



Lighthouse News

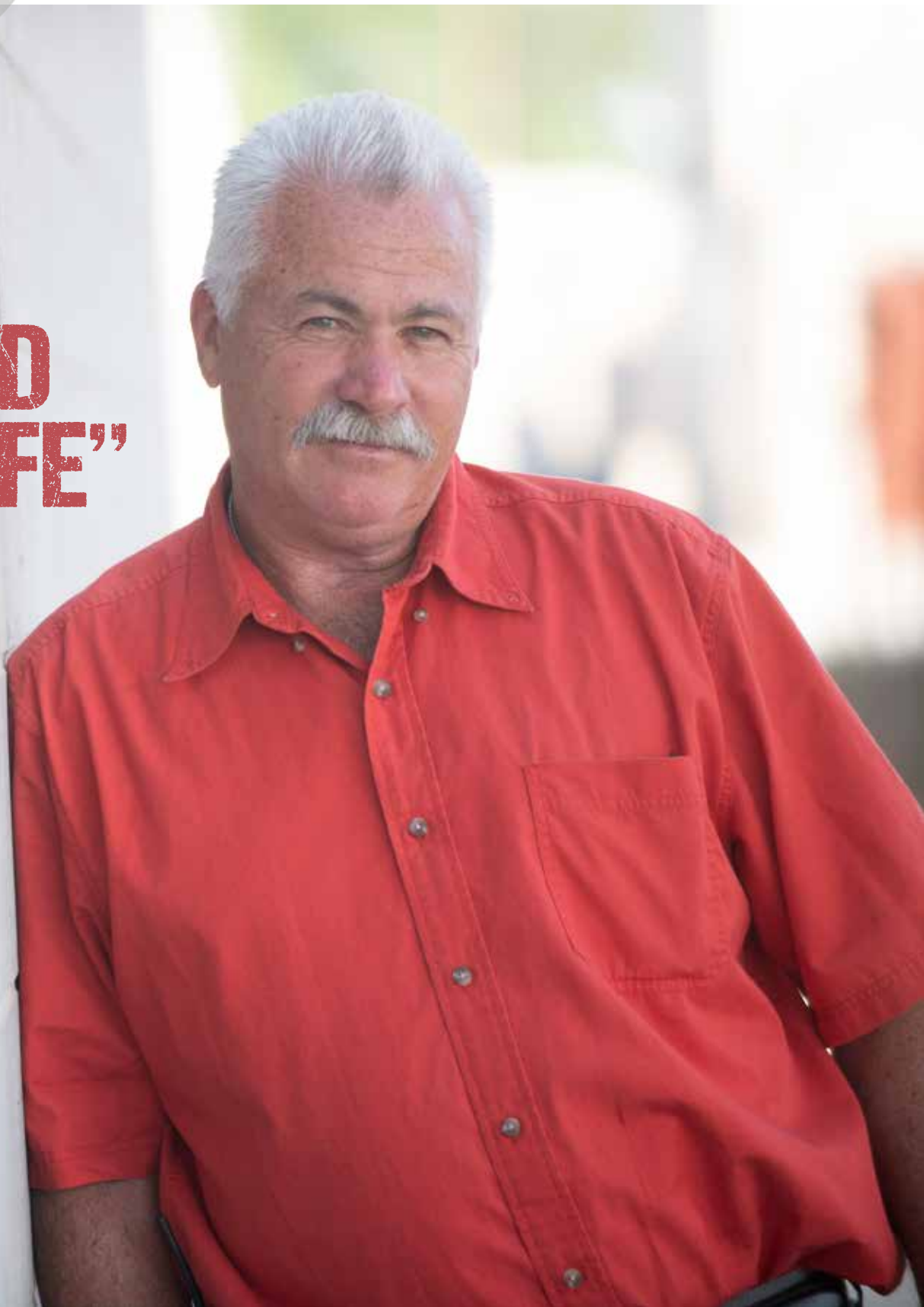
Issue 7, Volume 69
July 2018

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

“YOU SAVED MY LIFE”

Frank has battled the symptoms of depression his entire life. Today, he has the tools he needs to fight back.

