



Lighthouse News

Issue 8, Volume 69
August 2018

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

**“I took my
life back.”**

YOUR SUPPORT gave Jasmine courage to face her problems and to take steps toward a promising future.

Read about the educational opportunities your investment is providing Jasmine and so many more just like her: **EDUCATION IS KEY**



DON ESKES
Chief Executive Officer

Your Gifts; God's Wisdom

A Lifetime of Learning to Cherish

When I reached my mid-teens I thought I was brilliant and thought I knew best what I needed in my life. I was critical of those who did not have the *brilliance* I had. It was only when I got into my mid-twenties that I realized I was not brilliant at all – just arrogant and self-centered.

Becoming educated and learning to live life in a God-honoring way requires humility and a teachable spirit. That is the lesson I had to learn ... and am still learning. It is also the lesson we live-out with others through our ministries.

The men and women who come to the Fresno Rescue Mission have often learned lessons the hard way. Their past choices made profound, negative impacts on their lives. So, as they enter our programs they are broken, having no ability to address the problems they will eventually need to face. They lack basic foundational elements for ongoing success. Yet, given every component they currently lack, they all have one thing in common: untapped potential. Thanks to you, they are discovering theirs.

A key part of our programs' success is education – spiritual formation, life skills training, job readiness, and the emotional acuity to handle adversity, temptation, and the pressures of life. The key to everything we teach is focused on God's Word and to be humble before Him. It is His Word and Spirit that changes lives and brings wholeness.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness".

2 Timothy 3: 16 (NIV)

As we continue to teach and educate, we ask for your ongoing prayers for those in this healing process. We are so grateful for our volunteers, those who offer their time and experience to guide and equip our disciples. May God continue to bless all of you with persistence and energy! And to all of you who provide funds in support of our Mission's ministries, thank you for making these precious elements available to all who need them.

Thanking God for you,

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Proverbs 1:7 (NIV)

The Fresno Rescue Mission COMES TO YOU

Would your church, ministry group, business, school, or service organization like to know more about homelessness or the Fresno Rescue Mission?

Our Community Engagement Team is a resource for you. We would love the opportunity to speak with you about homelessness, issues our community is facing, and ways you can help (or ways we can come alongside your efforts.) To schedule a Mission Representative to talk with your church, group, or designated team, please contact:

Lisa Nishimoto, Director of
Community Engagement:
(559) 268-0839
lnishimoto@fresnorm.org



Jasmine with her two children, Noah and Bella. The kids are on school break, involved in summer activities at RTC to keep them engaged and motivated until school begins again this month.



JASMINE shared, "I'm 26 and I've struggled with addiction since I was 15. My mom was an addict, so addiction was certainly a learned behavior." Other behaviors were a matter of choice for Jasmine. She was a teen mom who dropped out of high school, having had both of her children by the time she was 17. "I wanted a loving family because I didn't have one." Jasmine is like many. Her story is a jumbled mix of painful circumstance; some by choice and some not.

We asked Jasmine (and two of our Academy disciples) to share with you who they are today as they look to the future. This is what they had to share:

"On November 1, 2017, I became a disciple at Rescue the Children. On that day I made a choice and I took my life back. It was through the program that Jesus Christ entered my heart and I'll never be the same. In the nine months I've been here I've learned I am loved. I've learned to love myself, to love my kids, and to trust God to supply for my needs. Through this process, I also realize how important education is. I am going to get my G.E.D. before leaving Rescue the Children. Then I want to start college. My goals are to be a great mom, to work toward my CNA, and eventually to have a career as an RN. I decided I want a career, not a job." ~ Jasmine

Continued

DID YOU KNOW...?

GED and LITERACY classes are mandatory program components for all men and women who are lacking one or both. The GED (General Equivalency Development or General Equivalency Diploma) is made up of 4 subjects, broken into separate exams that, when passed, provide the taker with high school-level academic skills. In truth, without GED all other educational opportunities afforded through our programs would be overly challenging for those coming to us in their current condition. Education provides more than reading and mathematical skills. It teaches us to reason and to make better choices.



