

SEARCHLIGHT

Serving the needs of the homeless in the community since 1971

Sins of the Father



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Our website shows how we're helping the needy every day.

Visit us online at

www.vegasrescue.org

to make a donation and learn more about our programs, fundraisers, needs, events and how you can help.



Las Vegas Rescue Mission

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

and Shelter of Hope

480 West Bonanza Rd.
Las Vegas, NV 89106-3227
www.vegasrescue.org
(702) 382-1766

When I read the Bible, I see how much God the Father loved His Son Jesus Christ — and how much Jesus loved His Father.

That wasn't my experience with my own father. I hated my father. I hated him so much, I once planned to kill him. (Thankfully, I didn't follow through.)

My father destroyed my life. He molested me from the age of 8 until I was 14, when I finally ran away and joined a street gang, which gave me the love and acceptance I craved.

But the damage was done. I kept what my father had done a secret for the next 35 years, trying to drown the pain and shame with crack cocaine and, especially, with sex and women. Crack gave me a sense of peace and even momentary joy. Women gave me self-worth. My dad showed me I wasn't worth anything. Conquering women made me feel like I was worth something after all. They defined me. They told me who I was.

Learning Who I Really Am

Underneath it all, however, I hated myself. And finally, all the drugs and womanizing caught up to me. By January 2012, I was homeless in Las Vegas. My only ambitions were sex and dope. But I wanted to change. I knew I couldn't do it by myself, so I walked through the gates of the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.

From the moment I arrived, God placed some wonderful people in my life to love and guide me. But the real turning point came when I finally had to open up about my dad and what he had done to me. In my counselor's office, I said everything I needed to say and left my whole burden in that room. When I walked out of that room, I left all my hatred and anger behind. Even more, I *forgave* my father. And he will never have control over me again.

My father no longer defines me. Women no longer tell me who I am. My heavenly Father said He loves *me* — and now only He tells me who I am. I am His child.

Kevin



"I hated my father. I hated him so much, I once planned to kill him."

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The Mission continues to help families with children

One in 45 children in the United States lives on the streets, in homeless shelters, in motels or with other families. Nevada is the eighth worst state in the country for homelessness. Every day at the Mission is an opportunity to help families in need. Every night, homeless families of all kinds come to the Mission for shelter — Shelter of Hope provides shelter for women and children, our family units care for entire families, and we are the only overnight shelter facility in the state for single fathers and their children. Each day our Emergency Food Pantry and our Giveaway House helps families put food on their tables and have clothing, shoes and basic needs. And through partnering with local churches and schools, we were able to help many children this fall with Back to School supplies. Thank you for helping us help families every day!



A Message from My Heart . . .

Bob Brunner, Executive Director

Dear Friend of the Las Vegas Rescue Mission,

At the birth of Jesus Christ, the angels in Heaven rejoiced, singing “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.” It was their way of announcing to the hosts in Heaven and the humble shepherds below, that God still cares for His children in need.

And today, God still cares for His needy children. He shares His love and mercy, in the form of food, clothing and other life necessities, through organizations like the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. He shares His compassion, care and faithfulness through people like you and me.

As the city of Las Vegas continues to struggle with the challenge of one of the highest unemployment rates in the country, and uncountable people who need our help, I am reminded every day how caring people like you have risen to meet that challenge. Individuals, churches, schools, Boy Scouts, volunteer groups, organizations like Wal-Mart and Whole Foods, and even our local baseball team have generously shared their time and resources to help hurting people through the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.

Thank You for Your Faithfulness and Trust

Even as the number of people seeking our help has increased, as the lines outside our doors have grown longer and longer, your faithfulness has enabled us to expand our services, feeding more hungry people and helping more struggling families — proving that God still shows his favor in our city.

So as we enter this season of celebrating the birth of Jesus, I want to personally thank you for trusting us to serve homeless and needy families on your behalf. I am humbled and deeply grateful for your trust and I pray we continue to live up to that trust in 2014. *Merry Christmas!*

Your servant to the homeless,

Bob Brunner, Executive Director



“God still cares for His needy children . . . He shares His compassion, care and faithfulness through people like you and me.”



Please help give new life to homeless men, women and children this Christmas

It all started on that starry night, when God chose to launch his long-awaited project to reclaim and redeem His good Creation, starting in a humble stable in Bethlehem. That night, through His holy angels, God offered peace on earth and goodwill to all humanity through His Son — our Savior — Jesus Christ.

