

“He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, And broke their chains in pieces.” Psalm 107:14 NKJV



Jeff Huntington’s life has completely turned around in a way he never thought possible. For years, he struggled with a serious meth addiction, along with marijuana and alcohol use. His life spiraled out of control, and before long, he found himself homeless, living on the streets for nearly a year. Feeling lost and hopeless, he finally came to the Eureka Rescue Mission, desperate for a fresh start. Once in the New Life Program, Jeff put in the work to turn things around. He took on chores as a dishwasher and janitor as well as other duties, learning the importance of responsibility and discipline. But the biggest change happened when he was fully detoxed from drugs that he was able to truly pay attention in Bible classes. The more he listened, the more he felt a deep longing for a new life and an overwhelming need for God’s forgiveness. In time, he made the life-changing decision to surrender his life to Christ, and from that moment on, everything began to change.



On August 28, 2024, Jeff graduated from the program, clean and sober for the first time in many years. He has now been free from drugs and alcohol for a year and seven months—the longest he has ever gone without using. But staying sober wasn’t enough—he wanted to build a real future. He worked hard to find a job, and after some time, he was hired full-time at our thrift store. With a steady paycheck and a new sense of purpose, he saved his money and eventually moved into his own apartment.

Now, Jeff works on the “ramp” at the thrift store, sorting donations and helping out at the back door, where he greets the generous people who drop off items. His journey is proof that no matter how lost someone may feel, there is always hope. With faith in Christ, hard work, and the right support, anyone can turn their life around. Jeff is living proof of that.



Jeffrey Dean graduated from the New Life Discipleship Program on October 18, 2023. But his journey didn’t stop there—it was just getting started. Almost immediately after completing the program, Jeff jumped right into serving, volunteering as Loss Prevention at our thrift store. He quickly became a steady, reliable presence, someone we could always count on. But Jeff didn’t stop at just one role. While staying at the Men’s Shelter as a graduate, he found more ways to give back—leading evening chapel services, sharing the Gospel with our homeless guests, and even stepping in at the front desk during overnight shifts. No matter what was needed, Jeff was there, ready to serve. During this time, Jeff was also working on rebuilding his personal life. He was able to secure a dependable vehicle, which gave him the transportation he needed to stay consistent in his commitments and start planning for his future. That planning soon paid off—Jeff recently moved out of the shelter and into stable housing, sharing a home with a friend from church. Seeing our graduates take this step is always something to celebrate. Stable housing is a key part of long-term success, and we’re incredibly proud of Jeff for taking that next step. He remains active in his church and continues to grow in his faith, staying committed to the new path he’s on. Recently, Jeff made the decision to step away from volunteering as Loss Prevention at the thrift store as he looks for a part-time job to supplement his income. Another big change is on the horizon—he’ll soon be undergoing cataract surgery for both of his eyes. He admits he’s a little nervous, but mostly excited, especially knowing he’ll no longer need his thick “coke bottle glasses,” as he calls them.



Jeff’s journey is a powerful testimony to what God can do. He gave his life to Jesus Christ while in the program, and that decision has shaped everything that’s followed. He often shares how complete his life feels now compared to where he once was. The gratitude he carries for the Mission and its supporters is undeniable. As Jeff himself puts it: “Thank you so much to our donors. Without you, I would probably not be alive today.”



REBUILDING BROKEN LIVES ONE LIFE AT A TIME...

Eureka Rescue Mission

Eureka Rescue Mission

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Changed Lives

From The Desk of The Director

One of the greatest blessings in ministry is catching a glimpse of how God is working behind the scenes in people’s lives—even when we don’t see immediate change. Every meal served, every sermon preached, every moment of kindness extended plants a seed. Sometimes, years later, we see the fruit of those seeds. We recently received the following letter in the mail, and it’s a beautiful reminder that the Gospel of Jesus Christ never returns void. So we shall continue to press on—sharing His love, His hope, and His truth with everyone who walks through our doors. You never know how the Lord is moving in someone’s heart.



Dear Eureka Rescue Mission,

Thanks for all you do helping those that need it the most. I spent almost two years homeless and bouncing around to different drug houses throughout Eureka. I ate many breakfasts and dinners at the Mission. I always knew the doors would be open and welcome me for food and spiritual nourishment. I particularly remember an event that took place in the lot next to you in the summer of 2001. It was a Christian music band and there was a BBQ, hot dogs and Pepsi! Living on the streets, Jesus had come back into my heart and the music that day was uplifting. The band played the hymn “Lord of lords and King of kings,” and the crowd rejoiced while waving pool noodles into the sky as a triumphant testament to His power and glory. What a day for a wandering drug addict/alcoholic living in his car a few blocks away. And it wasn’t just the hot dogs and Pepsi. I took my last drink and drugs in 2005 and will hopefully celebrate 20 years of sobriety this month—God willing, of course. I think the Mission had something to do with the miracle as I always heard something good in those sermons before the nightly dinners you served and we broke bread together. I can’t always give, but realize what the Mission has given freely to me.

