

Rescue

R E V I E W

Long Beach Rescue Mission Helping the Homeless ■ Changing Lives

Celebrating the HOPE
of Christmas

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"I'm drawing close
to God."

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Breaking Ground on
Apostle House!

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Thanks to you...

**AMANDA HAS
HOPE THIS
Christmas!**



Celebrating the HOPE of Christmas

How comforting it is to know that our Lord, Jesus Christ, has shared in our humanity. He knows our struggles and the struggles of our neighbors experiencing homelessness too!

On the eve of his birth, Jesus and his earthly parents Joseph and Mary experienced being turned away and told there was “no room at the inn.” It reminds me that Christ understands the pain and fear of our guests who also have nowhere else to turn.

Here at Long Beach Rescue Mission, we will always do everything in our ability to welcome and support a hurting person who comes to our doors. Even so, many of our guests have faced years of homelessness... poverty... and other challenges that have left them feeling unloved and unwelcome.

During the holidays, caring friends like you help remind them they are not forgotten. Your gifts to provide hot meals, safe shelter and recovery are meaningful expressions to them of the Lord’s kindness and care in their life.

This Christmas, I invite you to extend Christ’s love and grace to our neighbors – like Amanda (whose story is on the next page). Your generosity will surround them with hope this holiday season! Thank you, and may God bless you now and into the New Year.



Serving with you,

Jeff Levine
Executive Director

Share Hope AND A Christmas Meal...

It’s hard to have hope when you’re struggling with hunger or homelessness. **YOU can make this Christmas a time of celebration for our neighbors in need with your gift to help them today!**



\$2.20
for 1 hot meal



\$13.38
for 1 night of
safe shelter

**CAN GIVE
SOMEONE**



Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!

\$75,000 Year-End Matching Challenge **DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!**



Here’s a huge blessing as we end this year: Thanks to a generous group of partners, **when you give between now and December 31, your generosity will go 2x as far** to provide food, shelter and care... and above all *hope* for our struggling neighbors!

DEADLINE TO GIVE: 12/31

- ✉ Add your special year-end gift to the reply card and send it today.
- 💻 Give online anytime at **LBRM.org**.

THANK YOU
for doubling your
impact during
our Matching
Challenge!



“EACH DAY I’M DRAWING **CLOSE** TO GOD.”

As a teenager, Amanda was in a car wreck that nearly killed her. While recovering, she was prescribed painkillers, not knowing this would set her on a difficult path for years to come. **“I didn’t really know what it was to be addicted to something.”**

Addiction haunted her relationships. Her daughter’s father brought drugs into the house, and when confronted, became violent. “He cocked his whole body back and hit me... I was holding our 10-month-old daughter.”

She fled that situation, but her next partner was also an addict and would lure her into using with him. They had a son together, so she stayed with him even as her addiction worsened. **“I wanted to be a good role model for my children, but I was in denial.”**

Wanting a fresh start, Amanda moved to California with her children. “We needed structure, stability... I wanted

my own apartment.” But she wound up experiencing homelessness and eventually lost custody of her children.

At her lowest moment, she prayed **“God, please guide me... help me find a place to go.”** God answered her prayer and brought her to Lydia House.

From the moment she arrived, Amanda knew she had found a place to heal. **“It was amazing, I was welcomed with open arms and a meal. Everyone was so encouraging.”**

Being in the Women’s New Life Program, participating in Bible studies and life skills classes, and working jobs at the Mission has helped her build a new foundation. **“I’m getting the tools to better my life for the future and becoming closer to God.”**

Amanda has hope this Christmas – and she wants to thank YOU for supporting her journey toward a new life. “I’m working with the department of rehabilitation to obtain housing and be reunited with my children. I have so much faith in God, and I’m so thankful to the Mission... they’ve given me a new chance at life.”

“I WAS IN FIGHT-OR-FLIGHT MODE... I JUST WANTED A BETTER LIFE FOR MY CHILDREN.”



John and Helen Apostle House opening its doors!



We are overjoyed to be opening our brand new 15-bed shelter for men with disabilities. Through Apostle House, Long Beach Rescue Mission will be able to expand our services to the most vulnerable of our community.

37% of people experiencing homelessness in Long Beach suffer from physical disabilities, which are often barriers to employment and affordable housing. Through Apostle House, they can receive assistance for the unique difficulties they face.

We were blessed to receive a gift from a generous donor to cover 3 years of operating costs for the Apostle House. With your faithful support, we hope to build on this foundation, keeping the doors of Apostle House open for decades to come, offering hope and healing for our community.

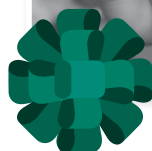
For more information or to make a special gift in support of Apostle House, contact Jeff Levine at jlevine@lbrm.org, or visit lbrm.org.

Scan here to help now!



YOU MAKE CHRISTMAS AT THE MISSION SPECIAL!

Christmas Morning: Thanks to local toy & donation drives and the generosity of people like you, our Mission guests experience the joy of waking up to Christmas gifts.



Holiday Feast: Your gifts help provide a delicious Christmas meal for our residents – for many, the first holiday feast they've enjoyed in years.

The Miracle of Jesus: Worship, prayer, fellowship and a message of God's love – our guests gather in the chapel to celebrate the hope of Christmas together.

Thanks to you, our neighbors don't have to spend this Christmas on the streets. Your support provides gifts, hot meals and a reminder of the true reason for the season!