

# MISSION INSIDER

CREATING COMMUNITY. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

A newsletter of the Fresno Mission

**Linda's life  
is changed  
forever**  
*and she wants  
to thank YOU!*

Your support touches  
lives with new hope.



**fresnomission**

SUMMER 2020

**DON'T MISS...**

**2** Open Your Heart

**2** Our Summer Six

**3** "God is molding me."

For more information: (559) 268-0839 • [fresnomission.org](http://fresnomission.org)

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**God is molding me into the Linda he made me to be.**

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**F**or years, pain and bitterness festered deep inside Linda's heart as she struggled to understand why her dad wasn't around. "He would talk to me for a bit and then fall off the face of the earth," she says.

Later, Linda discovered her dad had a drug addiction. Sadly, it wasn't the only time drugs would cause heartbreak in her life.

Without a father, Linda's grandfather became her rock. When she discovered she was pregnant at just 16, Linda's grandpa was one of the few people who stood by her as she decided to keep her baby. So it was devastating when, a year later, her grandpa passed away. **"When I lost my grandpa, I lost my best friend..."**

The loss sent Linda spiraling. To cope, she began numbing her pain with drugs... and over the years, found herself facing time for drug charges, at risk of losing her children and pregnant again. **"I said, 'OK, God... if you're real, show me. I don't know what to do,' and I felt his presence."**

Soon after, Linda's probation officer helped her come to the Fresno Mission, where her life began to change.

Linda and her baby entered our Rescue the

Children program, and through parenting classes and Christ-centered counseling, she's gained tools to feel confident as a mother and guidance to process grief from her own childhood.

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**Since coming to the Mission, I'm a new creation.**

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She's grateful for the structure of our program, like faith-based classes and work therapy, where she even leads devotions for other women! "It's very good to feel trusted again... God is molding me into the Linda he made me to be."

Today, Linda looks forward to having a home of her own with her children, and she plans to go back to school to become a drug counselor to help others like her.

**Because you gave from your heart to help Linda, her life has been changed by your goodness and God's love forever!** "Now I am a worthy woman of God. I'm a good mother... Your past does not define you. There is hope."



## A Message from MATT

### Open Your Heart... to Meet Our Summer Challenge

These past few months have been unsettling for everyone – and most especially for our neighbors in need.

These days, more families are seeking help at the Fresno Mission, and their hardships can seem even more daunting in the current environment. Hunger... homelessness... poverty. In summer, kids are off school, but their families don't get a break from homelessness.

In a time of crisis, as any other season of the year, it's our vision to make the Mission a healthy, loving environment for all our guests, at any age. Our facilities are the only place in Fresno where whole families can stay together!

Thanks to the support of caring friends like you, we recently expanded our Family Center to welcome 90 guests each night. That's moms and dads desperate for a safe place for their kids to sleep.

In addition to safe beds and meals, we're also providing crisis-related assistance like cleansing showers, personal hygiene items, access to medical care, and sanitizing products. And there's no decline in the need for faith-based recovery and practical guidance that equips and empowers our guests to change their lives.

***It's a real challenge to provide all this care this summer, so I'm counting on you to help!***

During this critical time, I pray you'll continue to remember struggling families and individuals in Fresno who need your encouragement, prayers and compassion now more than ever. Thank you for *opening your heart* to ensure we can care for everyone who turns to the Mission this summer, especially in times like these.



Matthew Dildine  
Chief Executive  
Officer

## Through the 3 MONTHS of Summer your gift today helps provide...



88,400  
meals



thousands  
of clothing  
items



countless hours of  
biblical counseling &  
education



life-transforming  
decisions for  
Christ

**Open Your Heart!**  
*Our 92-Day Summer  
Campaign is underway now.*

✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.

💻 Give online anytime at **fresnomission.org**.



**Open Your Heart**

92-DAY SUMMER CAMPAIGN

## PLEASE HELP WITH OUR



# SUMMER



Our "Summer Six" are essential items in high demand for our Mission guests all season long. Please deliver your donations to 263 G Street, seven days a week, from X a.m. to X p.m. Those in our care will be deeply grateful for whatever you can share this summer!



1. Bottled water
2. Hand sanitizer
3. Toothpaste
4. Toilet paper
5. Paper towels
6. High-efficiency laundry soap



# You can make an **EXTRAORDINARY** impact!

Join others on a mission in Fresno to change lives,  
month after month!

You're invited to join our **On Mission Monthly Membership**,  
a group of compassionate individuals whose monthly gifts  
provide immediate relief for our homeless neighbors... and  
offer them the long-term care that transforms lives.

As an On Mission Monthly Member, you can make sure help  
is always available to those who need it most. A monthly gift of  
\$30 provides 15 meals and care... **Over a year, your \$30 monthly  
becomes 180 meals and care!**

Your commitment will ensure that whenever local families and  
individuals are homeless, hungry or in need, the Mission is ready  
to help them.

**Be on mission with us** in Fresno by joining our  
On Mission Monthly Membership today!

Visit **fresnomission.org** and  
click on "Donate" to get started.

**Thank you!**

