

# Rescue Mission News

## Central Coast Rescue Mission

CHANGING LIVES FOR GOOD IS OUR ONLY BUSINESS

If you study love and mother in a thesaurus you'll find funny words like fuss, over-protect, or even fretful concern, worry, and apprehension. Donna Kirtley knows something about this.

Kenny was a great kid with good grades growing up in Bakersfield. He was involved in sports and other regular activities. Dad coached his teams and mom loved her "baby." Ken spun out of control, though, in his junior high years and he spent the next six or so years in and out of juvenile corrections. Bakersfield was not a good place for Ken to live because of the friends, drugs, and trouble that were so near. Despite this, when Ken was 24, against his parents' pleadings, Ken moved back to the same city where he had faced so much trouble as a child. Trouble didn't waste time – Kenny was behind bars in no time - 40 months in Soledad for selling dope. After prison, Ken got things together for a good number of years – no drugs, good job, and he and his girlfriend had two beautiful children. However, when the relationship broke apart, the old friends came around, one thing led to another, and the methamphetamine nearly killed

him, except that a second jail sentence staved off death.

For the past five years, Ken has lived in Los Osos, holding on to good work and attending a fantastic 12-Step Group. Since he joined the mission's

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### *The (Anxious) Love of a Mother*

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Life-Change Program in August, Ken has learned about Christ and forgiveness. The message of unconditional love, acceptance, and forgiveness has been life changing. There has been a constant through the nearly 28 years of turmoil, glimpses of hope, and dark moments of despair – Ken's brave mother Donna. Ken remembers how his mom would do anything to keep him straight! He remembers the time she came to a crack house in the ghetto of Bakersfield and pushed aside threatening, grown men to rescue her teenage son from trouble. He remembers the time when she chased him

through and over the rolling hills of a city park in her Chevy van. The park was across the street from school, mom had spied Kenny smoking pot, and she was going to stop it right then and there. Ken also remembers all the times that mom would drive from Los Osos to Soledad to visit her youngest son in the penitentiary.

On a recent visit to see his family, mom made the observation, "Kenny, you know what? I never hear you cuss anymore – you've really made some changes." It may take a long while before all the anxiety disappears for Donna, but for this loving mom, on this Mother's day, she's very happy with the small but sure steps away from the dark past.



Donna and Kenny – Celebrating Freedom and Life!

## Grateful for the Help and Hope!

Jesus and Bralio joined us for dinner last night in Santa Maria. It was their first time to join us for dinner. They enjoyed a great meal of meatloaf, bbq baked beans, fresh green salad, and dinner rolls. These two men usually work in the strawberry fields, but they've both been unemployed for the



Grateful for Groceries for the Week.

past month and live in one of the motels in north Santa Maria. Having a place to come

and enjoy a great meal is a big help for both men. Though we sometimes fumble with our language barriers, we are always able to express that everything



Grateful for a Delicious Dinner.

we do is done in the name of Jesus and for His love for the poor!

We are privileged to be able to serve both the working poor and the homeless in our area –



Grateful for Clothing for Her Children.

especially while work has gone away. We've seen our food pantry ministry numbers rise dramatically and we are happy to give out some great clothing donations at our outreach sites. Last month alone we served 750 hot dinners and helped 862 families with a grocery basket. We also gave 172 people either clothing or hygiene products.

## What to Do When There Is No Work?



Hard to Smile but Appreciative!

Gerardo joined us for dinner last week. This 25-year old hard-to-smile guy has been living in Santa Maria for the past two months. He came here to get away from the gangs and the drugs and alcohol of Salinas. A year ago, he was in a Christian program in Salinas because he lost his way to the drugs there. He hopes to work in the fields soon, but work is hard to find right now. He's trying to make the best of a tough situation and he appreciates the help he receives from the mission – the meals, friends, and the message of hope he finds in Christ!

### Outreach, Life-Change, and Engage Volunteers

These are our top goals. Won't you join us in our effort to change lives for good! Please call Karen Reddick our Volunteer Coordinator at 805-357-1207 to get started on the rewarding journey of serving the least, last and lost.

## THRIFT STORES

- FURNITURE
- TOYS
- CLOTHING
- MUCH MORE!

100% of ALL proceeds help feed, shelter, and clothe the Homeless

**Santa Maria Super Thrift Store**  
306 N. Broadway  
Santa Maria, CA 93454  
(805) 357-1214



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