

Las Vegas Rescue Mission

SEARCHLIGHT

Serving the needs of the homeless in the community since 1971

Running on Empty

by Anthony



Visit Us Online!

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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All my life, I felt empty. For years, I looked for someone to love me and care about me, thinking that would fill the emptiness. But I never found it.

At the age of 27, I smoked pot for the first time. Then I started drinking, and using cocaine and meth. I liked being high. A lot. And for several years, despite the alcohol and drugs, I functioned pretty well, and I earned good money.

About seven years ago, I moved in with my sister and her family. Then my younger brother moved in. None of them were working at the time, and I thought, *They need me. I can handle it.*

“I was drinking a gallon of vodka a day. I felt alone and miserable, with no way out.”

I'll be the hero and save the day. That's what real men do. I guess I thought they'd love me. It didn't work.

The house bills, food bills and car bills kept piling up. My money supported them — and no one seemed to notice or care. I was so angry, but for some reason, I couldn't say anything or leave. I just bottled it all up. I drank more and used more drugs. At one point, I was drinking a gallon of vodka a day. I felt alone and miserable, with no way out.

Until one day about a year ago, when I had some kind of breakdown. I quit my job and binged on so much alcohol and drugs I passed out on the streets. The next morning, I stumbled into the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. I know now that God led me here.

They immediately got me into counseling. They taught me to deal with my anger issues, how to deal with my emotions in a more healthy way and how to recognize the truth from the lies I'd been telling myself. They introduced me to God and the Bible, and to mercy, grace and compassion. And they loved me. They showed me I deserved to be loved — and now I'm learning to love myself.

If wasn't for the Las Vegas Rescue Mission, I'd probably still be on the streets. All I can do is say thank you.

If it weren't for you, I'd still be on the streets — thank you!



INSIDE

A Message from My Heart — Harry E. Hinderliter, III, President.....	2
Miracle Man	3
Give When You Shop	4



2015 BY THE NUMBERS

OUR DINING HALL

374,152 meals served

OUR OVERNIGHT SHELTERS

53,389 emergency beds provided

OUR CLOTHING GIVEAWAY

27,097 individuals helped

OUR RECOVERY PROGRAM

388 people given hope

 Thank you for the GIFT OF HOPE.



A Message from My Heart . . .

Dear Friend of the Las Vegas Rescue Mission,

I love the story of blind Bartimaeus, in Mark 10. Bartimaeus was begging by the side of a road one day when Jesus passed by. He desperately shouted out to him for help. Jesus, filled with compassion, asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" Bartimaeus said he wanted to see. And Jesus healed him.

That story reminds me of what happens at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission every day — all because of caring people like you. Thanks to your generosity, we're able to help hurting people in so many wonderful ways.

When someone comes barefoot asking for shoes, you make sure he gets them. When someone comes asking for food, you make sure she gets fed. When a struggling young mother comes asking for diapers, you make sure she gets them. And when someone comes asking for healing from an addiction, your gifts ensure they get the help they truly need. And more important, each person who walks through our gate encounters Jesus, who alone can save them.

Thank you for sacrificially loving our homeless neighbors

And isn't that what it's all about? As we approach Easter, we remember how Jesus taught us to serve others just as he did with blind Bartimaeus. We remember how Jesus' horrible death on a cross saved you, me and all our homeless neighbors. And we remember Easter, when Jesus conquered death, offering hope and the promise of healing for all of us.

So this Easter season, I am so humbled by your sacrificial giving to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission on behalf of our less fortunate neighbors. Your gifts are a true investment in the kingdom of God and are transforming lives in the name of Jesus. Thank you!

Your servant to the homeless,

Harry E. Hinderliter, III, President



"Thanks to your generosity, we're able to help hurting people in so many wonderful ways."

Please give Easter hope and ne

Imagine that first Easter morning. Jesus was dead. But in an instant, He opens His eyes, takes a deep breath and rises — whole and complete, with his newly resurrected body. And the entire world changes forever.

Today, because of Easter, every man, woman and child is offered that same hope for new life — body, mind and spirit. And it's that hope and promise that compels us — and YOU — to compassionately care for every hurting person who comes to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission, so they too can experience the healing power of Jesus in their own lives.

Miracle Man

I died a year ago. Not once, but four times.

I was an alcoholic for most of my life. But by last February, I was drinking a half-gallon of vodka a day. That was bad enough. By then, however, I wasn't just an alcoholic. I was seriously sick with walking pneumonia, and the infection had spread to several internal organs. I finally checked myself into the hospital, but I don't remember much after that. Not after I died the first time.

They put me on a ventilator to breathe and put me into a coma to protect my brain. They assigned me five different

I'm sober and healthy because YOU cared!

doctors, one for each infected organ in my body. I died three more times, but each time they brought me back. By the time I woke up weeks later, I had to relearn how to swallow and talk.

When I left the hospital, I was determined to change everything in my life. Despite the fact I needed a walker to get around, somehow I made it to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. I immediately turned my will over to Jesus Christ, believing He had a better plan for my life.

I asked everyone to pray for me, and they did. Hundreds of people I didn't even know prayed. And ever since, it's just been miracle after miracle. Within a couple of weeks, I gave up the walker for a cane. But I kept getting stronger. Soon, I was walking without a cane.

Then, a month ago, I heard a song in chapel. I was so filled with the Spirit, I started running up and down the aisles — and I just kept running.

“I'm not a walking miracle. I'm a running miracle.”

God has given me the gift of sobriety and has restored my health. And I'm learning to live day by day, one more day at a time. But it's not really about me anymore. I think the key is encouragement. Just as God has encouraged me, I want to spend each day for the rest of my life encouraging others.

Thank you. Thanks to your prayers and support, I'm not a walking miracle. I'm a running miracle.

Give new life to our homeless neighbors!

Your Gifts Bring New Life to Hurting People

Your support for those who are hungry and homeless at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission offers new hope and resurrection life to those who have lost hope for a better life. God is transforming lives through you!

But more men, women and even families continue to seek our help every day, and they need people like you to give them hope and another chance for new life in Jesus Christ. To give your generous gift today, please use the remit slip enclosed, or make your donation online at www.vegasrescue.org. You may also call us at (702) 382-1766. Thank you for being an Easter friend to men, women and children who need your help.

Your support offers new hope & resurrection life to those who have lost hope for a better life



Year-End Drives – Have Year-Long Impact

OUR BIGGEST DRIVE – OUR ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE ...

provides food throughout the holidays but also keeps our pantry full through much of the upcoming year, allowing us to continue serving needy families and individuals like the gentleman pictured here, who might otherwise go without food. Thank you to the over 350 locations that collected food this year! And thank you to every person who gave — you have fed hungry people!

OUR COAT AND BLANKET DRIVE ...

continues to provide warmth to homeless people through the winter months. Special thanks to all who collected and to all who gave — yours is a gift of warmth and hope to those we serve.

OUR TOY DRIVE ...

made Christmas gifts possible for over 1,500 families — thank you to all who gave.



GIVE WHEN YOU SHOP

Here's two easy ways to support the Las Vegas Rescue Mission! Smith's grocery stores and Amazon.com have programs that turn your shopping into donations to the Mission. You simply shop and we receive rewards, no extra costs — just help for those in need!



TO LEARN HOW TO SIGN UP:

Contact Shannon Mengel at (702) 382-1766 or shannonm@vegasrescue.org



My Easter Gift

YES, Harry, I want to help give new hope and life to hurting people. Here's my Easter 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 Easter 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.