

The Graduates



Jayce Nelson

Graduated from the New Life Program on 4/10/2019. Jayce came to us after spending some time incarcerated so he was sober and ready to make some life changes when he arrived. Jayce worked hard at all of his assigned chores around the facility and was extremely attentive during weekly classes. Jayce landed a full time position as a warehouse worker at our Thrift Store after graduating and has since moved out into more permanent housing. Jayce has had his ups and downs but he continues to persevere.



Lee Hawkins

Graduated on 5/22/2019. Lee was a skeptic when he came to our program. He had a couple of interviews before entering and was undecided as to whether it was a good fit for him. Lee struggled with a serious addiction to methamphetamines and had severed all of his close relationships. His fiancé gave him an ultimatum, "either enter into the program or our relationship is over." That challenge is what thrust Lee through our doors. Lee became a born again Christian a short time after joining and devoured the word of God on a daily basis. Lee is now a married man and has two beautiful baby girls, one being a newborn. Lee is employed as a house manager at our Men's Shelter.



Mark Hilsendager

Graduated our program on 6/8/2019. Mark was clean and sober for quite some time before coming to our program due to being incarcerated. Mark was looking at 16 years in prison for some pretty serious felony charges. By God's miraculous power and grace, the District Attorney had a change of heart and gave Mark another chance. Mark is now a full time driver for a medical transit company driving all the way to San Jose, Crescent City, Redding and trips to Sacramento on a regular basis.



Gabe Gonzales

Graduated the program on 6/19/2019. Gabe came to us completely strung out on alcohol and nearly dead. He had a rough time for awhile through the program and actually left for a few days and started drinking again but that didn't last long, he realized that there was nothing out there on the streets for him and made the decision to come back. Something changed in Gabe when he left and it was a good change, Gabe became very serious about his sobriety and especially his relationship with Jesus Christ. He was promised employment as soon as he graduated at Marcelli's Ravioli Italian restaurant but has since moved out on his own to Arcata and found employment there.

Eureka Rescue Mission

Rebuilding Broken Lives... One Life at a Time

CHANGED LIVES

Serving Our Community Since 1967

Final Stretch!

Well, we are excited to announce that we are on the final stretch of our renovation. Phase three is currently underway and hopefully will be completed by the end of this year! Just recently we had our new roof installed thanks to generous grants from St. Joseph Health, Vera P. Viotor Trust and the Smullen Foundation. Presently, the staircase at the back of the shelter has been demolished and they will be constructing a new staircase soon. Also, all of the upstairs New Life Program member rooms are in the process of asbestos abatement by New Life Services, preparing for the new construction. In addition to all of the renovation, our parking lot on the Third Street side of our new facility will be getting a layer of pavement. Right now it has huge potholes making it difficult for our donation van to access our pantry. We are so thrilled to finally see our long awaited renovation coming to an end! All that we can do to better serve those who come through our doors makes a world of difference in their lives. Now we have our eyes set on the much needed renovation of our Women and Children's Shelter. Thank you all so much for your continued support of this great ministry of changing lives, one life at a time. Your prayers and financial contributions enable us to continue to fight the good fight of faith.

1 Timothy 6:12 NKJV *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*



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God's Squad

It's that time of year again and the Eureka Rescue Missions' New Life Discipleship Program Members are out full force in the community serving in a variety of ways.

Community service is one of the ways that we endeavor to prepare our program members for life outside the safety of the Shelter.

This type of public involvement develops personable skills and a good work ethic in the lives of the men. Our first and foremost commitment is partnering with Charlotte McDonald, Executive Director of Eureka Main Street, to clean and maintain the streets of Old Town, from Waterfront Drive to 5th street and from Commercial to M Streets. Some of their job duties include general street cleaning, trash pickup, weeding, trimming, planting flowers and trees, keeping tree wells clean from weeds and trash and graffiti removal. Recently a group of our men pulled weeds in flowerbeds and cleaned sidewalks around the Eureka Police Department. They also serve during all of the Old Town functions throughout the year, included in the photos are some of our guys at this year 4th of July festival working hard cleaning up and emptying trash. Currently on the weekends several of our men are volunteering at the Samoa Drag Strip for this years racing season as well. We have found that teaching the men God's word along with work therapy are the vital parts of rehabilitation and steps toward a renewed healthy life. It also gives us an opportunity to share the life changing power of Christ Jesus with the community that we work with. It is truly amazing to hear the positive feedback regarding the work that they do in the community.



