

MISSION INSIDER

CREATING COMMUNITY. TRANSFORMING LIVES.


A newsletter of the Fresno Mission



Thanks to you...

Kyrsten

has been given a
life-changing gift
this Christmas.



fresno**MISSION**

HOLIDAY 2021

DON'T MISS...

2 Celebrating rebirth
this Christmas.

3 "I've learned to
love myself."

4 One Table
Fresno

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

“I’ve learned to love myself the way God LOVES ME.”

Kyrsten grew up in a world of pain, shame and rejection. “My stepmother was very abusive, and I was molested by her father and brothers,” she says. “I didn’t tell anyone because I felt so insignificant, like nobody would care, like my depression didn’t matter.”

When she was 15, Kyrsten began numbing her pain with drugs. “It was a way for me to escape. I didn’t have to think or feel.”

As the years went on, her poor self-esteem drew her into abusive relationships. Her addiction escalated and her depression grew.

But, along the way, she had three children and it was her love for them that finally led her to reach out for help. She left them with relatives and came to our Center for Women and Children, where Bible studies and chapel services led her to surrender her life to Christ. “I’ve learned to trust God, and He gives me strength,” she says.

Her newfound faith and Christian counseling have helped Kyrsten find healing for her emotional wounds. “I’ve learned to forgive. I’m no longer captive to what was done to me,” she says.

Through parenting and other life-skills classes, she’s becoming the mother she always hoped to be. **“My kids are here with me now, and I’m passing on to them the same tools that have helped me heal and grow spiritually. Their little hearts are on fire for God.”**

Kyrsten is now working part-time and saving money for a place where her family can grow and flourish. She’s also taking child development courses, with plans to work in children’s ministry. “Now I know there’s a plan for me,” she says.

It’s going to be a Christmas filled with joy for Kyrsten and her children – and she is so grateful to you for this wonderful gift of a new life. “I was hopeless, but this place changed my life. I’ve learned to love myself the way God loves me.”



“Now I’m a child of God.”



A Message from
MATT

Celebrating Christmas with JOY for All People

In Luke 2:10, the angel says, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

Here's a hard truth – to the people we serve, Christmas symbolizes a life they do not have. Sparkling trees, candy canes, snowmen or decorations with words like "joy" remind them of home and happiness that seem impossibly out of reach.

Here's a redeeming truth – Jesus was born in a manger to rescue people off of street corners and from lives of brokenness. His birth was meant to give hope to all those who don't have a life that allows them to create memories around a Christmas tree. We celebrate Christmas because He rescues people from empty lives, where nothing feels worthy of celebration.

What gives me joy is knowing that when you donate to the Fresno Mission this season, you're not just giving someone a Christmas meal. You're giving them the opportunity to change their lives. You're giving them reason to hope that one day they'll have their own Christmas meal in their own home with their own family and friends. You're giving them the life we all want for them.



Matthew Dildine
Chief Executive
Officer

A delicious Christmas meal for our homeless neighbors...

... STARTS WITH YOU!

As you prepare to celebrate the joy of Christmas, please remember our hurting neighbors. It's been another really tough year for so many in our community – and the very best gift you can give them is the help they need right now!

Just \$2.25 provides a meal and care for one person.

That meal is often the first step toward a new life through God's love.



\$2.25

for 1 hot meal



\$5.21

for 1 night of
safe shelter

**CAN GIVE
SOMEONE**

**Healing
Hope
And a Second
Chance!**

Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!

SEE HOW YOU HELPED CHANGE KYRSTEN'S LIFE!

Year-End Matching Challenge DOUBLE YOUR HELP!



Here's a huge blessing as we end this year: Thanks to a generous group of partners, **any gift you make until December 31 will be matched through our \$50,000 challenge grant!**

That's right... your gift today doubles to provide twice the food, shelter and care. And that means twice the hope for many of our neighbors who are still struggling to get back on their feet.

DEADLINE TO GIVE: 12/31

✉ Add your special year-end gift to the reply card and send it today.

🖥 Give online anytime at
fresnomission.org.

**THANK YOU
for doubling your
impact during
our matching
challenge!**



November 30 GIVING TUESDAY

It's a day for our community to come together, "on mission" to help our neighbors on **Giving Tuesday!**

On November 30, your compassionate gift to our ministry will provide life-changing essentials like meals, shelter and recovery services to help people right here in Fresno County.

Many people are still struggling to overcome hardships and rebuild their lives on solid ground. *Your help is needed now more than ever.* Give our neighbors hope on Giving Tuesday!

**Why Wait? Celebrate
GIVING TUESDAY Now!**

 Give online at
fresnomission.org.



ONE TABLE FRESNO

ONE PURPOSE. ONE CAUSE. ONE TABLE.

Join the Fresno Mission, Central California Food bank and other like-minded community leaders as we serve a hot meal to our hungry and homeless neighbors.

Our guests will gather around Fresno's longest table – more than a quarter of a mile – for food, fellowship and compassion that will fill their hearts with hope.

And, after the meal, participants will pick out a winter coat and take home a box of a week's worth of food.

For more information, to volunteer or to make a donation, go to onetablefresno.com.

Let's come together. Donate together. Change lives together.
Thank you!

WHAT:

One Table Fresno

WHEN:

December 18, 2021, 11:00 a.m.

WHERE:

H Street (Downtown Fresno) in front of Chukchansi Park