Harley dropped out of high school after completing the 10th grade. Though his writing skills assessed at HS level, his reading comprehension level fell below.

Education Is Key

"Your support gives us courage."

Courage is an important factor for men and women who step through our doors. Many have spent the better part of their lives feeling that failure defines them. Whether or not they were fortunate enough to have loving people in their lives to help them, the results were the same; something was missing. They lacked the power, drive, and grit it would take to step forward to overcome the fear and pain they carried deep within.

" I want a career not a job "

“ Jesus spoke to them

... Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.

Matthew 14:27 (NASB)

HARLEY shared, “I’ve had other opportunities to work toward my GED, but I never took it seriously. It wasn’t until I saw another disciple passed his Social Studies practice test that I began to want it. He inspired me. I tackled Social Studies and Science, but I struggled in Math, failing my first attempt by 3 points. So, I brushed it off, continued to study, and 3 weeks later took the test again. This time I passed!” ~ Harley

Every person’s experience is unique. With volunteers we are able to provide classroom instruction and one-on-one attention to keep men and women motivated, even when they lack fundamental habits and skills.

JOSE shared, “I grew up in an environment where educational pursuits were not nurtured. No one encouraged academic responsibility, so my homework and study habits were not developed. By the time I was 16 I was a drop-out with an 8th-grade education. I turned to a life on the streets and all that came with it. By the time I entered the FRM Academy, I was broken, lost, and completely hopeless. My vision of ever becoming someone of value and purpose had faded away.”

Learning to accept that the details from their past no longer define them, our disciples are encouraged to move beyond blame and take steps to be responsible for their futures.

Jose is now 28, wearing a bright smile and an attitude of success. “With focus, determination, and hard work I obtained my GED. This was something I didn’t have to do alone. With support from Mission staff and all the volunteers who dedicate their time helping me, I made it! They helped me understand that God has a plan for me, not just spiritually, but in who He made me to be. I keep this Scripture verse and my “little” poem as reminders:

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6



Jose finished all of his testing in July. He is one-in-five disciples who have completed the GED curriculum this year.

“Little By Little”

*He does not lead me year by year,
Nor even day by day;
But step by step my path unfolds.
My Lord directs my way.*



“Today, I’m learning that it’s never too late to reach important goals. Thank you, Fresno Rescue Mission and all those who donate toward the work being done here. Your support gives us courage. Mostly, I thank God Almighty for the hope I now have in a successful future.” ~ Jose

Your gifts and talents IN ACTION

4

Four VOLUNTEER TEACHERS that teach GED/ Literacy/ and Computer Literacy classes.

3

Three VOLUNTEER TEACHERS that teach Job Readiness/ Financial Management.

15

Fifteen TUTORS that help our men and women once or twice a week with their studies.

108

Of the 108 men and women who are currently enrolled in the residential portion of our programs (1st 12 months), 48 are enrolled in (or in the process of being) enrolled in GED classes. ALL enrolled in final stages of programs receive Job Readiness and Finance Management.