Katherine

Katherine on the left and her Mom in the middle with family

Katherine Kalas comes from a very large family, her mom was a secretary until she was 10 years old and then they moved from Sacramento to Moab, UT. Her mom then began working as an emergency room desk clerk at a local hospital. For most of Katherine's childhood, she dreamt of being a writer but at the age of 12 she became intrigued with Egypt and all of its ancient background and started dreaming of becoming an archaeologist. Life took a bit of a detour and in the 10th grade she got pregnant and dropped out of high school to care for her child. Years later Katherine received her GED and went on to college, taking courses focusing on anthropology and archaeology. She has a variety of work experience including housekeeping, hotel desk clerk, retail sales associate, environmental technician and also attended trade school for welding and construction. Katherine began drinking on occasion at the age of 17 but didn't use tobacco or experiment with drugs until she was 20 years old. She said, "I am naturally an adventure-seeker so I have always had a taste for trying new things, unfortunately I did try drugs." Katherine was aware of drug use in her family for some time, but it was never offered or talked about around her. At age 20, she was offered methamphetamines for the first time, being assured that she wasn't able to overdose on it; she gave it a try but thankfully never became addicted. In May of 2019, due to unfortunate family circumstances, she and her mom and kids found themselves homeless. They contacted us to see if we had any room available but unfortunately we were at capacity at the shelter. They made their way to her aunts' home for 2 weeks and then on to a friends' house in the Sacramento area until they received a call from staff at our Women and Children's Shelter informing them that a room had been made available. At that moment, there was hope in their hearts again. Katherine says that after praying about her situation, it was made very clear to her that she needed to take advantage of this opportunity. Katherine said, "I am so humbled and truly grateful for the help that we have been given. I was so burnt out and exhausted and always felt so used, alone and sad. Now I feel so loved, valued and encouraged. I love this place and the people that support it." Katherine feels blessed to know that she and her family are safe and that the Lord is truly working in their lives. Before coming to the Mission she felt helpless and hopeless but now all of that has changed. Katherine asked us to share this with you, our supporters. "Thank you from the bottom of my heart to the top. I am truly grateful for everything that the Lord provides through you for us who are in desperate need of love, support and protection."

Women's Shelter

We are truly excited to officially announce that the Women's New Life Discipleship Program (WNLDP) has the foundation set in place and launched on July 1st 2019! All of the program policies and procedures as well as intake packets are completed and ready to go. We are standing firm in our faith that the Lord is going to provide the provisions necessary for this program to be a success. The WNLDP is very similar to the men's program but it will take some time to work things out. At the moment we have five ladies in our program, (photo left to right, Andrea Slover, Debra Bronson, Catherine Winterhawk, Janet Bohrer and in front Caroline Still) but starting small is seemingly the best way to grow into whatever the Lord decides He wants it to be. With God leading, guiding and directing, we have high hopes that this will be the beginning of a much needed flourishing ministry for women in our community. We would like to ask you to pray for this new and exciting adventure because we know that there is so much power in the One who hears our prayers. May the Lord bless you all for your continued prayers and financial support for this ministry of changing lives, one life at a time!



Christina

Christina Arnold was born in Vallejo, CA. Up until the age of 12, she and her mother endured severe violence by her step father in a home where substance abuse was commonplace. Having been raised in a broken family, Christina was introduced to drugs and alcohol at a very young age. At the age of 13 she started using alcohol, marijuana and methamphetamines which continued for the next few years until Christina moved out at the age of 15. Sadly after she left home, her mother never once asked her to come back. When Christina was a young child, she dreamt of being a police officer so she could arrest the bad people that had hurt her but that dream disappeared when she started using drugs at such a young age. Over the years, Christina had ups and downs and eventually graduated high school with her diploma and then on to college studying human behavior and psychology. She has experience working with the elderly who suffer from mental illness and also worked for Hospice for 12 years. In addition, she has work experience in the restaurant industry and mini-marts. Six years ago, Christina escaped a seriously violent relationship with her youngest daughter's father and lived in domestic violence shelters, did a lot of camping and sleeping in cars, and landed in Eureka after a male "friend" invited her. In turn, he was hoping for a relationship with her but she wasn't interested in a relationship. Once again, Christina found herself on the streets with her children. With no place to go she sought services at the McKinleyville Resource Center and thankfully they gave her our contact information. When Christina reached out to us, we opened our doors with compassionate love and she and her two beautiful children have been with us since. Christina is growing in Christ and appreciates the Mission for what it has done for her and her children. Christina says to the supporters of the Eureka Rescue Mission, "What you do is so much more appreciated than I can put into words. For some, it may only be a moment of gratefulness, but for us, we will remember and appreciate you forever, thank you."

In a past edition of our newsletter, we introduced you to Renah Wall. At that time, she had only been with us a short time and now we would like to share with you some exciting updates. Since coming to the Mission, Renah has been able to accomplish several life changing goals; Renah found a local church and regularly attends weekly bible studies strengthening her relationship with Christ. Renah also quit smoking cigarettes as of January 15, 2019 and on June 17th she celebrated 10 months clean and sober from drugs and alcohol! In addition, Renah successfully graduated her outpatient treatment and counseling on April 3, 2019! But that's not all. Renah has been reunited with her children since staying with us and has taken parenting classes and counseling for herself and the children as well as co parenting classes with the children's father and step mother. Other family members that were starting to lose hope are now very involved and supportive of her and her new life. In the previous years before coming to the Mission, Renah had been hospitalized 22 times due to her health problems. Since being here with us, she has not had to be hospitalized at all and her health has continued to improve. Renah now has a California driver's license, has been blessed with a very nice vehicle and has arrived to the top of the Eureka Housing Authority list for low income housing. A three bedroom apartment may become available and as soon as the Housing Authority finishes sprucing it up, she and her children hopefully, will be moving in! Renah said, "Thank you for helping me through my difficult times and making sure all of my needs were met. I will forever be grateful to the Eureka Rescue Mission for the support and love you have given me and my family."



Renah