



# Lighthouse News

Fall 2019

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

## JOSEPH WANTS TO *Thank You*

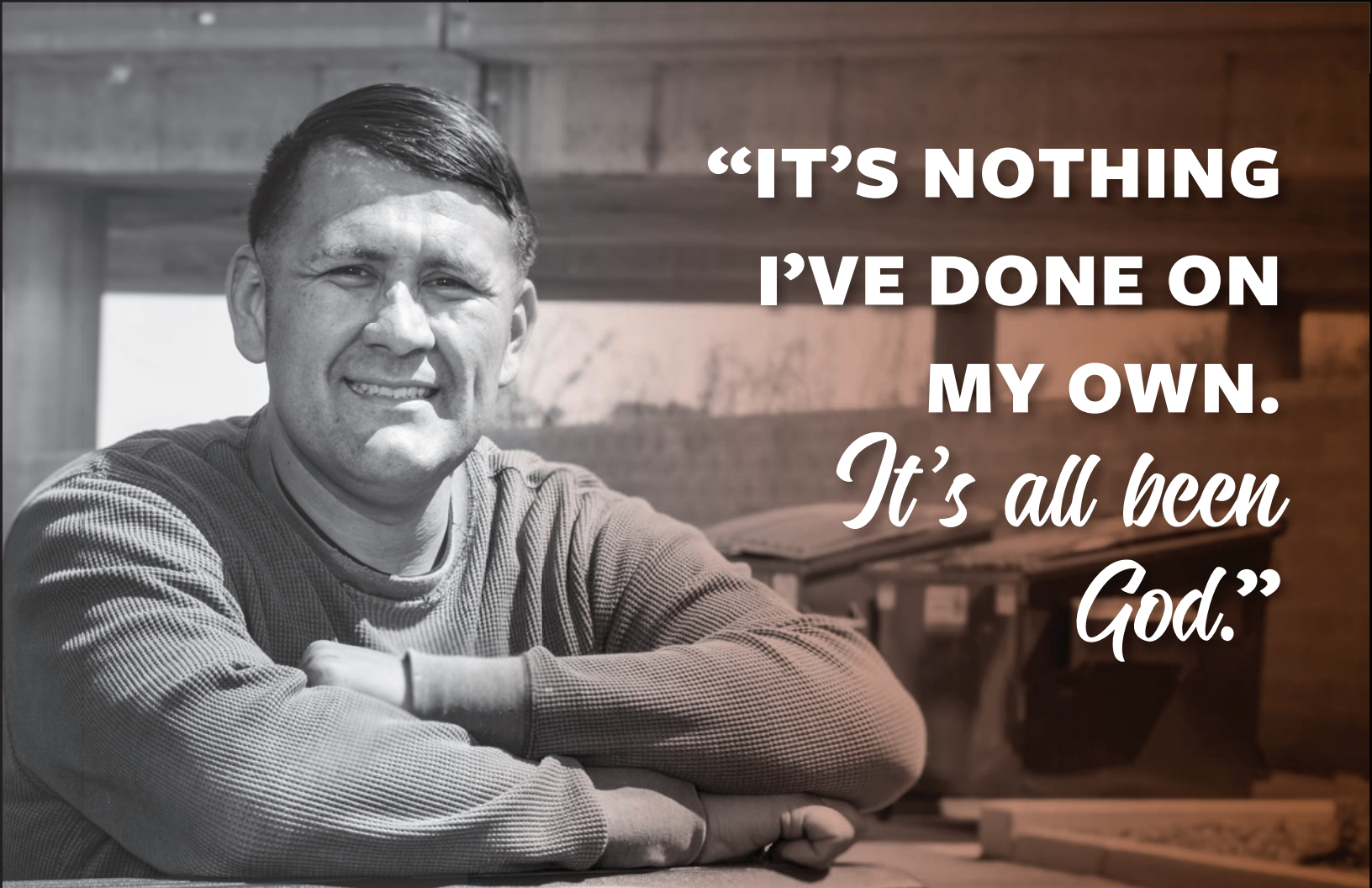
Joseph's heart is full of thanksgiving because of God's love & your generosity!



Don't Miss...

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**“IT’S NOTHING  
I’VE DONE ON  
MY OWN.  
*It’s all been  
God.”***

**N**ight after night, Joseph lay in bed with his young body bruised and aching, his heart hurting, from the physical and emotional abuse he suffered.

His mom struggling with addiction, and his dad out of the picture, Joseph was sent to live elsewhere. “I was shifted from place to place, and there was a lot of abuse where I’d go.”

Having no one else to turn to, “I would pray to Jesus... talk to Him about the situation,” he says. “I would cry... No one was there to help rescue me.”

As a teen, Joseph tried to numb his pain and started experimenting with drugs. Over the years, addiction made it difficult for him to hold jobs... and separated him from his own son. “I isolated myself because of my shame and guilt.”

