

Rescue

R E V I E W

Long Beach Rescue Mission Helping the Homeless ■ Changing Lives

How Your Gifts
Bring Joy 2

"Being homeless on the
streets was miserable." 3

Annual Christmas
Toy Giveaway 4



"I felt in my soul that
I NEEDED HELP."

Kelly found joy and forgiveness... thanks to you!

On Page 3: Read how your partnership and prayers helped him find healing in the arms of our Savior.



For years, Kelly believed his life held little value or meaning.

With no sense of worth or concern for his own well-being, he began using drugs, which led him further down a path of self-destruction... until he found himself homeless.

"I was 40 years old and I just kept messing up," he says. ***"I didn't care about family, friends, or work – the only focus I had was on getting more drugs so I wouldn't think about my situation. Life became more like an animalistic existence."***

Then some strangers on the street encouraged him to pray to the Lord for help. Kelly didn't know if he even believed in God, but one night he cried out to Him in desperation. And his prayer was answered. The next morning, a cousin he hadn't heard from in 20 years sent him a text asking how he was and offered to drive Kelly to Long Beach Rescue Mission. ***Here, through your gifts, he was blessed with the essentials of safe shelter... nutritious meals... and everything he needed to feel comfortable and at home.***

"This is the longest I've ever been sober. I think a power greater than myself was necessary to help me. Once that concern and love is there, you're not going to go out and destroy yourself."

*"I just was thinking about my life and wondering, am I going to die out here on the streets?
I felt in my soul that I needed help."*

Kelly accepted Christ as his Savior in the New Life Program, a yearlong journey that equips men with the tools they need for a healthier, better future. *"I've been reading the Bible. I pray. **It's still hard for me to wrap my mind around this awesome thing that God cares about us and loves us no matter what.**"* He continues to learn how to lean on the Lord and the new friends he has made as he looks for work and a place to live.

This Christmas, as Kelly celebrates Christ's birth, he'll also celebrate the joyous new life he found inside our doors... because of your kind compassion. ***"The Mission saved my life. I see people that come in and the progress they've made, and they see the progress in me. It's a journey."***



Your gifts
bring *joy*
to
hurting people.

Your generous contributions are not only blessings in themselves, but they're multiplied exponentially by the countless gifts they allow the Mission to share with those who are hungry, hurting and homeless.

The food, shelter and clothing we provide are gifts that fulfill the most basic human needs. Guidance, education and job training are gifts too – and when accepted with commitment and dedication, they can lead to lives filled with promise and purpose.

Yet the greatest gift we offer inside our doors is the message of God's love and grace, which can transform lives for eternity!

This issue of Rescue Review is all about sharing gifts – a subject that's especially appropriate during the holiday season as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. Yet God's work, the Mission's outreach and our partnership with friends like you is focused on giving all year long!

Of course, none of our ministries would be possible without the gifts you give to us. And I'm so very grateful for your selfless giving, which brings joy to our hurting guests at Christmas and every day of the year. God bless you this holiday season and always.

Serving with you,

Robert Probst
Executive Director

P.S. Once again, we'll be holding our annual Christmas Toy Giveaway, and we need volunteers and donations of toys. If you can help, please contact Ted Hicks at **(562) 591-1292, ext. 119**.

end **HUNGER...**
offer **HOPE**

18,000 MEALS BY
CHRISTMAS

A single nutritious meal is often the first step toward a new beginning for those who are hungry, homeless and struggling with life's challenges. Most importantly, it's an opportunity to share God's love – the greatest gift you can give!

It costs only \$2.20 to provide one meal for a hungry person, at the holidays and all year round!

✉ **GIVE NOW** using the enclosed reply card and envelope.

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



THE *Blessings* OF YEAR-END GIVING

Many Mission partners choose to make an extra financial gift by December 31 to maximize their tax deduction for the current calendar year, while helping the Mission assist those in need well into the year ahead. Your generosity will touch countless lives!

✉ Add your special holiday gift to the reply card and send it today!

IT'S HERE!

Annual Christmas Toy Giveaway

For more than 40 years, Long Beach Rescue Mission has been working hard to make Christmas special for local boys and girls who have so little to celebrate. You can help ensure kids who are staying at the Mission, as well as children from impoverished families in our community, will have a gift to open on Christmas morning.

Please help by purchasing new, unwrapped toys for children – newborn through 12 years old – and dropping them off at the Mission before December 14. Or, perhaps you'd rather make a financial gift that can be used to buy toys and stocking stuffers for kids, or volunteer your time to help make this giveaway a success.

To learn more, please visit **LBRM.org/news/annual-christmas-toy-giveaway** or call **(562) 591-1292, ext. 119**. Thank you for helping to make this Christmas merry and bright for local kids!



Select the perfect gift with

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

Make your **#GivingTuesday** gift now by shopping our Christmas Gift Catalog. It's full of ways to bring joy and hope to people in need.



\$25
provides
nourishing
meals




\$50
provides
safe shelter



\$100
provides
education
and training

 Shop online at **LBRM.org/GiftCatalog**.

 Or, add your special holiday gift to the enclosed reply card.

These Christmas gifts are representative of the needs of those we serve. Donations may be used to support the area of our ministry with the greatest need.