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DON ESKEs
Chief Executive Officer

You See It In Their Eyes

Your gifts and your compassion are changing their view

A word we use a lot at the Fresno Rescue Mission is “hope.” It can mean different things to different people. To us it is the transforming work of God in the hearts and lives of those we serve.

People come to the Mission lost. They have given up because they can’t see life getting any better. When people lose sight of hope, they live in a state of true poverty. Our job at the Mission is to help them see that there is a reason to go forward. We share with them the transforming power of Christ and His desire to give them a new life.

It is wonderful to witness the seeds of faith glimmer in the eyes of someone touched by hope. All of a sudden the dejection starts to lift and they begin to see, in a very small way, that things can change. They start hoping or wishing they can change and their lives can improve. As their hope grows, they gain a new confidence that says, **“Yes, I can be an overcomer.”** And their hope then turns to assurance.

This happens when (1) a person wants to change and (2) when they let the transforming power of Christ make that change. That is what happened to Frank – you can read his story in this month’s newsletter. Your financial support played a part in Frank’s success, and you continue to play a part in the lives of men and women just like him.

Please continue to pray for the work of the Fresno Rescue Mission and thank you for being “hope dispensers” of God’s love. Thank you for your support and partnership with us as we carry out God’s call together.

Yours In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Eskes', written in a cursive style.

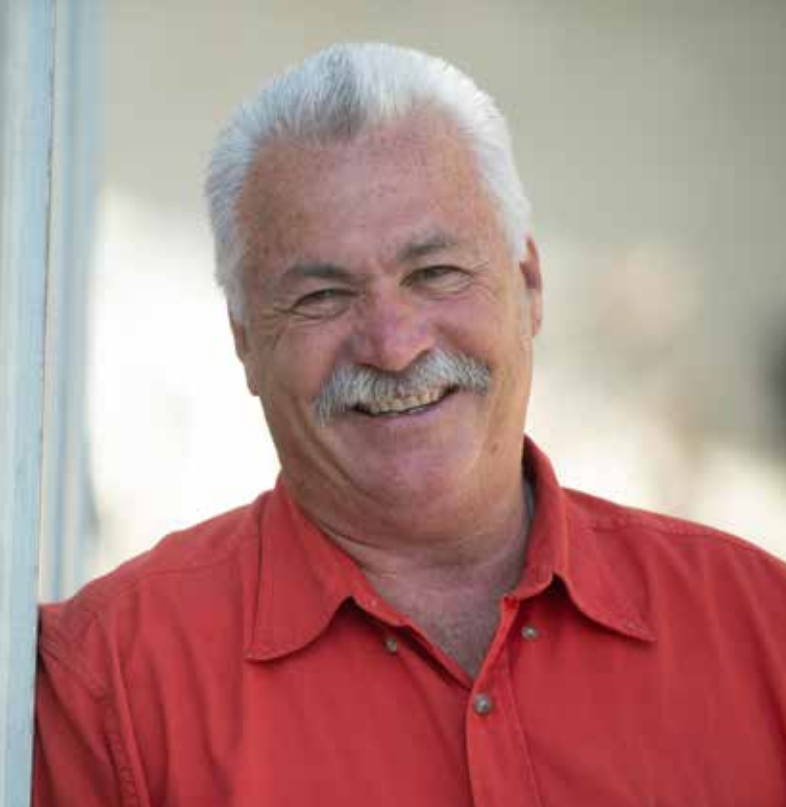
*“And do not be conformed
to this world, but
be transformed
by the renewing of your mind,
that you may prove what is
that good and acceptable
and perfect will of God.”*

Romans 12:2

The Missing Piece

We’re all a little ‘fraid from time to time...

You are invited to set your fears, frays, and fractures aside and discover something new. **Take a Tour** of the Fresno Rescue Mission. Hear a few stories, see our new temporary facilities, meet some nice people, and see how your unique frame might be the perfect fit for our Mission family. For tour opportunities and to learn more, visit: www.FresnoRM.org. Whether you’re looking for a new career or a way to volunteer your talents, you may find your perfect fit here with us.



