti abatement, trash removal and other beautification projects. The Eureka Rescue Mission provides hot meals, clean clothes, and shelter for men, women and children living on the streets who want to come in from the elements. The Mission also serves a population made up of employed men and women who are unable to secure housing, regardless of the reason. I have come to realize the Rescue Mission is so much more. They are the organization that accepts and helps the discarded, broken, individuals that some of the community regularly snubs their noses at. The Mission is the door that opens, the arms that embrace, and the first real chance many are finally getting to start over. They are welcomed without fear of judgment, shaming or rejection and it's accomplished with faith and belief in God. It is such an incredible journey watching how the Lord works in their lives. I have seen so many success stories, and still stay in touch with many of the graduates. They are my brothers, although a few have been young enough to consider as sons. It is amazing what a positive impact these men have had on me. I am grateful that the Eureka Rescue Mission is part of my life and in return I am also a financial supporter of this great ministry.



Would you like more information?

Find us online at:  
www.eurekarescuemission.org



# Making a Difference

## Amy and Family



Amy and her family had been in permanent housing for many years after her first stay in our shelter, but recently, Amy and her beautiful family became homeless again. She knew where to go when times got tough and showed up at our door in need of services. We made special accommodations for her and her

son Mason, who has non-verbal autism. It was not difficult for us at the shelter because Amy is a wonderful hands on mother who takes very good care of him. Mason is such a pleasure to be around and all of our guests enjoyed exploring different ways of communicating with him. It has been such a blessing to have them with us including plenty of laughter and occasional dancing in the kitchen! Amy is a good example of Jesus' love toward her son as well as toward others in the shelter. Their stay with us was short this time because Amy worked very hard in securing permanent housing. Amy has expressed much gratitude to the Mission because she didn't have to sleep in her car with her son. She felt so relieved when they stepped into the shelter because she knew that all of their needs would be met in a safe family environment. We had the privilege of listening as she shared her struggles, and in turn we were able to offer her the encouragement and support she needed as she traveled the difficult road of rebuilding her life for her family once again. We miss them so much but are very happy for them to be all together in their new home. We become family to those who stay with us and it's always very difficult when they move away. It is not uncommon for us to experience feelings of joy mixed with sadness as families leave the shelter, but it is in the best interest of those we serve to see them succeed and become independent. We will remain in contact with Amy as she continues her journey.

## Tammy



Tammy Younger was born in San Francisco in 1960 and was raised by her adoptive parents. Tammy was raised in a dysfunctional home and she started using drugs and alcohol at the age of 14. Fast forward several years, Tammy got married and became a stay at home mother but things didn't work out and after 10 years divorced her husband. Tammy became homeless for the first time in 2010 and couch surfed with friends and went from shelter to shelter while trying to work in restaurants and retail. It was very difficult for her to maintain employment through all of this but finally found a job helping an elderly lady which gave her a place to live at the same time. Unfortunately while trying to lift her client she suffered a compound fracture in her back, resulting in her no longer being able to work losing her job and housing all at once. There were no available shelters in Sonoma County due to the fires which led her to seek shelter here at the Women's and Children's Shelter in Eureka. Tammy is still in a lot of pain from her injury but does her best to smile though it all. When asked how her quality of life is right now she shared that it is ok for now but that she is determined to work toward healing and getting back on her feet. Tammy is used to being independent and living in the shelter is an adjustment that has been challenging. Through it all she has grown in her faith and has also plugged into a local church fellowship which she really enjoys. Tammy has been amazed at the donations and support received at our shelter. She said, "It is not just Christmas or Thanksgiving, the donations come 24/7, 365 days a year and these things help us all to not feel so degraded in our temporary homelessness. Thank you so much."

