



Lighthouse News

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THE STORIES YOU'RE CREATING  THE LIVES YOU'RE CHANGING



God's Path and
Your Support

FULFILLED

Loving Deeply

In May we celebrate Mother's Day. I have a wonderful mother who had four sons, of which I am the oldest. My three younger brothers are, in many ways, my closest friends. Which is why I feel comfortable writing about something that my mother has told me ever since I was young. She says, "Matt, you are my favorite son. You are so much smarter, better looking, funnier and generally more well-liked than your three less-fortunate looking younger brothers. You are also much more humble which is why I have always liked you best." Don't worry, none of my brothers are good readers so this will not hurt their feelings.

In truth, my mother created a warm loving environment for me and my brothers. And in case you haven't guessed, the above statement is not something she said. We grew up loved, safe, secure and never worrying about our next meal or the security of our home.

Sadly, this is not the reality for many that we serve. Unfortunately, many come to us lacking the skills necessary to be what the Bible says is a Godly mother. Many times this is a result of having never received the love and care they deserved from their own mothers when they were young. Other times it is the result of deep trauma experienced during childhood. The great thing is, that in all cases, these women are deeply loved by their Heavenly Father. One of the reasons we created Rescue the Children was to create a nurturing environment where we could help women heal from their brokenness or trauma and learn to become the mothers God desires them to be.

Out of all the functions we perform, there are few things, in my opinion, that are more meaningful than giving a child their mom back. There are few things more important than taking a mother and child who have lived in chaos, dysfunction, trauma, and addiction and providing them a place where they can feel loved and secure. A place where they will not have to worry about their next meal. Because of your support, this IS Rescue the Children.

Rescue the Children is a safe, secure community where parenting classes, caring staff, counseling, and healthy nutrition are a few of the ways we are helping to break the "hectic and chaotic" cycle that Debriana talks about in her story. So that, one day, these kids will worry about the same things the rest of us worry about on Mother's Day, like where to go to brunch or what gift to buy for mom. Luckily for me, my mother always told me that I was the greatest gift she could ever receive. Way greater than my three less-fortunate-looking brothers.

To my mom and all the mothers reading this: Thank you for loving deeply and showing Christ in giving of yourself so unconditionally. And thank you for caring for the moms and children at Rescue the Children.

In Christ,



Matthew Dildine
Chief Executive Officer



Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6



Fulfilled

Two years ago, if you told Debriana that this mother's day she would get to celebrate with all six of her children, I don't think she would have believed you.

But God answers our prayers in ways we could never even imagine was possible. Seven months pregnant with her youngest, Levi, Debriana came to Rescue the Children in a state that can only be described as desperate.

Debriana describes her childhood as "hectic and chaotic." She experienced abuse of every kind imaginable at the hands of her father. She admits, "My greatest fear was my father killing my mother." Screams and gunshots were not rare in the home. Debriana's mother eventually left her father and came back for the kids a year later, but her mom's drug abuse continued to loom in the dark corners of their family life.

“*Everyday God teaches me a little more about my children and a little more about myself.*”

The choices her parents made led Debriana and her siblings to foster care. Eventually, they went to live with some of their family. It was here that God began to whisper to her. "My grandfather was a pastor and founded a church in Fresno. I knew about God. I remember my Auntie Shirley picking up her Bible and praying." She recalls them as "a praying family that trusted God in everything they did." But it wouldn't be until years later that her heart would truly belong to Jesus.

For many children who come from chaotic backgrounds, drug use, food insecurity, and not knowing if you'll have somewhere to sleep next week is par for the course. Years of trauma led her down the same path her mother took. "It was completely normal," she tells me. Addiction and abusive relationships took their toll on Debriana and her children. Thankfully, her mom has now been sober for over 15 years. At a point when life had hit an all-time low, Debriana was homeless, again. Her mother took over care of her five children, and months later Debriana found herself seven months pregnant and sleeping in a ballpark.

God showed her he would always care for her. "People kept coming by and giving me food. A woman gave me her nice sweater," she recalls, and God lovingly opened the doors to Rescue the Children for her. The women in our program have the opportunity to gain a secure lifestyle and to get to a place where they can allow Jesus to begin healing their wounds. After coming to Rescue the Children in the fall of 2017, through the help of our staff, Debriana felt ready to begin healing her relationship with her children. By God's grace, in the winter of 2018, before Christmas, she and her kids were back together again.

Healing the relationship with her kids has been amazing and certainly not easy. Parenting classes offered through Rescue the Children have helped tremendously. Classes like Empower to Connect and Nurturing Parent have emphasized the need for positivity in parenting for Debriana. Over the last 16 months, Jesus has healed their family in a way only he can and her hard work means that she is fully capable of taking care of her family.

Debriana wouldn't be celebrating this special Mother's Day without the prayers and support of donors like you. To support these families and contribute to our May donation matching campaign, please visit our website.



***Debriana and Levi at the 2018
Valentine's Banquet.***



Thank you to our generous donors!

Please note "May Matching" on your donation to contribute to this fund.

FRESNO RESCUE MISSION, INC.

To mail a gift:

P. O. Box 1422, Fresno CA 93716-1422

Phone: (559) 268-0839

Fax: (559) 268-1317

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181 E. Sierra, Fresno CA 93710 (559) 440-0870



Please remember the Fresno Rescue Mission in your will or trust.

Need Help?

COMMUNITY CARE – 315 G Street
24-Hour Emergency Services /Case Management
Pre-Program Assessments

(559) 444-0451

FOOD SERVICES

Dining Area/Kitchen – 285 G Street

Breakfast: 6 AM

Dinner: 5 PM

CHAPEL LOCATION – 239 G Street

Service Times: 7:30 PM Every Evening

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY:

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