Today, thanks to caring and compassionate people like you, God continues to offer His peace and goodwill to hurting and homeless men, women and children at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. People who were once enslaved to alcohol,

Daddy's Little Girl

After nearly 40 years of pain, abuse and misery, I came to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission on December 23, 2011. That might be the best Christmas present I ever got.

From the day I was born, my dad meant everything to me. I was daddy's little girl, and he cherished me. Unfortunately, my oldest brother did not. For seven years, he did unspeakable things to me and he made me promise never to tell anyone. I never did.

I thought I put all that behind me when I got married at age 17. But the day after our wedding, my husband beat me up. And for the next 15 years, he raped me, beat me, emotionally abused me and forced me to do awful things — things so perverted, I had to be drunk or high on drugs to obey.

By 1992, I couldn't do it anymore and I escaped. But by then, I was a full-fledged alcoholic, trying to drown out a lifetime of pain and shame. And no matter what I did, I couldn't stop drinking.

The Walls Come Down

Through it all, there was one man in my life who really loved me. Even at my worst, my daddy loved me right up to the day he died — just two weeks after I came to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission to get sober.

Over the next year, I gave up all my drinking to Jesus and gave my life to Him. I faced what my brother did to me and I forgave him. And while I may never be able to entirely trust men again, all the loving, compassionate and godly

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men here at the Mission have enabled me to let my walls down around them.

But thanks to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission, there is one new man I've fallen in love with — Jesus Christ. Jesus has carried me every step of the way. Because of Jesus and the love He's shown me, I feel like daddy's little girl again.

This Christmas, I know it's Jesus' birthday. But He gave me the best present I ever got: my new life.

Terri



drugs and unspeakable abuse have found freedom through the King of Kings. Those who've lost their way are now following the One who says *follow me*.

Please remember those who are homeless this Christmas

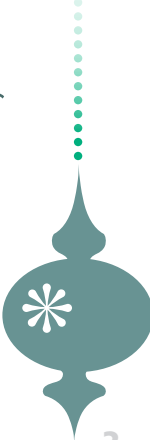
Your gifts to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission offer every man, woman and child who comes through our doors nourishing food, warm clothing, safe shelter — and the promise of God's peace, goodwill and transforming power.

This Christmas season, please remember all the hurting and homeless people seeking hope and a new start.

For your convenience, please use the remit slip in this newsletter to give your donation. You may also donate on our secure website at www.vegasrescue.org. To arrange for a visit to the Mission, please call us today at **(702) 382-1766**.

“THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON,

please remember all the hurting & homeless people seeking hope & a new start.”



Walk a Mile in My Shoes

A NEW ANNUAL EVENT the Mission hosts each summer is "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" — a one-mile walk on Bonanza Road to raise awareness and funds to help our city's homeless and less fortunate. After raising sponsorships and pledges, our faithful walkers endure the tough Las Vegas summer heat — this year, over 200 walkers helped raise enough money to provide over a month of emergency shelter for men, women and families who desperately need the relief and safety of the Mission.



Thank you to our Sponsors!



The holiday season is here!

It takes a whole community to provide food, special meals, warm clothes and toys to thousands of less fortunate men, women and children in our valley. Thanks to many organizations — churches, businesses, schools, civic clubs, etc. — who are hosting one of our "Drives" this year, our **Food Drive**, our **Toy Drive** and our **Coat/Blanket Drive** are going on all over the valley.

To find a Drive location near you, visit www.vegasrescue.org and click on any of the drive banners on the front page. Thank you for being part of our generous community and allowing the Mission to help so many.



My Christmas Gift

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YES, Bob, I want to help men, women and families who need our help this Christmas. Here's my Christmas gift of:

- \$20.50** to provide **10** meals and other assistance
- \$30.75** to provide **15** meals and other assistance
- \$61.50** to provide **30** meals and other assistance
- \$_____ to provide as many meals and as much care as possible
- Please bill my credit card: VISA MC AMEX DISCOVER

ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Las Vegas Rescue Mission
P.O. Box 270400
Las Vegas, NV 89127-4400

▶ Please mail this completed form with your Christmas donation, or you may give your gift online at www.vegasrescue.org. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.