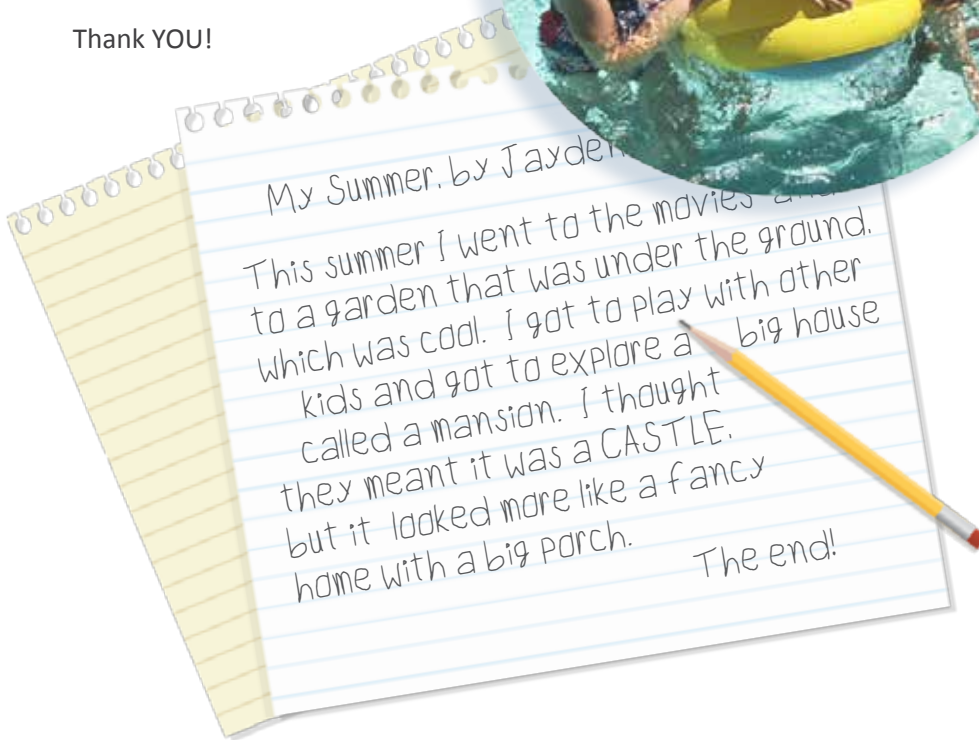


You Made Summer Fun!

Now the preparations for school begin

Because of your support, the children of RTC enjoyed a summer filled with activity. From field trips with educational tours, to physical education and splashy fun, all of our kids will have plenty to share with their teachers and classmates when they write about their special summer adventures.

Thank YOU!



Keep our little ones in prayer as they head back to school...

- ...for safety and protection
- ...that they make good choices
- ...find good friends
- ...find the help they need with education
- ...for understanding and increased knowledge
- ...that God would remove any mental obstacles as they learn!

Plan ahead to hit the greens!



2018 Healing Hearts Relief GOLF TOURNAMENT

September 17, 2018
Sunnyside Country Club

Sign up online: fresnorm.org/events



FRESNO RESCUE MISSION, INC.

To mail a gift:

P. O. Box 1422, Fresno CA 93716-1422
Phone: (559) 268-0839
Fax: (559) 268-1317
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES – 263 G Street

FRM THRIFT STORE AND CARS
181 E. Sierra, Fresno CA 93710
(559) 440-0870



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

FRESNO RESCUE MISSION invites you to

“Come to the Table”



2018 Annual Fall Celebration Banquet

Tuesday, October 16, 2018



Producers

SINCE 1932



TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE



FresnoRM.org

Need Help?

COMMUNITY CARE – 315 G Street
24-Hour Emergency Services /Case Management
(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

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To help, here is my gift of:

\$ _____

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P.O. Box 1422
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559.268.0839

Make checks payable to the
Fresno **Rescue** Mission.

Your gift is tax deductible, as allowed by law.

Thank you for your support!



COMMON "SENSE"

You can help with the sticky stuff

Imagine - A child is eating a PB&J sandwich. It's gooey and delicious, jelly leaking out onto their fingers and hand. You might expect the child would lick the jelly or allow someone to wipe their hand, but instead they cry and begin throwing their food.

This PB&J scenario is a normal response for a child with *underdeveloped sensors*, experiencing pain or discomfort with a sticky drip, or with the unexpected touch of the person wiping it from their hand. When senses to smell, taste, sound, touch and sight are not fully developed, behavioral issues ensue.

At Rescue the Children, we are in need of sensory items to help children focus their behaviors: *sensory toys, weighted blankets and weighted stuffed animals* for our infants and toddlers.



Child pictured (above) is JoJo, who appeared in the May 2018 edition of Lighthouse News.



Examples of sensory toys pictured:
BKids Senso Croco Sensory Toy
Abilitations Weighted Kordy Elephant
Harkla Weighted Blanket for Kids

For information about Rescue the Children, volunteer opportunities, meeting ongoing needs, or to take a tour, contact Community Engagement at (559) 268-0839.