

MISSION INSIDER

CREATING COMMUNITY. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

A newsletter of the Fresno Mission

YOUR SUPPORT IS GIVING CHERICE A SECOND CHANCE

and she can't
thank you
enough!



fresnomission

SUMMER 2021

DON'T MISS...

2 Love Your Neighbor!

3 "I am confident and loved."

4 Market Grand Opening

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

“I am confident AND LOVED.”



At just three years old, Cherice lost her father to a drug overdose... and in the years that followed, she suffered even more trauma.

“I lived in a violent home,” she remembers. “My mom’s boyfriends or husbands were physically abusive... and CPS was called frequently.”

In and out of foster homes – where the abuse only continued – Cherice never felt loved. “There was a void, so I just started reaching out for anything.” By age 9, she’d started smoking and drinking to numb the pain of feeling unwanted.

When she fell in love and started a family at a young age, Cherice stopped using. “But my husband became verbally abusive,” she says. “I couldn’t measure up to the mom and wife he thought I should be... but I’d never learned how.”

Divorce sent Cherice spiraling, and for over 10 years, a series of toxic relationships had sunk her deeper into heartbreak and addiction. She struggled to raise her children as a single mom.



“The Mission was like my lifeline.”

When she was connected with the Fresno Mission, it seemed like the answer to her prayers. **“I asked the Lord to restore me back to that little girl I was with the hopes and dreams He put in me.”**

At the Mission, Cherice found a safe place where she and her young daughters could stay and heal together from challenges they’ve faced. Today, Cherice is working toward her GED, has recently accepted a job, and is gaining confidence through our parenting and spiritual classes.

“Now I know that my identity is in Christ, and I cling to Him,” she says. “I know that I’m a good mom and that I’ll make the right choices for my family.”

Cherice is beyond grateful for this second chance in life – and says it’s thanks to the love you’ve shown for a neighbor like her. “Before I came to the Mission, I was broken and lost... But now, I’ve found the person God created me to be. I know I am loved.”

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!

It starts with a meal for \$2.25!



A Message from
MATT

Love Your Neighbor... And Help Meet Our Summer Challenge

The Bible tells us in Mark 12:31 (ESV), "You should love your neighbor as yourself." And in these challenging times as many of our neighbors are hurting, those words are especially important.

You've seen how much people are struggling right now. Many are facing hunger or unemployment... or even greater difficulties like homelessness or addiction. You see their suffering and want to give them a helping hand and show them God's love.

That's why I'm thankful for friends like YOU. The summer months can be difficult at the Mission – the meals we serve during June, July and August require \$198,900 alone. Then you factor in the costs to provide safe shelter and faith-based recovery services during the ongoing pandemic, as more of our neighbors need help, and it all adds up.

We can't meet this summer challenge without your help!

During these busy months, I hope you will remember our homeless and struggling neighbors. They need your continued encouragement, prayers and compassion! Your financial support of the Mission is also critical to help make their transformation possible.

Thank you for loving your neighbors this summer and all year long.



Matthew Dildine
Chief Executive
Officer

3 MONTHS OF *Summer*

Help meet our community's needs!

Your gift today provides:



88,400 meals



29,000 nights of rest from June through August



hundreds of hygiene items



countless hours of biblical counseling & education



life-transforming decisions for Christ

**DONATIONS SLOW DOWN IN SUMMER...
PLEASE HELP TODAY!**



**LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR**

98-DAY SUMMER CAMPAIGN



Give now! fresnomission.org Support our Summer Campaign now!

Do you know our

SUMMER 6?



Our "Summer 6" are essential items in high demand for our Mission guests all summer long.

We'd LOVE if you helped by donating any – or all – of these items!

You can deliver your Summer 6 donations to 263 G Street, seven days a week. It's a great way to care for our guests at the Mission this summer!



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



GRAND OPENING!

First Fruits Market

Hungry families in Fresno now have a new way to find the nourishing food they need – at the **First Fruits Market!**

Together, the Fresno Mission and the Central California Food Bank recently opened the First Fruits Market to provide **free meal boxes for hungry families and individuals in need.** Twice a month, eligible residents may receive boxes of groceries including staples like meat, rice and canned foods.

One of the first guests served at the market was a family who previously stayed at the Mission's shelter. Now living in safe, stable housing, this family is grateful for the Mission's continued support through the market to ensure they have healthy meals on their table.



For more information, contact Paula Bohamed at **pbohamed@fresnomission.org** or call **(559) 268-0839.**

“The First Fruits Market offers help in a way that doesn't look like a food line... It provides dignity, care and compassion for those facing difficulties.”

– Matt Dildine, Fresno Mission CEO

Why your monthly gift is **LIFE-CHANGING!**

Your gift as an #OnMission Monthly Member ensures that whenever local people are in need, the Fresno Mission will be ready to help them rebuild their lives. That's because your partnership provides the reliable, steady source of support that ensures the Mission can care for our homeless and hungry neighbors *all year long.*

For someone like Andre, that ongoing support made a real difference!

“Today, I have a full-time job. I'm planning on getting a place of my own. And my relationship with my kids has been totally restored.”

Please prayerfully consider becoming an #OnMission Monthly Member today! To join this important group, visit **fresnomission.org/give-monthly/** or complete the back of the enclosed reply form.