

# Rescue Mission News

## Central Coast Rescue Mission

CHANGING LIVES FOR GOOD IS OUR ONLY BUSINESS

### ***I Started to Go Blind, but Now I See***

Chad had driven trucks for thirteen years. He was a young man with money and dreams, and there was no rush to either save money or take care of his spiritual needs - after all, everything was going great.

Then, in 2006, he failed his driver's test for vision problems and Chad lost his job. He had a rare inherited condition call Stargardt disease. Overnight his income, security, and future were gone - as he knew it anyway.

It was as if someone slugged him and knocked all the wind out of him. Scrambling for work, he began landscaping, but he felt terrible. Every day was a struggle. For thirteen years, he was in control of things, now he felt worthless. To complicate matters, Chad, who used to party a lot but hold things together when he drove, began to party with the wrong crowd and with the wrong drugs.

Chad began a four-year downhill slide. People who knew him saw all the obvious signs of trouble - lost weight, lost wages, and lost friendships. They wanted to help, but Chad put up walls.

In a rare moment of clarity, Chad called the mission for help. But, there were no beds available at the time. Four months later, the mission called Chad and told him a bed had become available. But by that time, Chad was back into the "everything's okay with me," mode. That came to a crashing halt soon after when the police arrested him for possession of methamphetamine.

The judge gave him a choice to serve time or complete the mission's discipleship program. Chad is glad he chose the program. To his surprise, he discovered more than sobriety - he discovered God's endless love for him. Chad realizes now that the problems he experienced were all markers along the way to discover God's bottomless grace.

Ironically, through vision loss, God has allowed Chad to see clearly!

Now Chad, who lost everything because he had lost his physical

eyesight, has gained everything and has new vision for his life. While working in the program, he learned to quit worrying - that God would work things out. He learned to stop being negative, because life really is good, because God is in his life.



## Let Me Help!



Smiles say thank you!

When Richard found out that he could help the mission by contributing to our newsletter, he was only too glad to help. Richard (right in the picture) came to dinner with his brother Robert and they're both very appreciative that the mission helps people in need with

hot meals, clothing, and hygiene products. Richard is a 22-year Santa Maria resident, and he is thankful for his health, that he is able to ride his bicycle around town, and to get to dinner. Right now, with no work, Richard is developing his water-coloring skills and he hopes to be a blessing to others with his gift of art.

## Is It a Hot Meal or a Luxury Item?

Rudolfo and his two beautiful daughters have joined us for dinner at our Guadalupe outreach. It is true that for some folks, especially for the increasing number of working poor, putting a hot, healthy, and delicious dinner on the table at home is becoming an expensive luxury item. Central Coast Rescue Mission considers it a privilege to deliver help and hope to people in need.



Daddy's taking good care of us!

### Take the Next Step! Volunteer Orientation

Thursday, April 7, 2011 at the mission  
1207 N McClelland Street - Santa Maria  
6:00 to 7:00 P.M.

Tour, Introductions, Orientation

Call Karen Reddick at 805-357-1207 to let us know you're coming

## Director's Corner

It's a joy to see the rescue mission team do great things for Jesus. In a season of great need, each part of the team has stepped up to get the job done. It's easiest to see God at work in and through the team at one of our outreach events – volunteers serving and engaged with our guests, discipleship program members learning how to live with humility in service to others and gleaning from the wisdom of our volunteers, and staff members training and cheering on the volunteers to serve. We (and our guests) hope that you'll join our team to serve. My experience tells me that once you begin to serve others, God will direct you in the how, how much, where, and when. Please call Karen at 805-357-1207 to join the team!



Engaged: For some, we may be the only Bible they read

## GIVE AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE



A Charitable Gift Annuity is a gift that provides you with financial rewards for a lifetime. You will receive:

- Immediate tax deduction
- Fixed and secure payments throughout your lifetime
- Satisfaction of helping us deliver vital services to the hungry and homeless in our community

For more information, please call: (800)876-7958 ext. 2112, Jay Haddix.

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1207 N. McClelland Street, Santa Maria, CA 93454 • (805) 614-0220