“YOU SAVED MY LIFE”

Frank drank anti-freeze in 2001 and shot himself in the chest in 2017. Today, he smiles and finds joy in serving others. As he says, *“I understand their circumstances.”*

Frank’s memories are sketchy and incomplete. He remembers disturbing moments from 50 years ago with the same level of intensity and emotion as if they were happening now. When he describes the death of his grandfather (a sad moment for Frank when he was only 7) and his subsequent barter with God, tears flow instantly. *“I told God, ‘I won’t believe in you if you don’t bring my grandpa back.’”*

FRANK LIVES WITH THE SYMPTOMS OF DEPRESSION.

At age 11 he numbed his pain with alcohol. By age 16 he had escalated to drugs, with cocaine growing to be his overall preference. Over the years he made choices that led to legal troubles and formed relationships with unstable people that created added chaos. Every negative outcome produced then justified his feelings of worthlessness. *“It wasn’t until I*

asked Jesus into my life that I discovered I had value. Knowing Him didn’t remove the pain I felt. In fact, I struggled with suicidal thoughts on a daily basis. What knowing Him did do for me was it allowed information to slowly sink in and help me battle the negative thoughts I was experiencing with the truth His Word provided.”

The Mission works with hundreds of men and women just like Frank – people who are gifted and bright, but who have years of negative history that leads them to believe they don’t fit in – who feel that no one, not even God, can help them. Like you, we are so pleased when they finally begin to experience new outcomes by simply making new choices and building healthier relationships.

“Depression runs in my family. There are four of us who have to take antidepressant medication to battle the physical effects. The meds stabilize me, but it’s the Scriptural teaching and the healthy relationships I’ve formed since entering the program that has changed the way I now live. The Academy classes and instructors help me find answers and renew my thoughts. My assigned counselor helps me understand how my brain works so I can reason better. My mentor is also an electives instructor at the Mission, so I get the relationship and I get to watch him interact with others, living out his faith openly. Recently I was asked what I would say to someone who supports Mission programs if I had the chance. That was simple: ‘You saved my life. Because the Mission exists, I have the tools I need to move forward and live with peace in my heart. This place is a sanctuary.’”

YOU CAN BE A LIVING EXAMPLE OF HOPE IN SOMEONE’S LIFE.

Our programs are always in need of more mentors, tutors, ministry helpers, Biblical counselors, and anyone who has the time (typically 1 to 2 hours per week) to invest and commit in the lives of the people we serve. With this need is always the care we take to caution, just as Scripture does. *“For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?” Luke 14:28 (ESV)*

Continued

Trauma affects everyone but in different measure. For those who suffer from addiction, the view of a traumatic episode is often skewed. Add to this the stress of entering a recovery program, the added endurance needed to physically work and study each day, and the emotional challenge of interacting with hundreds of new faces and personalities - It isn't hard to see that the men and women we serve are incredibly vulnerable.

So, when loving volunteers offer their time to stand beside the people we serve and guide them, either as a mentor, or teacher, or to fill any number of volunteer opportunities, careful consideration to commitment is necessary. The moment 'someone' doesn't show up on time (or at all), or forgets to reschedule due to conflicts, the mind sees it as a personal judgment. To the addicted mind, it becomes

an added trauma that reminds them of all the times they were the let-down or that they let others down. To the volunteer (should one of our men or women suddenly leave the program without warning), they are tempted to feel they didn't do enough, it was their fault, or even feel no one was grateful for the time they gave.

Relationships are never easy, but with the right perspective in place, they are always rewarding. Love has no constraints. Given freely, it always yields what God intended.

As you volunteer - whether in service of the Mission or anywhere within the kingdom - please remember that your love and commitment matter. For Frank and others like him, they are life-saving.

*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!*

Romans 11:33 (NKJV)



Your Investment - affecting future generations

Emotional health and well-being...
building blocks for happier lives

Rescue the Children is breaking the cycle of emotional trauma

Because of you, the women and children of RTC are working through the pain they carry from their past. Because trauma is lived out through emotional responses to everyday challenges, it is necessary to equip and train those who are traumatized with healthy responses. Your support of the Mission plays a vital role in reshaping healthy family dynamics.

