

# Miracles Happen



Chris Andrews was a completely broken man as a result of about 26 years of methamphetamine abuse. Due to this extensive bout with addiction, Chris was ultimately admitted to a mental health facility being diagnosed with extreme psychosis. After being discharged from the hospital, Chris came to the Eureka Rescue Mission Men's New Life Program, escorted by the Eureka Police Department, on August 13, 2018. While in the program Chris surrendered his life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and thrived in his Bible studies.

After completing a year, he decided that he wanted to spend another year in the program to make sure that he was solid in his relationship with Christ. During his second year in the program he also enrolled in a college level Bible Institute, studying Systematic Theology to deepen his knowledge in the scriptures. Over time, Chris realized that God had a calling on his life to use him in some type of leadership capacity within the ministry of the church. On September 3, 2020 Chris graduated the New Life Discipleship Program and shortly after found employment at a minimart in Redway Ca. While working at the minimart Chris also attended and served at the Redway Baptist Church. Chris graduated the Bible Institute on September 7, 2021 and was ordained on May 13th 2022. Chris' instructor, Pastor David Seaford, held the position as Senior Pastor of Redway Baptist Church but was also building the Bible Institute which reaches as far as Africa. As a result of this, God has led Pastor Seaford to full time ministry outside the church walls and on August 1st 2022, Chris Andrews will be installed as Senior Pastor of Redway Baptist Church! In talking with Chris, he said, "I find myself short for words at this point. Knowing our enormous God of all blessings, I can't help but express again my great love for our Lord Jesus Christ. Without the Eureka Rescue Mission and theology classes, my life would have ended in 2018. Thank you my beloved brothers and sisters for your helping me to see the beauty of God." Pastor Chris.

A word from our Executive Director Bryan Hall Sr.

"To my knowledge, this is the first graduate of the Eureka Rescue Mission's New Life Discipleship Program that has gone on to become a Senior Pastor. We never know the plans that God has in the life of another. When we learn to decrease and allow God to increase, miracles happen. Chris Andrews is truly a miracle of God."



## Eureka Rescue Mission

PO Box 76, Eureka, CA 95502

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# Eureka Rescue Mission

Rebuilding Broken Lives... One Life at a Time

# CHANGED LIVES

Serving Our Community Since 1967

## From the Desk of the Director



Before renovation starts



After demo on first floor

Demolition of the downstairs interior of our Women and Children's shelter has begun! In June the demolition started and within just a few weeks it is completely unrecognizable from what it was before. In the photos with this article you can see the dramatic contrast between then and now and how it has opened up two thirds of the bottom floor to prepare for new plumbing, electrical and interior improvements. We are so excited for this to get started and even more excited to see it completed. Our project is broken up into three phases in order to assure continued services for the precious women and children who come to us for services. We are currently shifting our ladies and children throughout the shelter as construction moves ahead. We have enough funds to complete phase one but due to the rising cost of materials and overall inflation, we will not be able to move ahead into the remaining phases until the Lord opens those doors. Phase one will include a new staircase at the rear of the building, a downstairs medical 4 bed respite room, mini kitchen, multipurpose room, boutique, ADA compliant restroom with showers and a new laundry room. Currently we are only able to house a maximum of 34 women and children but after phase one is completed we should be able to increase our capacity by temporarily using our new multipurpose room for bunk beds. This is a huge improvement that will have an immediate impact for women and children in our community who are in need of our services. Currently we are raising funds to go toward phases 2 & 3. God has always provided for this awesome ministry in the past and I know that He will continue to provide for our future in His perfect time. I am reminded of what Jesus said in Matthew 6:33-34. He said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." (NKJV) My interpretation of this verse is, "Don't worry, God's got this." If you would like to contribute toward this project specifically, you can send a check or money order in response to this newsletter earmarked, "Women and Children's Shelter remodel." Thank you so very much!