With honest and sincere gratitude, Tim

What a powerful testimony of God’s grace and transformation; stories like this remind us why we do what we do, day in and day out. It’s not just about providing a meal or a place to rest—it’s about offering the hope of Christ to those who are hurting and in desperate need of being born again. Thank you to all who support the Mission through your prayers, giving, and service. Together, we are part of something eternal—pointing people to the One who truly saves and restores.

Blessings to you all,

Bryan Hall Sr

Executive Director



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He Makes all Things New: Stories of Mercy, Hope and Transformation

"I waited patiently for the LORD, and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry." Psalm 40:1 NKJV



Lindsay Reenders, 29, was born in Hanford, CA, and grew up in Visalia, CA, in the heart of the Central Valley. She had a blessed and wonderful childhood. Growing up in the church and attending a Christian school gave her a strong foundation in faith and a deep understanding of God. Her parents were devoted Christians and role models for the person she aspired to become. Following in her older brother's footsteps, Lindsay pursued an associate's degree in law enforcement before earning a bachelor's degree in criminology. She worked her way through college as a waitress at two local restaurants while also helping at her father's business. What started as occasional drinking for fun in high school and college soon became an emotional crutch. By 21, she was drinking daily, starting as early as 6 AM before work, continuing through her shifts and classes, and ending her nights alone in a drunken stupor.

Eventually, alcohol consumed her life. She dropped out of college, lost her jobs, and was evicted from her apartment. Withdrawal symptoms became severe, leading to seizures, but even that wasn't enough to make her stop drinking. After a brief stay at the Visalia Rescue Mission, she left and began living in her car, drinking every day. Eventually, her boyfriend at the time allowed her to stay with him and his family. Then, on October 17, 2019, she received the worst phone call imaginable—her older sister told her their father had been in a fatal car accident. Devastated, Lindsay drank more heavily than ever. During an alcohol-induced hospital stay, a doctor warned her that if she didn't stop, she wouldn't live past 27. Terrified, she entered rehab for the second time and spent the following years bouncing between sober living homes across Orange County. Despite her efforts, she began experimenting with pills, cocaine, and methamphetamines. In 2022, after being kicked out of a sober living home, she found herself drinking on the streets of Stanton, where she was drugged by a man who attempted to traffic her. By the grace of God, she managed to escape and found temporary refuge with a friend. Eventually, she moved into an apartment in Huntington Beach with her then-boyfriend, but the cycle of addiction continued. She lost her job due to hangovers, and their relationship became violent, culminating in an incident where he stabbed her during a meth-induced psychosis. After being asked to leave another friend's home due to her drinking, Lindsay felt lost and hopeless. Having suffered three seizures in one week, she decided to enter Teen Challenge in Eureka, CA. However, after four months, she relapsed—this time drinking stolen hand sanitizer from the churches she was cleaning. Back on the cold, rainy streets, she was introduced to intravenous drug use for the first time. Her rock bottom came when she was physically assaulted and held captive. Once released, she called 911 for help. After taking her report, the Eureka Police Department dropped her off at the Women's and Children's Shelter. She stayed in the overnight shelter for three nights before entering the Women's New Life Discipleship Program at the Eureka Rescue Mission. Lindsay cannot begin to express how much of a blessing the Eureka Rescue Mission has been in her life. She now sleeps in a safe place and wakes up with renewed hope for the future. She recalls feeling the love of God the moment she walked through the doors.

"I am so thankful to everyone who supports the Rescue Mission," she says. "Thank you for the food donations that feed the less fortunate in this community. Thank you for the clothing donations that keep us warm and dry. Thank you to the volunteers who come to teach God's word. You have no idea how much of a blessing you are and how much of an impact you're making in people's lives—especially mine. Thank you for helping me change my life."



Rhonjene Ammerman was born in San Jose, California, and grew up in Modesto in a true middle-class family with two younger brothers. Rhonjene loved her high school years. She was active in sports, cheerleading, and community service, making those years some of the most memorable of her life. Her father worked as a mechanic for Ford Motor Company at a Central Valley dealership for 35 years, while her mother was a licensed cosmetologist. Rhonjene often found herself in her mother's chair as a live model, enduring countless hairstyles and hair product experiments—an experience she grew to dislike. As a child, her dream was to become a flight attendant so she could travel the world.

