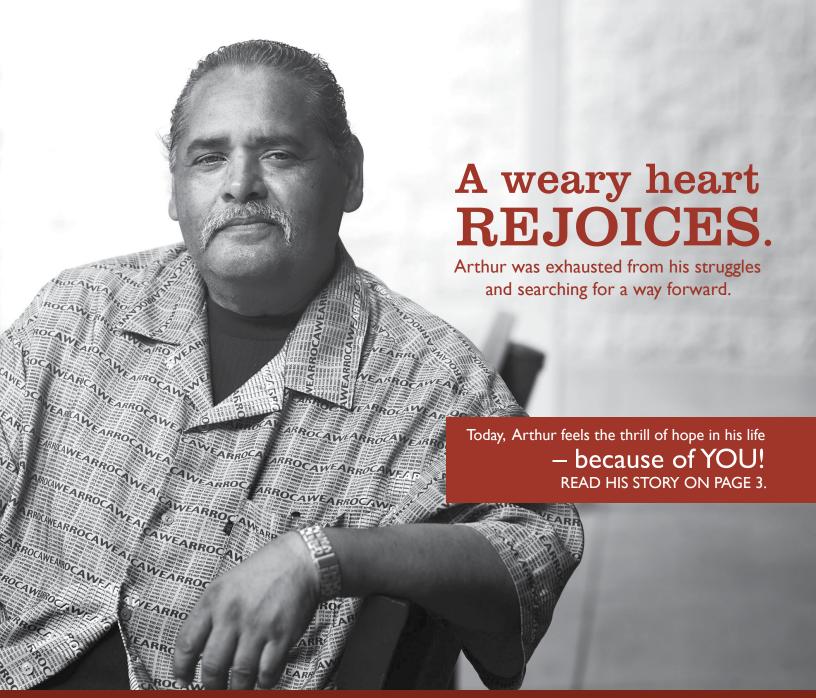
Long Beach Rescue Mission Helping the Homeless - Changing Lives



"In one year here, I learned more than I have my whole life."

CEvery day we open our Bibles, and I'm like, 'WOW! I NEVER KNEW THAT BEFORE!'

All it took was a split second for Arthur's life to change forever. "My father had a heart attack – and died in my arms on the way to the hospital." Growing up, Arthur remembers many happy moments enjoyed with his loved ones. "But it all fell apart when my dad passed away," he says.

Soon after, his distraught mother was diagnosed with cancer. The disease eventually took her life. "Nobody tells you how to grieve," Arthur says. "I coped by just being numb."

This wasn't the first time Arthur found himself facing challenges beyond his control. As a young man, Arthur took on the responsibilities of a father and husband when his girlfriend got pregnant at 17. "I wanted to do the right thing," he says, "so we got married." They had two children together, but when his wife cheated on him and got custody of their kids, Arthur was devastated.

He learned to push down his anger and depression for a while, but the challenges of life kept coming. Arthur lost his home. Then he hurt his back at work. Never having learned to read and now unable to do most physical labor, he lost his job.

Arthur never abused drugs or alcohol. It was simply a string of uncontrollable tragedies in his life that led to him becoming homeless.

Wanting a new path, he came to the Mission and watched as God's blessings flowed into his life.

Arthur graduated the year-long program almost a year ago and is learning from our chaplains about God's love and healing grace.

Arthur loves Celebrate Recovery, our Friday night gathering, where guests enjoy dinner and a church service. In addition, he is seeing a therapist to learn how to let go of his anger and depression.

Arthur's also receiving help to learn how to read!

Today, his two children and five grandchildren live nearby, and he gets to see them every Sunday. Just recently, even more hope was restored. "Years ago, my only daughter got married in Las Vegas, and I was upset because I wasn't there to walk her down the aisle," Arthur shares. "This year, they surprised me and got remarried so I could walk her down the aisle!"

Arthur is now eager to share what he has learned, giving his family members Bibles and Christian pamphlets, happy to share God's love. He is thrilled by his transformation, thanks to God's love in his life – and your support! "Because of the Mission, I'm just happy."

A MESSAGE FROM ROBERT PROBST



Bring **HOPE** to weary hearts

The birth of our Savior Special moments with loved ones. Celebrations around the world.

Christmas is truly a thrilling time of year.

It's a time to share love. A time to raise hopes. A time to be joyful!

I think the Christmas carol "O Holy Night" puts it best: **A thrill of**The weary world rejoices.

hope, the weary world rejoices.

But for some of the weariest among us, the men, women and children who make their home with us here at the Mission, Christmas can be **a very difficult time** of year.

While it feels like the world is rejoicing around them, most of our guests would tell you it's hard to keep their focus on the real reason to rejoice at Christmas. Many are apart from their families, separated from spouses and children. Their hearts are weary from their struggles with homelessness or other desperate situations.

It's your gifts that make it possible for our guests to be reminded of the reasons we all have to rejoice this season – Jesus Christ was born to save and give rest to weary souls! As we share this good news, those who are hurting will surely be filled with the thrill of new hope.

Special meals. Decorations. Small gifts. And above all, a celebration of that very first Christmas... a reminder for them — and for all of us — that miracles do happen and prayers are answered!

As you keep the greater Long Beach area's hurting and homeless in your prayers, I pray you'll share the joy of the season through a gift that transforms lives forever... filling people with joy and new hope.

This, then, is my Christmas wish for all who join us here at the Mission during the holidays, and for you and those who are near and dear: Let weary hearts experience the thrill of hope through our Savior, the God of hope!

Serving with you

Robert Probst Executive Director



so much more than a plate of food. It's a chance to end someone's hunger or homelessness — and offer them the gift of a thrilling new life this Christmas.

☐ GIVE ONLINE anytime at **LBRM.org.**

Thank you for sharing your blessings & bounty!

SHARE

THIS CHRISTMAS WITH PEOPLE IN NEED!



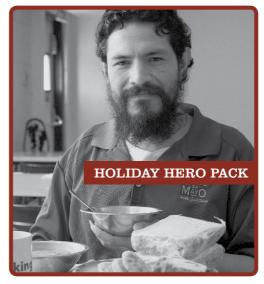
The perfect gift? Look no further!

Give meaningful gifts this Christmas by shopping our Christmas Gift Catalog – it's full of ways to save and change even more lives!

SHOP OUR GIFT CATALOG NOW!

■ LBRM.org/GiftCatalog

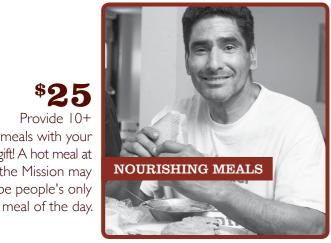
Or, send your special Christmas gift today in the enclosed envelope to bring meals, shelter, care and hope to homeless people this Christmas.



\$55

Our Holiday Hero Pack includes 10+ hot meals, 2+ nights of shelter & access to clothing, medical care & recovery programs!

Provide 10+ meals with your gift! A hot meal at the Mission may be people's only





\$50

For just \$50, give 5 nights of good rest! It's so much more than a bed! During winter, it's protection from hypothermia, frostbite & worse when temperatures drop.

These Christmas gifts are representative of the needs of people served by Long Beach Rescue Mission. Donations may be used to support the area of ministry where the need is greatest.