

MISSION INSIDER

CREATING COMMUNITY. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

A newsletter of the Fresno Mission

Mary is celebrating *HOPE!*

Your support brings hope
to the hurting this Easter.



EASTER 2021

DON'T MISS...

2 Celebrate
NEW LIFE

3 "Now I know
my worth."

4 Your Gift = BIG Impact

For more information: (559) 268-0839 • fresnomission.org

"Now I
know my
worth."



Mary had always considered herself a “daddy’s girl,” so she was devastated when her father forced her to move out at just 18. “My dad got remarried... and my stepmom didn’t want me there,” Mary says. “He chose her over me.”

In the wake of this heartbreaking rejection, Mary entered into relationships with men, seeking acceptance and security. “I would do whatever they wanted so I didn’t have to sleep on the streets.”

Before long, Mary was trapped in a cycle of abusive relationships. And to cope with the emotional pain, she turned to substances.

When she discovered she was pregnant, she promised herself things would change. “I was going to stop using drugs and be a mom for my daughter... but it didn’t happen.”

Mary grew desperate trying to find a shelter where she and her daughter could stay together, and she struggled to overcome her addiction on her own.

“I was completely lost... I didn’t even know who I was anymore,” she says. “I felt like God had forgotten me, and so I forgot about Him.”

The day she walked into the Fresno Mission, everything changed for Mary.

Through Christian counseling and classes at the Mission, Mary found support to grow in her relationship with the Lord and begin healing from past trauma. Today, she has even reconnected with her father, and they’re taking steps to restore their relationship!

“My abuser made me feel worthless... but now I know God made me for a purpose.”

While staying at the Mission, Mary was also able to find work at the SPCA, earn her high school diploma, and enroll in school to become a vet tech. She has since graduated and continues to pursue her endeavors.

Thanks to the blessing of your support, Mary is celebrating Easter as a new creation in Christ. “It makes me so grateful to have a bright future with my daughter... now I look forward to what God has in store for us.”

Easter 2021

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

ANNUAL EASTER CAMPAIGN

Celebrate hope by caring for our most vulnerable neighbors!



42,000
meals

\$2.05 for a meal!



10,100 nights
of shelter



83 men & **35**
women in our
recovery programs
(on average)



1,200 hours of
education &
Christian counseling

*Thank you for your
compassion & support!*

"I came that you may have life and have it abundantly." – John 10:10, NASB



A Message from MATT

THE MIRACLE OF EASTER *lives on in you*

Can you imagine what it must have been like to gaze into that empty tomb that Easter morning? To rise from the depths of despair to heart-pounding, indescribable joy... realizing Jesus conquered the grave?

That's the power of the resurrection. And that same power is still transforming hearts and lives today – including right here at the Fresno Mission.

We embrace Jesus' ministry as our calling: to preach good news to the poor... to care for the brokenhearted... to bring freedom to people trapped by devastating circumstances.

With the support of caring friends like you, we are "rock bottom responders," lifting up our hurting neighbors so they can experience life abundantly, as God intended.

As we celebrate the miracle of Easter, we also celebrate the miracles God is working in Fresno County today. Every chain that's broken... every heart that turns to Him... every life that's restored is a cause for rejoicing – *and it's thanks to you!*

This Easter, I pray that you will see God move mightily in your own life, just as you have given generously so He can work miracles in the lives of your neighbors like Mary (whose incredible story is on page 3).

May our hearts be as one as we join with Christ's work in Fresno, transforming lives this Easter and beyond!

Matthew Dildine
Chief Executive Officer



Celebrate **NEW LIFE** this Easter

It's hard to have hope when you're hungry and homeless. This Easter, we'll warmly welcome our neighbors in need with immediate help like:

- **A hot meal for \$2.05**
- An overnight stay in our shelter
- Clothing, hygiene items & Christ-centered care

YOU can give even more people the gift of meals and care this Easter. A nourishing meal, served with love, is often the first step to a new life in Christ!

- ✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.
- ✦ Give online anytime at **fresnomission.org**.

Thank you for your support of our Mission guests. Have a blessed Easter!

*Thank
you*

**for making a difference
during COVID-19**

2020 was such a challenging year – but your support and compassion helped so many people find help here at the Fresno Mission.

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOU!

Thanks to you, we continue to provide the care our community relies on: Food. Shelter. Clean clothing and hygiene items. Christ-centered encouragement. And special assistance for those struggling through extremely tough times. We will continue to follow safety precautions to keep our guests, staff and volunteers protected and healthy – and to minimize the impact of COVID-19.

Thank you again, and may God bless your generous heart!



YOUR
GIFT = **BIG**
IMPACT

IMPACT HOMELESSNESS WITH A GIFT FROM YOUR DONOR ADVISED FUND.

Donor Advised Funds are an easy and tax-efficient way to manage charitable giving. Donor Advised Funds allow donors to receive an immediate tax deduction for their charitable contribution, and then recommend grants from the fund on the donor's own timeframe.

Grants made to the Fresno Mission through Donor Advised Funds are designated to be used “Where Most Needed.” If you have a specific interest that you'd like to support, please contact Rick Porter, Director of Donor Relations, at [✉ Rporter@fresnomission.org](mailto:Rporter@fresnomission.org) or **(559) 268-0839, ext. 134.**

Consider scheduling an annual gift to the Fresno Mission from your Donor Advised Fund to support our ministry each year!

Fresno Mission's tax I.D. number is 94-1279785.

Thank you!