

MISSION INSIDER

CREATING COMMUNITY. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

A newsletter of the Fresno Mission

Thank you for restoring hope to *Celia's* life

Because of you, she has
a new beginning this
Easter!



EASTER 2023

DON'T MISS...

2 Help our Fresno
community this Easter

2 Life transformation
starts with YOU!

3 "I found
healing."

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



Through the
Mission, I found
healing.

“I didn’t know that what I went through as a child was going to affect me so much as an adult,” Celia says.

Growing up with a mother who was an alcoholic, and a father who was in and out of prison and addiction, Celia’s life was chaotic from an early age.

When she was molested as a teenager, it sent her searching for a way to escape the emotional pain and trauma. “For the next 15 years, I was in and out of my addiction,” she says. **“Spiritually, I was dead. There was no joy. There was no peace... It was just a lot of chaos.”**

Sadly, Celia’s own children experienced a similar upbringing to hers. “My ex-husband was in and out of jail, too,” Celia says. “And there was just a lot of violence that my kids saw.”

When Celia was served divorce papers, she feared that she might lose her children. “That’s when I ended up taking my four kids to the Fresno Mission... and I started to see God move in our lives.”

Celia and her children found safe housing together through our Rescue the Children program, and with the guidance of our staff and classes, Celia began to address the root causes of her addiction. “Through the program, I learned that drugs were just a symptom of what was really wrong.”

Today, Celia is on staff at the Mission, as a case manager for Rescue the Children. “It’s just awesome to be able to see women like me go through the process and be able to help them... I wouldn’t change my job for anything.”

The Mission is more than
a shelter or program. It’s a
place of restoration.

With Christ’s love in her life and hope for her future, Celia can’t thank you enough for your support this Easter. “I just want to thank all the supporters of the Mission for helping women like me to have a second chance at life.”

Watch Celia
share her story of
transformation!



Life transformation starts with YOU!



42,000 meals



10,100 nights of shelter



130 men & women in our recovery programs (on average)



4,848 annual hours of life-skills courses, work therapy and career development each year

Thank you for blessing those in need this Easter!

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." – 1 Peter 1:3, NIV



A Message from MATTHEW DILDINE

TRANSFORMING LIVES THIS EASTER

Easter is such a powerful reminder of God's love... for us and for our hurting neighbors. When I think of the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross, and how God welcomes us as children into His family, I'm inspired to share that same love with others!

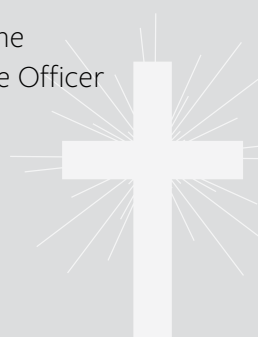
That's why we're committed to making local men, women and children feel welcome here at the Fresno Mission. We invite them to be part of *our* family... and share with them the eternal hope that Christ offers us *all* when we accept Him into our lives.

This Easter, thank you for joining us on mission to share the blessings of love and community with everyone who comes through our doors. Through your prayers

and financial gifts, you equip and empower hurting people to overcome their challenges and discover the life God wants for them.

Thank you for making this Easter a season of hope and new beginnings for so many people in our community. **Their lives are being transformed through your generosity and God's unending grace.**

Matthew Dildine
Chief Executive Officer



HELP OUR FRESNO COMMUNITY THIS EASTER

Help make a new beginning possible for more men, women and families this Easter!

♥ **A hot meal for \$2.89 – often the first step to a new life in Christ**

♥ **An overnight stay in our safe shelter**

♥ **Christ-centered care & healing in our life-change programs**

✉ **Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.**

✦ **Give online anytime at fresnomission.org.**



YOUR PRAYERS CHANGE LIVES!

Prayer is powerful. That's why we welcome your heartfelt prayers and faithful support of our work in Fresno County.

Here are some of the ways you can pray for our ministry!

- Pray that God will lead people in need to the Mission.
- Pray that our guests' hearts will be open to God's Word.
- Pray that our staff will have strength to lead & speak His truth.
- Pray that our community will be healed & strengthened.

Thank you for lifting up our guests, staff, volunteers, neighborhoods and country. God bless you!

Help meet our EASTER NEEDS!

Friday, April 7: Our Easter Dinner from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.!

Easter is a day of joy and celebration. But right now, far too many of our neighbors are struggling with the rising costs of housing and food. They're turning here... and YOU can help welcome them with love and a special meal!



URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS!

Drop off any of these items by **Friday, April 15:**

- ☐ SPIRAL SLICED HAMS
- ☐ INSTANT MASHED POTATOES
- ☐ BUTTER
- ☐ CANNED VEGETABLES
- ☐ POWDERED MILK
- ☐ DESSERTS (store-bought)
- ☐ COFFEE
- ☐ CREAMER

Drop off donations at the Mission's Food Services:
(559) 268-0839
www.fresnomission.org

No time to shop?
Donate now!

☎ (559) 268-0839
👉 www.fresnomission.org