### Board of Directors

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Eureka Rescue Mission P.O. Box 76 Eureka, CA 95502 PHONE: (707) 445-3787 FAX: (707) 445-3794



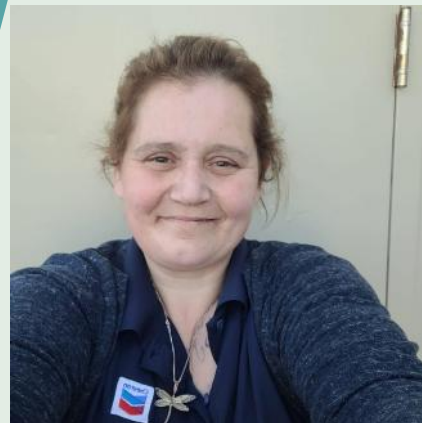
# Lives Being Transformed at the Women and Children's Shelter

## Bonita Ward



Bonita Ward (Bonnie), moved to Eureka in 1971 at 13 years old. Her mom worked for the local Congressman Don Clausen and her father was the Director of Semper Virens. She had a great childhood and upbringing with very loving parents. When Bonnie went to college, she discovered the party life and unfortunately fell into alcoholism which led to many years of rehabilitation programs with no success until her grandson was born in 2005. Bonnie cared for her new grandson while her daughter was working which gave her a reason to stay sober. Fast forward many years, Bonnie came to the Women and Children's Shelter after losing her husband, Rusty, of 33 years. Bonnie's husband had a heart attack and was airlifted out to Napa, CA. She followed along to be at his bedside and had to make the heartbreaking medical decision to terminate further care, due to her husband's final wishes. When she returned to her home in Eureka, their house had been boarded up and the locks had been changed, to her surprise Rusty had not been paying the bills and they were legally evicted. Bonnie came to the harsh realization that she had lost everything including her husband, and now had nowhere to go with zero income. Upon entering the Women's Shelter, Bonnie signed up with Uplift Eureka and entered into the Co-pilot and Work Program that they offer. This enabled her to re-establish her identity and gather the funds to obtain her late husband's death certificate and Social Security Widow Benefits. After securing her finances, Bonnie started the Women's New Life Discipleship Program on July 6, 2020. When it came to nearly a year of her program she felt the need to extend her program for another year. Bonnie was at the point of really beginning to sense the presence of God in her life and she felt she needed the extra time to solidify her relationship with Christ. Bonnie graduated the Women's New Life Discipleship Program exactly two years to the date of starting, on July 6, 2022. Bonnie has been diligently saving her monthly income, and plans to find a cozy place to call home. She has submitted applications and knows that God will open the door to her forever home. Bonnie said, "I don't know where I would have gone or what I would have done had the Eureka Rescue Mission not been available to me. I am forever grateful to the Lord for leading me here and guiding me to Himself."

## Tanya



Tanya Thomas had been a guest of the Eureka Rescue Mission Women's Shelter many times over the past decade. Finally she surrendered and made the decision to once and for all move in the direction toward developing and building a stronger relationship with Christ. Her attempts and dedication were worth it in the end and she successfully achieved the goals she had set, and more. At the Mission, Tanya had the opportunity to heal and grow in her faith and relationship with Jesus; she achieved sobriety, gainful employment, and respect for her own well being. On April 2, 2022, Tanya succeeded in obtaining permanent housing in a freshly renovated two-bedroom apartment in Eureka, just one block from her place of employment. She was able to purchase a used vehicle upon moving out of the shelter due to her disciplined saving while she stayed with us. Tanya had such a beautiful glow

about her which was something that we hadn't seen when she came to us. Jesus completely transformed her life right before our eyes. Tanya felt accomplished and grateful for her new life and took advantage of sharing her faith and God's love with everyone that she met. Just three weeks after moving into her new home, sadly, Tanya suffered a very serious cardiac arrest in the early hours of April 23, 2022. She was able to call 911; however, she collapsed shortly after while still on the phone with the 911 emergency operator. Tanya was transported to the hospital where she had two more cardiac arrests more severe than the first. It is with very heavy hearts that we share with you that Tanya passed from this life on April 28, 2022. Now she is finally without pain and in her new permanent home with the Lord.