Joseph’s life continued to spiral downward, and he found himself in trouble with the law. At his lowest point, he cried out to Jesus for rescue, just as he did as a little boy. Miraculously, the charges were dropped, and he was given the opportunity to come to Fresno Rescue Mission.

Though he’d tried before to follow Christ, “I didn’t let those walls be knocked down,” Joseph says. “The transformation happened here.” He joined The Academy, the Mission’s long-term recovery program that helps men struggling with homelessness and

addiction restore their lives.

Through classes, counseling, daily chapel and Bible study, Joseph has also experienced God healing the wounds of his past and renewing his relationship with his son. “My son says now, ‘Dad, I’m proud of you.’ It’s so awesome, the relationship we’ve picked back up.”

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*“God got a hold of me. He’d been tapping on my shoulder. He’d had His hand on me this whole time.”*

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Today, Joseph is on staff at the Mission, a driver for our food services team, and is staying at our transitional housing while looking for a place he can call home with his son.


**Because of your generosity, Joseph’s heart has been filled with thanksgiving... and God’s love!** “I thank all The Academy staff for their support. I know it’s God working through them to help change our lives.”

## 2019 THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN MEALS NEEDED!



YOU can make a difference in the lives of homeless and hungry neighbors. By giving today, **you'll help us prepare for some of the 70,000 meals we'll serve** from now until Thanksgiving Day.

Please share your heart of thanksgiving by giving your **2019 Thanksgiving Campaign gift now**. Our hurting neighbors will find the help and hope they need for a new beginning in their lives!

 Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.

 Give online anytime at **[www.fresnorm.org](http://www.fresnorm.org)**.



**THANK YOU** AGAIN FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY DURING THE THANKSGIVING SEASON.

### LOOK AT WHAT YOUR GIFT WILL PROVIDE!



A hot meal



A night of safe sleep

and often leads to



A chance to share **GOD'S LIFE-CHANGING LOVE**

### A MESSAGE FROM MATTHEW DILDINE

## Thankful for Transformation!

This Thanksgiving, I praise God for the amazing work He's begun in Fresno County – and for compassionate friends in our community like you who make it all possible!

**The Mission has experienced some tremendous changes this year, and I'm deeply grateful for how you've stood beside us through it all.**

In addition to respite services and the long term addiction recovery program at Rescue the Children, we have added 48 beds for emergency shelter for women and children experiencing homelessness. This has been one of our most significant changes yet, allowing us to care for even more neighbors.

This fall, as we celebrate 70 years of service to our community, God has made our calling clear: **As the needs in Fresno continue to grow, our ministry must continue to grow as well.**

What better way to celebrate this milestone than by renewing our focus to transform even more lives in Fresno for years to come! Thank you for joining with us to reach out to the most vulnerable in our community. You're helping to give them a pathway to a better life, this Thanksgiving and beyond.



Matthew Dildine  
Chief Executive  
Officer

# Mission Fest

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT

CHUKCHANSI PARK, DOWNTOWN FRESNO  
NOVEMBER 16, 2019

KIDS FEST

• COATS FOR KIDS •

THANKSGIVING MEAL BOX DISTRIBUTION



TO GET INVOLVED AND MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
**[www.fresnoRM.org/events](http://www.fresnoRM.org/events)**



# You're Invited!

Fall Celebration Banquet - October 22



Our annual **Fall Celebration Banquet** is coming up on Tuesday, October 22 – and this year, it's really special!

**We hope you'll join us as Fresno Rescue Mission celebrates 70 years of transformation in our community.**

Our event starts at 5 p.m. at Fresno Convention Center, Exhibit Hall (700 M Street in Fresno). You'll enjoy dinner and a festive evening program recognizing the success of our graduates, and rejoicing in the amazing work God has done!



**Contact us to become an event sponsor or get tickets to save your spot.** Together, let's celebrate 70 years of service to the least, last and lost in our Fresno community.

Get your tickets now!

📞 (559) 268-0839

💻 [www.fresnorm.org/events](http://www.fresnorm.org/events)

## Thanksgiving Season Needs

Please bless our homeless and hungry neighbors with a special Thanksgiving by donating any of these food items.

Turkeys	Prebaked pumpkin and apple pies
Hams	Whipped topping
Instant potatoes & gravy	Coffee/cocoa/tea
Canned yams & cranberry sauce	Any canned food items
Boxed stuffing mix	Dinner rolls

Drop off your donations at  
263 G Street in Fresno. Thank you!

## BE A VOLUNTEER.

With thousands of people to serve this fall, we really need YOUR help!

Call: **Paula Bohamed** at (559) 293-4522

Email: [PBohamed@fresnorm.org](mailto:PBohamed@fresnorm.org)

Or visit [www.fresnorm.org](http://www.fresnorm.org) to find out more or sign up now!

