

From the Women's Shelter

It's a New Year, and our Women and Children's Shelter is full of women and full of possibilities for the future.

Part of our regular outreach is providing showers in the morning to any woman on the street. Before their shower, we offer these ladies a chance to look for clean, nice clothing and toiletries in our Boutique. With our ladies in mind, we have now changed the shower times to later in the morning. Now, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9am to 11am, ladies from the street can come in not only for a shower, but Staff will be able to pay more individual attention to each woman. Our goal has always been providing quality services in order to love these women like Christ commanded, and this new arrangement will allow us to do that more effectively.

Along these lines, in May we had started up an Outreach Breakfast for non-residents. During this time, we provide hot coffee, pastries, a chance to get out of the weather, conversation, and most importantly, the opportunity to find out more about Jesus Christ. We have had attendance of these mornings rise and fall over the last few months, but have found that it is a unique opportunity to speak with ladies one on one.

As I'm sure you've noticed, the weather has been particularly difficult lately. We wanted to make warm clothing even more accessible to our clientele, so we added an area downstairs behind our chapel called the "Stop and Shop". In it, we have hung warm coats, sweatshirts, hats, socks, hygiene items, scarves and some shoes. Now, during non-shower days, after dinner, and when there is a need during the day we can take the ladies into that area and disperse even more items into their hands with love. After all, few people are able to be even partially responsive to the Gospel if they are freezing from head to toe.

With the grace of God, and the faithful financial support the Mission receives every month, our Women and Children's Shelter was able to give 6,500 safe, warm nights of rest in 2007. We also provided a total of 11,860 meals, over 4,000 showers, and 37,517 clothing items. I've heard women say to me more than once that this Shelter was more than just a place to crash, but that it saved their life. I have seen first hand women learning important life skills here that they were never able to pick up outside. Saving money, being on time, learning to relate in a group, learning to clean and keep clean, and even learning how to let someone care for them; all of these are things that are happening here on a daily basis.

So, speaking for the Staff, we are ready and willing to see the miracles that God has in store for us, and for the homeless women and children that find their way to us this coming year!

— Mara Rizzo, Women's Shelter Director



Women's Shelter Chapel 2007

Current Mission Needs

- Turkeys (we have none)
- Canned goods
- Men & Women's Deodorant
- Bleach, Pine-Sol
- Coffee
- And as always your prayers

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Ambrosini School Holiday Blanket Drive

Never Too Young To Make A Difference

It all started with a picture book titled "Don't Laugh At Me" and Mrs. Croteau's first grade class at Ambrosini School. While discussing the issues of accepting others despite their differences, the issue of homelessness came up in Mrs. Croteau's class. It was at this point that Mrs. Croteau and her class of first graders made the choice to reach out to the homeless in our community. Their three-week "Blanket Our Community with Kindness" service-learning project raised funds, and collected new and used blankets for the homeless at the Eureka Rescue Mission. All together, the Ambrosini School donated 149 blankets, as well as 91 fleece hats which were hand-sewn after school at Mrs. Head's hat-making workshop.



Mrs. Croteau's first grade class and collected blankets

Mrs. Croteau's class demonstrated that we are never too young to make a difference in our community. They also demonstrated that when we come together as families, teams, and communities, we can accomplish much more than we could individually.

That is what the Eureka Rescue Mission is all about ... coming together with friends of the Mission, in our community, and combining our prayers and resources to give hope to the hopeless, joy to the joyless and the basic necessities to those who are in need.

What a time of great joy at the Mission when we handed out the blankets and hand-sewn fleece hats to all in need ... courtesy of the children of Ambrosini School.



Men's Shelter enjoying blankets

Total Mission Services Provided 2007

Meals Served	Nights of Lodging	Showers	Items of Clothing	Hygiene Items	Blankets Given	Decisions for Jesus
77281	33333	31291	116,347	23228	414	93

Women and Children's Shelter - Homeless Guest Services
 New Life Discipleship Program - Thrift Store
Rebuilding broken lives ... One life at a time

Thanksgiving and Christmas 2007 at the Mission

New Year's greetings from the Eureka Rescue Mission. What a blessing and privilege it is to partner with you in serving those in need. The 2007 holiday season is now recent history and we want to share with you the many exciting events and opportunities that took place in and around the Mission.

We view the holiday season as our opportunity to go beyond our normal service, to honor those we serve 365 days of the year. Over seven hundred "full service" meals were served by over 80 cheerful servants on Thanksgiving and Christmas. We greet and seat the individuals 50 at a time. After a short prayer their meal and drinks were brought to them by smiling volunteers. Once all the guests have their food, they were welcome to relax and enjoy themselves. The youth worship team from Calvary Chapel provided great music, which helped in providing the family, holiday environment. When guests exit, other volunteers greet them, offering them warm winter clothes, hygiene kits and rain ponchos. Most guests picked out a jacket, some gloves, a warm winter cap and scarf, and were on their way with a smile on their faces.