## Annette



Annette Markey was born in Queens New York in 1944, and was raised with both of her parents. Her father worked for the New York Water Department as a meter reader and her mother was a homemaker. Annette didn't give much thought as to what she wanted to be when she grew up so she just lived her life from day to day as a youngster, graduated high school and chose not to go to college. Ultimately her path led to working for the Manhattan Bank and then decided to move to California where she worked locally as a certified nurse's assistant. After falling on difficult times, she moved in with her daughter and her daughter's boyfriend. Over time this was no longer a housing option for her and she decided to come to the Eureka Rescue Missions Women's and Children's Shelter. Annette's time at the shelter has been a very pleasant experience and she is very grateful for all of her daily needs being met. This has given her the opportunity to save money toward permanent housing. Annette has been a great help with another one of our senior guests. She regularly accompanies our elderly guest to doctor appointments as well as helping to prepare her lunch. It is a blessing to watch them both having good conversation and a time of fellowship eating their lunch together. Annette has been a huge blessing to the shelter residents and staff members; she fits right in and is a breath of fresh air! Annette said "Always think positive because things can change. Tomorrow can be a better day."

## BBQ!



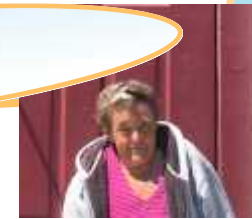
River Community Church youth group blessed the Eureka Rescue Mission with a fantastic tri-tip barbeque dinner! The outreach was a part of the River Community Church Youth "Loving Upstream Beach Retreat." Many folks from RCC and other churches donated blankets and socks to benefit the clients of the Eureka Rescue Mission. Blankets and socks are always in need at the Mission year-round. Youth leader, Richard Titus said, "Honestly, I have never worked with a staff as hospitable, friendly, and hard-working as the guys at the Eureka Rescue Mission ministry." It's always an exciting experience to have groups like RCC come to the Mission and minister. Many times those sent by the Lord to minister are receiving a double blessing at the same time. Thank you River Community Church youth for your outreach to the Mission!

## Hair Cuts!



Homelessness is a very difficult life and looking homeless oftentimes invites unpleasant attention from the public. At the Mission we encourage our graduates and program members to engage with our guests by demonstrating small acts of kindness, even if it's just saying hello rather than ignoring and isolating them further from society, which will only exacerbate their suffering. A few of our grads and program members have experience in cutting hair. Saturdays became the official day to get a haircut at the Mission. Tom Burns, Mark Hilsendager and David Anderson pulled out the clippers and got to work cutting guests' hair and some of the program members along with them. A haircut is such a small thing, but we've realized it can make a big difference in the way people think and see themselves. A free haircut is only a very small piece of a complex puzzle but we think if all the little pieces come together, it can help. Seeing their faces light up when they look in the mirror is priceless! Demonstrating the love of God comes in all shapes and sizes, just like a haircut.

## Carol



Carol McQuade was born in Beckley W. Virginia in 1949. She was born prematurely as a victim of fetal abuse which in turn resulted in many physical handicaps that has impacted her life. Carol's father was abusive to her mother and as soon as she was born he left the entire family and was never seen again. At 9 years of age Carol and her brother were removed from her mother due to her mother's alcoholism and placed into foster care. They bounced around from home to home until Carol was 16 and then placed back with their mother. At that time her mother had obtained 4 years of sobriety and relocated to California. Carol and her mother developed a strong relationship and stayed together until her mother passed away. After her mom passed, Carol experienced homelessness for the first time. Her younger brother was in the same situation so they stayed close together and began sleeping on the streets here in Eureka. Carol had resorted to using methamphetamines and selling it to support her habit which ultimately resulted in her being arrested and going to jail for 6 months. Carol said that she used drugs to mask the pain that she experienced when her mother passed. After many years of sleeping on the streets of Eureka, Carol came to the Eureka Rescue Mission Women and Children's Shelter in October of 2017. When she arrived she was in the beginning stages of pneumonia which merited hospitali-

zation on numerous occasions. She was exhausted and completely worn out but at the same time, very grateful for having a place at the Mission to heal and get on her feet. Since being at the shelter Carol has saved enough money to start looking for permanent housing. She has been working with staff to set goals and has shown determination to reach those goals. Carol said, "Thank you to the Mission's supporters and the wonderful staff who are helping me achieve my goals. With all of your help I am well on my way, thank you so much."