Many of the children we serve witnessed or endured physical abusive. They have seen their parents out of control or passed-out on drugs/alcohol. Providing them (mom and child) a safe place to express pain and fear while giving them time to heal (dads, too, if they enroll in our men's program) are the building blocks to breaking the cycle of violence and addiction. Your gifts provide that structure; a beautiful healing environment, skilled professionals, and the resources to make life change possible.

Together, we are helping to break the cycle of trauma, rebuilding a happier, healthier community.

DID YOU KNOW...? The RTC Children's Coordinator meets with every mother once a week to teach them how to parent in a healthy manner, and Fresno Pacific's onsite counseling program works with their children. Anna, our Marriage and Family Therapist, helps moms and kids work through trauma and behavioral issues. Our curriculum helps to address triggered anxieties, stress, and wounded spirits, all symptoms associated with an abusive background. We also resource through Metro Behavioral Health for severe issues affecting the people we serve.





Relationships You've Shaped

Fathers engaging with their kids,
building new memories

Father's Day brought smiles to last a lifetime

Great food, three-legged sack races, and bounce-house-heaven made for a giggly event but watching family restoration take place right before our eyes was the crowning glory on Father's Day.

Before the event, there were those who were worried. *"I haven't seen my daughter in 4 years. Back then she didn't know why I wasn't around. Now she's 17 and does know. She refused to come to this party without her mom. What will she say when she sees me?"* That's a hard question to answer. The *what-if* questions always are. The best we can do is walk each person through the experience until we know an outcome. This particular gentleman was preparing for his daughter's anger. Instead, he was greeted with hugs, kisses, and a Father's Day gift from her.

That pretty much describes the party that took place...a bounty of hugs, kisses, family fun, and picnic blankets filled with goodies strewn across our new grassy turf.

Thank you for helping us make this such a special day for all!



Anthony hadn't seen his three children or his dad in nearly two months. *"They were all there with me for Father's Day. When I was in my addiction, I didn't play with my kids, so this was great. My daughter was laughing and yelling, 'push me, daddy!' We all had so much fun together."*



"I want to leave a legacy"

Recently, the Fresno Rescue Mission salvaged the brick facade adorning our old chapel building in advance of pending demolition. Our goal was to preserve a bit of history and apply it to future use as we continue to dream about the look and function of our future Mission *home*.

The bricks are more than colorful veneer to us. They embody the **thousands of lives** you've helped restore through your time and generosity. And we want to say more than thank you. As a family, **we want to invest your passion** for the people we serve now and into the future through these precious stones. They are, after all, ...
your living legacy.

What is your passion? Let us help you cast your legacy voice into the future.

A LEGACY IN STONE ... What will yours say?

Contact:
Deborah Torres, Chief Development Officer
dtorres@FresnoRM.org
(559) 268-0839, Ext 204

"I'm just an ordinary person trusting my extraordinary God; stewarding His blessings in faith to change lives." ~ Deborah



GIVE YOUR BEST GIFT POSSIBLE

Your generosity saves lives.



There are so many ways to say, "I Care" about our community, but none more precious than saving a life. Please don't wait. The needs are urgent. Send your response today.



OR... provide your easy gift even faster; safely and securely. Go to FresnoRM.org and click - **DONATE** -

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.

THANK YOU for *Your Support*



We all come in different shapes and sizes!
And let's face it... some things are **deeply personal**.
Rather than pre-packaged items that don't always fit well,
personal selection is ideal. Just like you,
our men and women feel that special hug of support
when they get to *shop for* – and choose their undies.

YOUR *Dollars for Delicates*
ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Plan ahead to hit the greens!



2017 Healing Hearts Relief
GOLF TOURNAMENT
September 17, 2018
Sunnyside Country Club

Sign up online: fresnorm.org/events



FRESNO RESCUE MISSION invites you to

"Come to the Table"

2018 Annual
Fall Celebration
Banquet

Tuesday,
October 16, 2018



TICKETS AVAILABLE
ONLINE
FresnoRM.org

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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Ken Scheid – ScheidImages.smugmug.com
scheidimages@att.net
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scott@scottstreble.com



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