Ready for the Holiday Meal

In addition to the meals, so many other things happened this past holiday season at the Mission. Even though it is not a service we normally provide, food boxes were made up for those who requested them out of the surplus of our holiday foods. We collected and received toys from individuals and various organizations and distributed them to families in need. One of our partners was the Redwood Christian School whose 4th – 8th grade classes came and performed their Christmas pageant and delivered many, many presents! In all, 151 families, 372 children received over 1200 donated presents, with all the work being done by the Women and Children's Shelter staff and volunteers. In addition, New Life Program members set up and took down Christmas decorations in Old Town.



Christmas Dinner at the Mission

It is our passion and joy to do all we do here at the Eureka Rescue Mission. It is our sole intention to show unconditional love in order that it might spark hope for something greater, a hope that is found in Jesus Christ. Your love in action helps make all this possible. Please accept our deep gratitude and thanks for your vision with eternal values.

Isaiah 55:2 Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance.

This newsletter is produced entirely by the Eureka Rescue Mission staff & volunteers

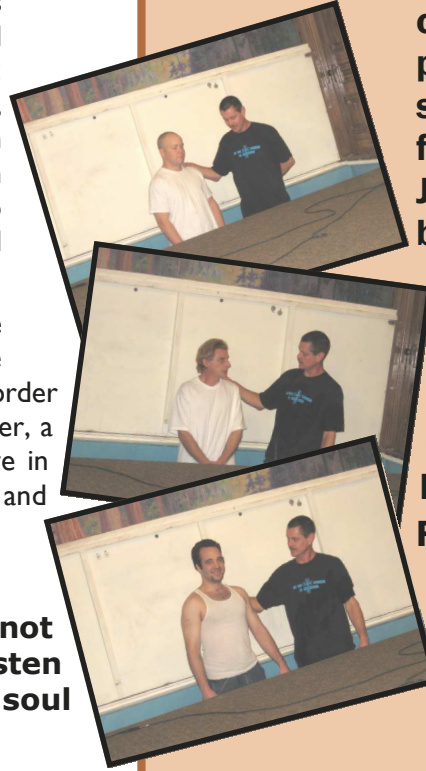


Remember our Thrift Store @1031 Broadway, Eureka

By donating your gently used items and shopping at our Thrift Store you help support the Mission and our community by reducing waste.

— Baptized —
What an incredible month! In January five of our New Life Discipleship Program members made

the choice to publicly declare their desire and willingness to follow Jesus. Jacob, James and Jason were baptized at Calvary Chapel Fortuna by Pastor Craig Hall. Bill and Rob were baptized at Redwood Christian Center by Pastor David Hayes of Celebration Fellowship.



Squash, squash and more squash !!!

October brought a variety of shapes and sizes of squash to the Eureka Rescue Mission.

Warren Creek Farms and Christie's Pumpkin Patch - formerly Potter's Produce presented their annual harvest holiday festivities which included a three acre corn maze to wander through and six acres of plump pumpkins mingled with several species of squash for the picking.



The harvest is plentiful ...

Located just a few miles inland in the beautiful town of Blue Lake, Christie's Pumpkin Patch prepared for the yearly harvest celebration by opening up their farm to local schools and the general public to play in the corn maze and pick pumpkins. The farm was visited by pumpkin pickers large and small.

After the harvest, Christie's ranch opened their heart to local charitable organizations to glean the remainder of the plentiful harvest left in the fields. The Eureka Rescue Mission was invited to participate in the gleaning.

New Life Discipleship Program men including myself hopped into the Mission Suburban and traveled to Christie's ranch on a bright sunny day to pick squash for the Mission. We filled nine tubs heaping over with each type of squash available. There was an astounding assortment of squash of all colors and forms, from traditional orange pumpkins to smaller delicata and butternut squash to big hubbards. The Suburban looked like a "low-rider" on the way out of the fields.

There is a passage in the Bible located in the book of Leviticus chapter 19:9 that says, "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest." The purpose of this law was to allow the poor people to glean the remainder of the harvest. God is faithful in providing all our needs.



Loading up the Rescue Mission suburban.

Christie's went above and beyond what this passage says by allowing us to have the pick of the crop. We are very grateful for their generosity.



Program members gleaning the fields.

The squash have been used in a variety of tasty dishes here at the Shelter by our creative cooks. Some were cut into small pieces and sautéed in a hot skillet with a little oil or butter, while others were cut in half lengthwise, seeds scooped out and placed on a baking pan to be baked in the oven.

Overall the squash endeavor was a fruitful success!

— Bryan Hall, Men's Shelter Director