

MISSION INSIDER

CREATING COMMUNITY. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

A newsletter of the Fresno Mission

THANK YOU FOR
GIVING JASON
a life-changing
GIFT THIS
Christmas!



HOLIDAY 2024

DON'T MISS...

2 A Life-Changing Christmas

2 \$100,000 Year-End Matching Challenge

3 "This is where God wants me to be."

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

A Life-Changing Christmas ❄️

Get ready... the busiest time of the year is upon us! I imagine your calendar is filling up quickly. But **before the year ends, please save a few moments for our neighbors who are homeless.**

I know you agree no one should live in a car... in a tent... or outside in the cold. Certainly not a child. Being homeless means living with constant fear and uncertainty. It's a terrible way to spend any day... much less Christmas Day. If there's anyone in need of a miracle, it's them.

You can make a Christmas miracle possible for a neighbor who is homeless by giving \$3.03 to provide a hot meal at the Fresno Mission. It may not seem like much – but each meal you provide can be someone's first step toward recovery and a new life. Where you see a meal, a hurting neighbor sees a miracle.

With your support, no man, woman or child in Fresno County has to be hungry or homeless this Christmas. People like Jason (whose story is on page 3) can find the miracle of hot meals, safe shelter and Christ-centered care at the Mission this holiday season... and all year round... thanks to you!



Matthew Dildine
Chief Executive Officer

GET INVOLVED IN ONE TABLE FRESNO!



November 23, 2024
at the newly renovated City Center campus

We need your help! Join the Fresno Mission and Central California Food Bank to help make One Table Fresno a success. CEOs, politicians, pastors and community leaders will personally serve a steak meal to families in need. Afterwards, each family will take home a coat and one week's worth of food.

You can help! There are lots of ways to get involved:



Volunteer



Donate a coat



Give a gift

Learn more, sign up and donate at
fresnomission.org/onetablefresno

\$100,000 Year-End Matching Challenge **DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!**



BIG NEWS to end the year: **When you give between now and December 31, your generosity will go 2x as far** to provide food, shelter and life-changing care for our struggling neighbors!

DEADLINE TO GIVE: 12/31

- ✉ Return your special year-end gift in the reply card today.
- 📄 Give online at **fresnomission.org**.

THANK YOU
for doubling your
impact during
our Matching
Challenge!

“This is where God wants me to be.”



*“I believed in God, but after being at the Mission, **HE SLOWLY STARTED WORKING WITH ME AND THEN HE AND I HAD A MORE INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP.**”*

“My mother had me – her first child – when she was just a child herself,” Jason says. Although the young single mom did the best she could, Jason’s early years were marred by instability, confusion and exposure to alcoholism among the adults in his life.

The environment set the stage for his own destructive habits, and by age 12 he was smoking, drinking, skipping school and hanging out with the wrong crowd. “I was just looking for attention and acceptance.”

As an adult, his substance abuse escalated and eventually resulted in prison time. When released, he relocated near his

mother, hopeful to reestablish their relationship. Sadly, she still battled her addiction. When she took her own life, Brian’s life was shattered. “I felt I was responsible for my mom’s death.”

He carried his guilt with him for years, living a transient and disconnected existence. “Finally I just couldn’t handle it anymore. The downhill spiral I was on, there was no stopping. That’s when I found the Fresno Mission.”

In our care, Jason found the acceptance and love he’d been seeking since childhood. Through our faith-based programs, he began to rebuild himself and rediscover his self-worth.

He feels especially blessed

by his role as an Academy Steward, where he welcomed new arrivals and witnessed their transformation, much like his own. “It was the most amazing thing,” he says, believing God called him to this important work.

Today, Jason remains at the Mission – employed at our thrift store – where he’s found a sense of family and community.

This Christmas, he is experiencing all the joy this season has to offer – because YOU believed in the power of a fresh start and the promise of God’s unending love. “I once was lost but now I’m found. I’m somebody that matters and I know I’m worthy.”

DONOR *Spotlight*

VIV AND BOB

The Fresno Mission would like to honor Viv and Bob, who have been faithful donors and advocates of our ministry! They not only support us with financial gifts, but are also committed to praying for the guests whose lives are being transformed here at the Mission.

Viv and Bob are the proud owners of Olive Wood Farm Stand in Clovis, CA. By raising funds through this honor system farm stand, they have found a way to transform the Lord's gift of bountiful harvests into a way to support and share God's love with the people in their community. Our work is only possible through the partnership of neighbors like Bob and Viv. We are so thankful for their continued support!



"Fresno Mission became very personal and real to us when my friend's son needed medical housing after being hurt out on the streets. It was already a heartbreaking situation and he was welcomed with the love of Christ, and was provided care and a safe place to heal." – Viv



YOU MAKE STORIES OF *Faith* POSSIBLE!

Every day, men, women and children find healing and restoration here at the Fresno Mission. These life-changing stories are possible because of people like you. Thank you for giving generously and praying for the work we do and the people we serve.

See how your support is making a difference! Scan the QR code to read stories of the people whose lives have been changed thanks to your faithful support.



Give a meal. Spark a miracle!



It's hard to find a reason to celebrate Christmas when you're homeless or hungry. **YOU can give JOY and spark a miracle** with a gift to lead someone to join our long-term recovery program and experience a new life! It all starts by providing a meal for \$3.03... because where you see a meal, they see a miracle.



\$3.03
for 1 hot meal



**CAN SPARK
A MIRACLE**



**That leads
to new life!**

Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!