After high school, she attended Modesto Junior College, earning an AA in General Studies before enrolling in a flight attendant program at Concorde Career College in San Diego, CA. Over the years, Rhonjene has worked in various industries, including 30 years as a domestic engineer, 20 years in resort hospitality management, and six years as a flight attendant. She began drinking around the age of 24, when she started her flight attendant career, using alcohol to help her sleep as her internal clock struggled to adjust to flight schedules and time zone changes. After years of burning bridges and pushing away those who tried to help her, Rhonjene was forced to face the consequences of her actions. She had damaged every relationship in her life and was met with tough love from family and friends. Unable to hold a job, she became homeless in 2019. She spent two years in rehab, lived with close friends for one year, and stayed with family for three years. When she arrived at the Women's and Children's Shelter, she was coming from a recovery program that did not fulfill her spiritual needs. She had heard about the Women's New Life Discipleship Program at the Eureka Rescue Mission and decided to join. Her goal was to strengthen her relationship with Christ, rebuild herself, and focus on her recovery. Today, Rhonjene feels blessed beyond measure. She says her faith is stronger than ever, and she has overcome her past struggles and trauma. Now sober, she works part-time at the Co-Op across the street from the shelter. Her confidence has been restored, now firmly rooted in the Lord, she knows that leaning on her faith in Christ gives her hope for a brighter future. When asked what she would like to say to those who support this ministry, she shared:

"First, I have to say thank you for believing that your efforts truly help bring life and hope back into the lives of those of us who have stumbled, because it truly does. Your support is appreciated beyond words. Thank you to those who teach the classes and make this program work. From the Mission staff to those who contribute financially and to those who give their time to share the Word of God—you are all amazing and a blessing to so many."



Heather Link was born in Whittier, California and grew up in the Los Angeles area. Her childhood was chaotic, abusive, and dysfunctional. Her mother was a Registered Nurse and her father was a Licensed Vocational Nurse. As a child, Heather dreamed of becoming a hairdresser. After graduating high school, she attended beauty school, earned her license, and has worked in the beauty industry for over 25 years. Along the way, Heather also held other jobs, including working for the Department of Corrections, Drug and Alcohol Services, and Child Welfare Services. Heather started using drugs and alcohol at just 13 years old, trying to escape the pain and trauma at home. But substance use only made her life harder. In 2018, Heather became homeless. She slept in her car when she had one, in parks, and in encampments. Tired and broken, she came to Eureka and entered the Humboldt Recovery Center's program. After completing it, she was determined to stay sober. She reached out to the Women's Shelter and did her intake on December 26, 2020. She stayed clean for eight months but eventually relapsed after leaving the Mission. It took a couple more years, but Heather fought her way back to sobriety. Today, she has 18 months clean and sober again. Heather says her life now is "way better." She feels clear-headed, can make good decisions, and has rebuilt relationships with her family. She secured disability benefits, bought a car, and has a stable home. She says she's been blessed with patience, compassion, forgiveness, and understanding—but most of all, she's thankful for her growing relationship with Jesus. When asked what she'd like to say to those who support the Mission, Heather said:

"Thank you so much for blessing me with the chance to get off and stay off the streets. If it wasn't for this place and its people, I'd still be on drugs—or worse. The Mission gave me a safe place to rebuild my life and learn about Christ and His love."



Natasha Nichols was born at Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena, California, into a deeply troubled and dysfunctional family. She bravely shares that she experienced abuse in nearly every form and ran away from home at just 9 years old. After the age of 4, she had no contact with her father. Her mother, despite many hardships, worked diligently to become a nurse and cared for the elderly in their homes. As a child, Natasha dreamed of becoming a pilot in the United States Air Force or a veterinarian. She was determined to rise above her circumstances and worked hard throughout school, eventually earning her high school diploma. Over the years, she gained work experience in hospitality, general labor, and in-home health care. At the age of 21, Natasha began using alcohol as a way to numb the pain of past trauma and the challenges of everyday life. Drug use didn't enter her life until she was 35, but by 37, she recognized the damage it was causing. In 2024, Natasha found herself homeless—a turning point that made her realize something had to change. During that difficult time, she stayed temporarily with a family member until she learned about the Women and Children's Shelter and our Women's New Life Discipleship Program. Feeling she had no other options and fearful of what life on the streets might bring, Natasha took a courageous step and joined the program. Since coming to the Mission, Natasha says her life has taken a new direction. She is now sober and focused on rebuilding her life. For the first time in a long time, she is discovering purpose and hope. Before entering the program, she felt completely lost—making poor choices and feeling hopeless. Her faith had faded, and she struggled to see any way forward. But now, things are different. Natasha is growing in her relationship with Christ, learning more about the Bible, and building healthy, meaningful relationships. She is grateful for the structure, support, and opportunity to start fresh. To those who support the Mission, Natasha shares a heartfelt message:

"Thank you for allowing me a place to change my life. Thank you for your help in saving me."

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