

# MISSION INSIDER

CREATING COMMUNITY. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

A newsletter of the Fresno Mission

*Steven is grateful  
& blessed this  
Thanksgiving*

*because of your support  
You've given him  
hope and new life this  
holiday!*



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FALL 2023

**DON'T MISS...**

**2** Help us get ready for Thanksgiving!

**3** "The Mission empowered me."

**4** Coming Soon! One Table Fresno

For more information: (559) 268-0839 • [fresnomission.org](http://fresnomission.org)

Join Our

2023

# Thanksgiving CAMPAIGN

## 70,000 Meals Needed this Thanksgiving Season

This Thanksgiving, countless guests will gather at our tables. Some are alone... Some are parents with children... All are longing to overcome homelessness and poverty and find a reason for hope this holiday season.

**For just \$3.03, YOU can provide a meal** to nourish their bodies and lift their spirits. Your gift surrounds hurting people with loving care that leads to a better life through:



Safe, welcoming shelter



Warm clothing, coats & shoes



Classes & job training



God's life-changing love



Scan to see how you can offer a helping hand this fall!

**Please help our neighbors in need this holiday season!** Send your 2023 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today using the enclosed reply card and envelope OR online at [fresnomission.org](http://fresnomission.org).

## Giving *Thanks* for **YOU** This Season

As we prepare for our busy fall season here at the Fresno Mission, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for you.

**Right now, we're getting ready for the many men, women and children who will come to us during the months leading up to Thanksgiving.** It's one of my favorite times of the year, and it's possible thanks to generous friends like you who join us "on mission" to change lives in our community.

As I think about this time of the year, I'm reminded of the words of Ecclesiastes 3:1: *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."*

At the Mission, we witness the start of "new seasons" often. Each time someone comes to the Mission for help, they **choose** a season of support and recovery and move forward from old seasons of struggle.



Now, as we prepare to serve an estimated 70,000 meals in the coming months, I ask you to pray for every man, woman and child who finds a seat at our tables. Pray that if the time is right for a new season in their life, God will make it known and see it through.

**Thank you for making new seasons filled with hope possible for our struggling neighbors through your partnership with our ministry.**

Matthew Dildine  
Chief Executive Officer

## YOU'RE MAKING GOALS AND DREAMS POSSIBLE...



*"The Mission helped me enroll in school and even gave me a scholarship. I get to start my life over."*

*"I get to be with awesome people who not only know where I come from, but are on my side and rooting for my future!"*



At the Mission, hopes and dreams are born – because thanks to the support of friends like you, men and women in our recovery program can believe that a brighter future is possible.

To find out more about how you're helping transform lives and fulfill dreams, visit [fresnomission.org](http://fresnomission.org).

Thank you for believing that everyone deserves the opportunity to build a better, more fulfilling life!

“The Mission  
*empowered*  
me.”



Steven’s childhood was a painful cycle of heartbreak and grief. When he was just 6 years old, his father passed away from cancer. His mother remarried... but his new stepfather struggled with addiction.

“The most traumatic experience happened when I was 11 years old,” Steven says. “My stepfather committed suicide... I was the one who found him, and this changed the trajectory of my life.”

Although Steven’s grandparents stepped in to rescue him from this difficult home environment, it wasn’t enough to erase his painful memories. “I began drinking alcohol to cope... and this led to a 10-year journey of drinking every single day.”

After a bad car accident left him critically injured, Steven realized he

needed help to truly find freedom from drinking and heal his life.

Steven came to the Fresno Mission and joined our Academy program for men, where he strengthened his faith and learned the skills he needed to live a stable life. “I’ve learned the importance of serving others and putting God first,” he says.

“ I had so many opportunities... but I felt empty. ”

Not only has Steven’s life been restored through the program, but he’s seen the impact on his family. “They’ve witnessed this change in me, and that’s helped move my family closer to the Lord. The

Mission helps heal families.”

With a degree in business management, Steven hopes to eventually earn his master’s and work full-time at the Mission. “My goal is to work with unhoused people and take what I’ve learned here to minister to others. God has called me to serve.”

For now, he is working in our auto department, helping to sell used vehicles that provide valuable funding for the Mission’s programs and services.

**Steven’s heart is overflowing with gratitude this**

**Thanksgiving for YOUR generosity that helped him rebuild his life.** “I am very thankful that the Mission has empowered me to reach beyond my addiction to the possibilities now available to me.”



# Coming Soon:

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# CITY CENTER

Exciting progress is taking place at the fifth and newest campus of the Fresno Mission... City Center!

Located at the heart of Fresno, this 10-acre, 180,000-square foot location will host over 20 local human services organizations, providing holistic care to our community in a single location.

In fact, some of these providers have already begun serving our neighbors in need at City Center... and we look forward to expanding these services to reach more people this fall!



### City Center will feature:

- A 10,000-square-foot dining area for hungry guests
- New emergency housing for up to 73 families
- Childcare facility & charter school
- Mental & family health services
- Food bank and more!



**You can help bring hope to the city of Fresno!**  
Learn more about City Center and how you can support our work.  
Visit [citycenterfresno.org](http://citycenterfresno.org).



## YOU'RE INVITED

One Table Fresno  
Saturday, November 18

Volunteers needed... like you!

Help serve hot meals, and provide winter coats and boxes of food for our struggling neighbors during **One Table Fresno**. For more information, visit [fresnomission.org/onetable](http://fresnomission.org/onetable).