

SEARCHLIGHT

Serving the needs of the homeless in the community since 1971

A Ramblin', Gamblin' Gal



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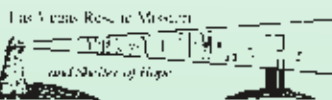
www.vegasrescue.org

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.



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My father abandoned my mom and me when I was 1 1/2 years old. And Mom always blamed me for it. She said I was always trouble and I'd always be trouble. So I set out to prove her right.

I was an alcoholic before I left high school. Then I spent 20 years addicted to speed and prescription drugs. But it wasn't until I turned 40 that I found what I really loved: gambling. I travelled the country playing poker and hitting the big slot machines — I finally found an addiction that prevented me from feeling any emotions or facing my lousy self-esteem and codependence.

Then I moved to Las Vegas. My idea was to work two jobs, play poker, and hit the big jackpots. At first, I had some control over my gambling. But it just kept escalating. Before long, I was throwing hundreds of dollars down the slot machines and gambling whole paychecks away. I got completely out of

control — but I couldn't stop. I couldn't even pass a 7-11 without hitting the slots.

God Had Other Plans

Finally, in August 2012, I gambled away everything I had. One afternoon, I walked out of my house with nothing more than the clothes I was wearing. I found a tree near the Boulder Highway and sat there. And that's where I hoped to die. But God had other plans. Someone saved me from that

(continued on page 2)

“I finally found an addiction that prevented me from feeling any emotions.”

Thank you for introducing me to a God who loves me and for a life I can look forward to . . .



INSIDE

A Message from My Heart — Bob Brunner, Executive Director	2
Trusting That God has a Plan	3
Did You Know?	4

A Ramblin', Gamblin' Gal

(continued from page 1)

tree and brought me to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.

Here they taught me that God has a plan for me. So I thought, if that's true, I'm going to do whatever I have to do to find that plan. I went to classes that helped me face my emotions and my past. I started praying and I developed a relationship with God. I started changing — and, today, a year later, I'm still changing every day. I'm 62 years old and I'm going back to college!

This Christmas season, I want to thank everyone who supports the Las Vegas Rescue Mission for introducing me to a God who loves me and for a life I can look forward to.

Kathryn

Thank you for the gift of hope that you give to all the men, women & children here at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission.



A Message from My Heart . . .

Dear Friend of the Las Vegas Rescue Mission,

For me, the one word that comes to mind when I think of the Christmas story is hope — the hope that came to our world in a Christ child, the greatest gift the world has ever known. Even in the midst of overwhelming pain and hardship, there is always hope.

Yet sometimes hope is hard to find among people struggling with poverty and homelessness, especially over the Christmas holidays, when they remember happier times with family and friends and when they're reminded that life hasn't gone very well for them.

That's when people most need to know that someone cares about them. Because when they see someone care, they are able to understand that there really is hope for a better future.

Fortunately, people do care . . . compassionate people like you, who support the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. Thanks to you, broken men and women here experience loving care. They are treated with dignity and respect — and they receive the help they need to rebuild their lives. That's when they discover the gift of new hope. And with hope, they find new jobs, new homes, and a brighter future.

Thank you for giving the gift of hope

Everything that happens at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission is your work. Thank you for giving us the privilege and the opportunity to serve homeless and broken people on your behalf.

This holiday season, I wish you could see for yourself the hope you give all the men, women, and children here, because you would see that you really are making a difference — that you really are part of the solution toward making Las Vegas a better community in Christ's name.

Thank you for all you do. I am so humbled by your trust.

Your servant to the homeless,

Bob Brunner, Executive Director



“You really are part of the solution toward making Las Vegas a better community in Christ's name.”



Please give precious souls the life.

Christmas is all about love — God's love for us, and our own love for our families, friends, and neighbors. Your gifts to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission reflect that kind of love as you help provide those who are hurting and homeless with critical food, clothing, and safe shelter.

But there's more. Your gifts draw hurting people into the extraordinary loving presence of Jesus Christ Himself, who came to us as a child to reveal God's heart for every one of us. Thank you for loving and caring for precious men, women, and children at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission

Love transforms lives. And

Trusting That God has a Plan

“I don’t trust anyone,” says Gilbert, a 44-year-old guest at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. “I’ve been bounced around, used and abused. Neglected, molested, and traumatized all my life.”

That’s no exaggeration. Gilbert’s birth father was a mean alcoholic. When Gilbert was 5, a neighbor kidnapped his mother and siblings at gunpoint — and later murdered his mother. After that, Gilbert’s birth father didn’t want him back so he was sent to an orphanage, where he was sexually molested. He was finally adopted at age 11 — but his new “family” only adopted him to be an unpaid farmhand.

“So I started drinking and smoking weed, seven days a week,” Gilbert says. His drinking earned him three DUIs and two long-term stints in jail. After his last jail term, he quit

drinking, met a woman, and they decided to move to Las Vegas to start over.