Kristen Freeman our Women and Children's Shelter Director said, "This was definitely a hard situation to accept. Without the love of God and knowing that His will is perfect, many of us would not have peace in the loss of our beloved friend. Tanya may not be here physically, but her love radiates through our memories and we will miss her greatly, but we take comfort in knowing that we will meet again in our heavenly home."

This newsletter is produced and published entirely by staff and volunteers.

## Lisa

Lisa Terry came to the Mission broken and feeling defeated by life, having an array of medical issues and procedures that needed to be addressed for her health to start heading in a positive direction. The problem was that she did not have anywhere safe to heal from the medical procedures that needed to take place. Health and medical issues were the primary reasons and cause of her becoming homeless. Lisa had worked in the medical field for many years but complications with her own health caused her to be unable to continue in her field of work. Lisa had become feeling helpless and an overwhelming sense of depression set in which led to a downward spiral of events, ultimately landing her at the Women's Shelter. When she arrived she was very distant and quiet but that didn't last very long.

Our staff spent time counseling with Lisa, giving her hope, encouragement, reassurance, and love. She began trusting staff and other residents and after a short amount of time she embarked on the path of seeking out answers to her health conditions. After visiting an array of different doctors and undergoing various therapies she was able to determine that her issues could be resolved with surgery. Lisa underwent two major surgeries, one of which being a full knee replacement. The blessing was that she had a safe and comfortable place to stay until she was completely healed.

Lisa said, "I am so very grateful for the Mission and its supporters. I have no idea where I would have gone or what I would have done had the Mission not been there for me." Lisa has since been able to apply for and receive her retirement income and as a result, she obtained housing in a fully furnished unit here in Eureka. Lisa plans on staying in her temporary apartment until her name comes up on the waiting list for permanent senior housing. Finally she is hopeful and happy, having a desire to live life to the fullest!



## Lisa & Noah



Lisa and Noah relocated from Ridgeland, South Carolina, on April 10, 2022, and began their journey heading to the Eureka Rescue Mission Women's and Children's Shelter for a fresh beginning. Lisa comes from a lengthy history of illicit drug use and many years of homelessness as well as suffering from type 2 diabetes.

Lisa and our Women's Shelter Director, Kristen Freeman, have been friends for almost a decade and a half. Kristen relocated to Eureka, from Ridgeland, in February of 2015 and started her fresh beginning at the Women's and Children's Shelter. Lisa and Kristen kept in touch over the years and Lisa watched Kristen's journey seeing the changes and growth in her. Lisa was still very active in her addiction but after seeing the growth that Kristen experienced, Lisa desired to have that same change in her life as well.

Eventually Lisa got to the point that she knew she needed to make a drastic change in order to stay alive and reached out to Kristen in desperation for help. Kristen took it upon herself to purchase Lisa and Noah a bus ticket and they were on their way!

After arriving at the Shelter, Lisa has been able to stabilize her diabetes by obtaining the proper medical care she needs. Since arriving she's been strengthened in her faith and is working on becoming familiar with the scriptures. Noah is a very busy and happy 2 year old that loves his momma and Lisa finally realizes that she has a purpose in life knowing in her heart that it was the Lord all along who was drawing her to the Eureka Rescue Mission Women and Children's Shelter. She knows in her heart that she made the right decision to change her life, and the Lord blessed her with a solid foundation to begin rebuilding on. Lisa said, "I have never been anywhere that is as genuinely loving as this place. I am so thankful for the Mission and the folks that support us, thank you so very much." Lisa is currently working on establishing childcare for her son, and plans to start the Women's New Life Discipleship Program as soon as she reaches that goal. She's excited to start learning the word of God and to see what the Lord has for her and Noah in the future.



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