

MISSION INSIDER

CREATING COMMUNITY. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

A newsletter of the Fresno Mission

HOPE & CELEBRATION

Tania's
celebrating this Christmas,
thanks to you!



fresnomission

HOLIDAY 2022

DON'T MISS...

2 A Reason to Rejoice

3 "Now I have hope."

4 One Table Fresno

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



“

*There was darkness around me... **but now I have hope.**”*

As lead cook at the Fresno Mission, Tania knows firsthand that life transformation often begins with a warm welcome and a hot meal at our dining room table.

You might not know it if you met her today, but a few years ago, Tania was experiencing homelessness. “I was on the streets and I had no hope,” she says.

For years, Tania felt a painful emptiness in her life, which she tried to fill with substances. Sadly, addiction ultimately left her separated from her children and struggling to find any purpose in her life.

“I wasn’t getting anywhere in life... I didn’t want to live anymore. I was done,” she says.

Tania was actually planning to take her life when, one night, she heard God’s voice – which planted a seed of hope that she could change.

At the Mission, Tania found help for her immediate needs – like food and shelter – as well as emotional support through Christian counseling and classes to work through some of the triggers of her addiction.

“The Mission helped me learn how to love myself... and figure out my goals to move forward and get my family back.”

Today, Tania has her own place to live, a car and she’s even reconnected with one of her daughters again! And

she enjoys working at the Mission, serving nourishing meals to hungry guests seeking help at our doors. “It’s an honor to work here, to love people like Jesus loves and watch lives be transformed every day.” she says.

“

I had a hole in my heart for years...

**but when I came to the Mission,
it was filled.**

”

Tania is excited to celebrate the restored hope she has been given this Christmas – and wants YOU to know just how grateful she is. “I thank all the Mission’s volunteers and donors, because they’re changing lives. It’s making a difference in our city... and in the kingdom of God.”

**Scan to watch
Tania’s story**



A Message from
MATTHEW DILDINE



A Reason to Rejoice

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4:19, NIV

Life is challenging right now. For many families in Fresno County, it's hard enough to afford the very basics – like housing, gas and groceries – let alone Christmas presents or a special holiday meal.

Here at the Fresno Mission, the number of guests seeking our life-changing programs and services has nearly doubled since last year... Meanwhile, the cost of providing this care for our community has increased, too.

In the face of such financial strain, it can be difficult to find a reason to rejoice. But then another weary man knocks at our doors hungry... or a single mother and child arrive here in the middle of the night, scared and seeking safety from abuse at home...

Through these challenges, I'm reminded of these words from Scripture, which give me faith: *"I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength"* (Philippians 4:12-13, NIV).

With Christ as our foundation – and the support of generous friends like you – our ministry can continue to impact lives in Fresno County, this holiday season and beyond. **Will you please answer God's call to help our hurting neighbors today?**

This Christmas, may our Lord continue to meet all your needs, just as you help to meet the needs of so many others.

Matthew Dildine
Chief Executive Officer



Help meet our **\$20,000** GIVING TUESDAY Goal

Tuesday, November 29

Join us ON MISSION this Christmas

Our neighbors who are hungry and homeless need YOUR help this holiday season. Make this Christmas a time of celebration, with a gift that offers a helping hand to someone in need!



\$2.25
for 1 hot meal



\$5.21
for 1 night of
safe shelter

**CAN
LEAD TO**

**Help,
Hope
& a New
Life!**

Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!

\$50,000 Year-End Matching Challenge **DOUBLE YOUR HELP!**



DEADLINE TO GIVE: 12/31

You can help make a difference in Fresno before the year ends! Thanks to a generous friend/group of partners, **any gift you make until December 31 will be matched through our \$50,000 Matching Challenge.**

Your gift today doubles to provide twice the food, shelter and care. And that means your gift will go twice as far to help care for our neighbors who are struggling with inflation, soaring gas prices and other challenges.

✉ 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!

Your support has transformed lives this year!



“The Mission is a place of restoration, a place of healing, and a place of community... thank you

for helping women like me have a second chance at life.”



“Without the Mission, I’d be in a vicious cycle. Now I have a light at the end of my

tunnel. I don’t know where I’d be without them.”

To read more stories of hope that YOU helped make possible, visit us at fresnomission.org/stories-of-faith or scan the QR code below. Thank you for helping to transform lives in Fresno!

Scan to read more stories of faith!



Join the Fresno Mission, the 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: November 19, 2022, 11:00 a.m.

**Where: City Center, 2025 E. Dakota Ave.,
Fresno, CA 93726**