But Gilbert and his wife couldn’t find work. They soon ran out of money and Gilbert started drinking again. He soon earned another DUI, ended up in jail, and his wife abandoned him.

“When I left jail, I spent six months walking the streets, panhandling, and sleeping behind the MGM Grand,” he says. “I started thinking, if God has a plan for me, I sure don’t know what it is.”

God Brought Me Here for a Reason

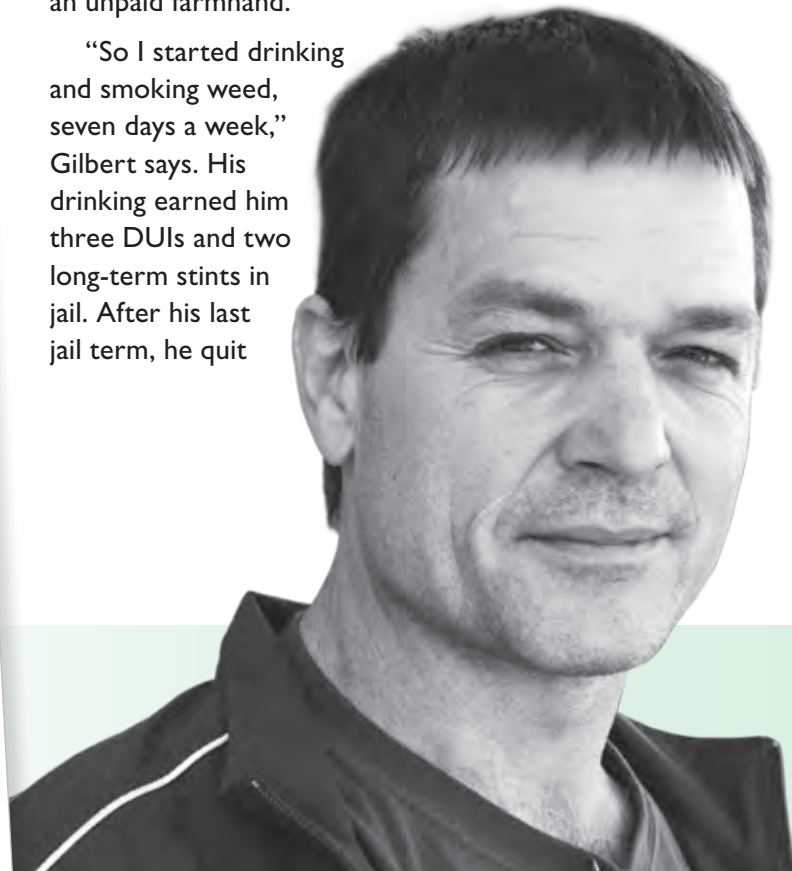
Following one more arrest, police brought Gilbert to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission, where’s he lived for the past three months.

“Since I got here,” he says, “I’m praying, reading my Bible, and trying to get closer to God. I never trusted anyone and I still don’t, but I’m trying to change that. God says He loves me and I have to trust Him. But no one has ever loved me before. I don’t know anything about love.

“God has also told me he really does have a plan for me. I just have to let it play out. So I believe He sent me here for a reason. I have peace. And now I’m just focusing on Jesus and waiting to see where He takes me.”

GILBERT

“No one has ever loved me before. I don’t know anything about love.”



-changing gifts of hope & new life this Christmas!

this holiday season and throughout the year.

Your love can change a life today — and for eternity

Love transforms lives. And that’s never more true than at Christmas. As we enter this holy season of the year, more struggling people come to us every day, needing meals, shelter, long-term care — and, yes, a love that will change their lives today and for eternity.

In the spirit of this great season of giving, we encourage you once again to give a donation of any amount to help lessen the suffering and pain of those who come through our doors. 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**.

that’s never more true than at Christmas.



Students Making a Difference



AS OUR SCHOOLS NEAR WINTER BREAK, just going to school is not enough for many Valley students. They are finding ways to make a difference in the community. Las Vegas Rescue Mission says thank you for the countless hours of volunteering, special

fundraisers, bottled water drives, food drives and so much more. Thank you to the many schools (far too many to list) of all ages – elementary, middle school, high school and college — we are so proud of your support.

Did You Know . . .



LAS VEGAS RESCUE MISSION SERVES, on average, approximately 30,000 meals each month to men, women, and families in need. Each day we also provide emergency shelter, basic needs and many other services to the homeless, hungry, and hurting.



EVERY SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE Mission, 365 days a year, is only possible by the generosity of friends like you and the Las Vegas community. LVRM receives no government funding.



LVRM WILL PICK UP YOUR donations of furniture, clothing, electronics, household items and anything else you may have that can be given a second life helping someone else. Call the number on the truck above (702-932-8170) or make your request online at vegasrescue.org to schedule a donation pickup at your home, business or church any Monday through Saturday.



My Christmas Gift

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.