


MISSION INSIDER


CREATING COMMUNITY. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

A newsletter of the Fresno Mission



**GRATEFUL
THROUGH IT ALL:**
**Magdalena is
especially thankful
for YOU!**

Your compassion &
support change lives.



fresnomission

FALL 2021

DON'T MISS...

2 Join Our
Campaign

3 "I met
God here."

4 Longest
Sock Line!

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

“I MET GOD HERE.”

Magdalena was stuck... trapped in a cycle she just couldn't break.

“I was living that revolving-door life of going to rehab, getting clean and sober for a bit and then going back out on the streets,” she says.

Her troubles began when she turned to drugs at age 16 in an attempt to run away from her insecurities and fears.

“There was a lot of bullying when I was younger. I always had this idea that I wasn't good enough or worth it. Too scared of being loved... I never gave myself a chance.”

Magdalena spent a decade trying to feel good about herself by using drugs, which only led to abusive relationships that left her feeling even more worthless.

The turning point came when she nearly overdosed, and woke

up in the hospital mad at God for not ending her life. But then, **“I remember God telling me, ‘I'm not done with you.’”**

After getting sober and dedicating her life to Christ, Magdalena came to the Fresno Mission, seeking support and guidance to rebuild her life.

At the Mission, Magdalena went from knowing *about* God to actually *knowing* Him. The Bible studies, counseling and classes strengthened her faith and gave her a firm foundation.

“I love this place! Since being here, I've grown spiritually. **Even when I don't feel God, I know He's there.**”

She found emotional healing as well. “I was scared to say the word ‘friend’ before I got here, and now I'm creating relationships with other women. I wouldn't have these

relationships if it wasn't for the Mission.”

Today, Magdalena plans to go back to school and get her teaching degree so she can answer God's calling to be an overseas missionary.

As Magdalena celebrates this Thanksgiving, she feels incredibly thankful for your compassion and support – and how it's given her a fresh start in life. “Now I see myself the way I truly am... as a daughter of a King. God loves us in our brokenness, no matter what. It's amazing!”



I DON'T RUN ON FEELINGS ANYMORE... NOW I RUN ON THE TRUST AND HOPE I HAVE IN CHRIST.”



GIVING THANKS FOR ALL GOD'S BLESSINGS

It might surprise you that in another year filled with hardships and uncertainty, the overwhelming messages I hear are ones of gratitude and hope.

Despite the challenges we still face as a community – or perhaps because of them – we remain connected to each other in a spirit of love and generosity. ***Your care and compassion have never been more evident here at the Fresno Mission than right now, as we prepare for the Thanksgiving season.***

You have stepped up to help our hurting neighbors as God has called us to do. Provided nourishing meals. Safe shelter. Life-restoring guidance. More than that, you've prayed for our ministry and guests. Encouraged others to join our mission to transform lives in Fresno. Your love has made it possible for hearts to be restored and lives rebuilt. Now that's something to celebrate!

As we count our blessings this Thanksgiving, you and other faithful friends are at the top of my list. As you enjoy the holiday season with your loved ones, both near and far away, I pray God will fill your heart with joy, peace and the comfort of knowing that lives have been changed thanks to your kindness.

I am grateful for you... today and every day!



Matthew Dildine
Chief Executive
Officer

2021 THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN

It's been another challenging year for so many of our neighbors...

70,000
Meals Needed by Thanksgiving

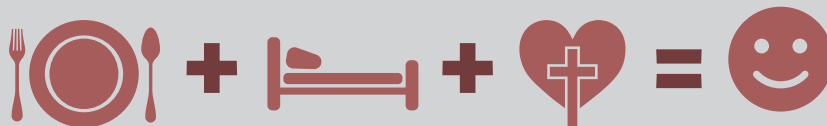
Many of our neighbors are still struggling... trying to get back on their feet... trying not to lose hope. Today, YOU can help them!

For just \$2.25, you can provide a nourishing meal for a hungry neighbor this Thanksgiving season. And that meal opens the door to so much more...

- Safe, welcoming shelter
- Warm clothing, coats & shoes
- Classes & job training to help them get back on their feet after another tough year
- A chance to experience God's love that changes lives



YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE AN IMPACT!



Please – help us be ready to serve thousands of meals to our homeless and hurting neighbors this holiday season, and offer them the care that helps transform lives! **Please send your 2021 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today.**

✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.

💻 Give online anytime at fresnomission.org.

**READ MAGDALENA'S
STORY TO LEARN MORE!**



Don't Patch Together Your Legacy

During an appointment, a patient indicated frustration with his medication patch. When the doctor asked why, he replied, "The nurse told me to put on a new one every six hours and now I'm running out of places to put them!"

Sometimes important details get lost in translation and can put us at risk... like how often we should update our will.

Did you know nearly 70 percent of Americans do not have an up-to-date will? Good estate planning may help you avoid:

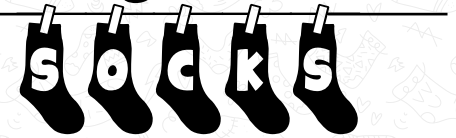
1. Legal risks. Your will could help loved ones avoid delays in receiving an inheritance or property.
2. Relational risks. Many families have fallen into stress and strife over a disputed will, but a parent who ensures their "affairs are in order" creates peace for their loved ones.
3. Financial risks. Ensure your loved ones are provided for and keep your estate from becoming tangled up in expensive probate proceedings.
4. Legacy risks. Take time to consider your estate plan in light of your values. Your will can be a great place to communicate a legacy of personal faith.

Is it time to create or update your will?

To learn more about including the Fresno Mission in your estate plans, contact Rick Porter at **(559) 293-4517** or **rporter@fresnomission.org**. Thank you.



The Longest Line of



Help us break the world record!

Did you know November is Homeless Awareness Month? To bring awareness to the plight of our homeless neighbors in Fresno County, the Fresno Mission is holding a massive sock drive. Our goal is to create a sock line that is 8 miles long, which will set a new Guinness World Record!

To reach that goal, we need more than 80,000 pairs of socks – which we will then give away. Why? Because socks = life change. One of the most sought-after requests of those living on the streets are new socks... no matter the time of year. We are able to use socks to spark conversation, ask questions and invite people experiencing homelessness into meaningful dialogue that often leads to life change.

- Goal:** Raise \$80,000
(or 80,000 pairs of socks)
- What:** \$1 can buy 1 pair of socks
- When:** Before our event on Saturday, November 13, at 9:00 a.m.
- Who:** Through the support of generous friends like you!

You can help our struggling neighbors – and help set a new world record! – by donating new, unworn socks or making a financial gift today. **To learn more or make a gift, visit us at fresnomission.org/socks. Thank you in advance for your help!**