

*Changing  
Lives  
For Good*



**2009**

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**Annual Report**

Dear Friend of Rescue,

This past year brought challenges and hardships for so many people. And, like never before, they have turned to the ministries of Rescue Mission Alliance for help. As we reflect on these challenges and our accomplishments, we are thankful for the faithful support of the many donors and volunteers who have helped us meet the growing needs of the hungry and homeless in our communities.

As you look through this annual report, we invite you to join with us in celebrating the lives being touched by each of our ministries...lives of so many men, women, and families who turn to us in the midst of struggle and crisis. With your help, we are able to care for their physical and emotional needs as we share the love, grace, and mercy of God that truly transforms lives.

We present this report rejoicing in God's provision and the privilege we have to serve Him daily as we provide essential services to the poor and homeless. We deeply appreciate each one of you for giving, praying, and volunteering to help us provide comfort and guidance to those in need. Thank you for your partnership and compassion for others! We pray that we will be able to work together to change even more lives for good this year.

Changing lives for good together,



Gary W. Gray

*President/Chief Executive Officer*



# RESCUE MISSION ALLIANCE

## OUR STORY

Rescue Mission Alliance is a charitable, non-profit organization that has served the hungry and homeless for more than 38 years. The organization began as the Oxnard Rescue Mission, a small emergency shelter for homeless men. In 1989, the name changed to the Ventura County Rescue Mission to better align with the growth in services provided countywide. Expanding services with the establishment of the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission and the Valley Food Bank in adjacent Los Angeles County initiated another name change to the Rescue Mission Alliance in 1997. The organization has since grown with the establishment of the Lighthouse for Women and Children and expanded to Santa Barbara County in 2003 with the addition of the Central Coast Rescue Mission. In 2008, the Victor Valley Rescue Mission was added to meet the growing needs of the homeless and addicted in San Bernardino County. The combined ministries of the Rescue Mission Alliance offer hot meals, safe shelter, supportive services, drug and alcohol recovery, food distribution, vocational training, life skills, computer learning, relapse prevention, community outreach, and transitional housing.

## OUR MISSION

With the support of our community we offer:

**Refuge** - Food, shelter, and clothing for those in need.

**Recovery** - Biblically based programs to minister to the whole person: body, mind, and spirit.

**Restoration** - Equipping people to lead productive and independent lives.

## OUR VISION

- Clients seek us out.
- Employees are proud to work for us.
- Volunteers are eager to serve with us.
- Donors prefer to give to us.
- Customers enjoy shopping with us.

## VENTURA COUNTY RESCUE MISSION

In Ventura County, 16% of the population lives below the poverty level. Unemployment, poverty, and the high cost of housing are the leading causes of homelessness among the newly homeless.

Since 1972, the Ventura County Rescue Mission has served the poor and homeless, offering hope to literally thousands of hurting people. It is the county's longest standing year-round shelter for homeless men.

In 2009, your support provided...

...**243,021** meals, **42,517** nights of safe shelter, **42,517** hot showers and shaves, **26,706** articles of clothing.

Our work therapy and vocational training programs prepare our graduates to succeed in the workplace, sustain their independence, and become contributing members of our community.



*"I had worked as a chef for many years. I was a functioning alcoholic, or so I thought. The drinking got worse to the point that I would experience blackouts. I heard about the mission from a homeless heroin addict and decided it was time to deal with my addiction. I felt right at home in the mission's culinary arts program. Cooking is my passion! I never thought I could quit drinking but God has changed my life, restored my relationships with my family, and has given me the opportunity to use my culinary talents to help other men in recovery."*

**Richard – Life Recovery Program Graduate**



## **61 men graduated our drug and alcohol recovery program.**

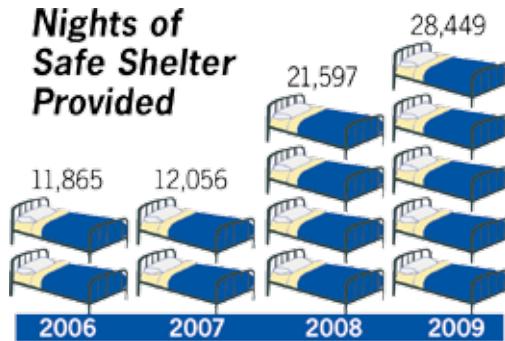
*"I fell in with the wrong crowd and experimented with drugs and alcohol. Everything began going downhill. I had ruined my marriage, military career, and all the important relationships in my life. I had resorted to panhandling to support my habit. When I arrived at the mission, I only wanted a hot meal. The love and acceptance I received at the mission drew me to this place and I wanted to enter the recovery program. Now I really understand God's forgiveness and love. After graduating from the program, I enrolled in Bible College and became reunited with my family."*

**Jonathan – Sober since 2007**

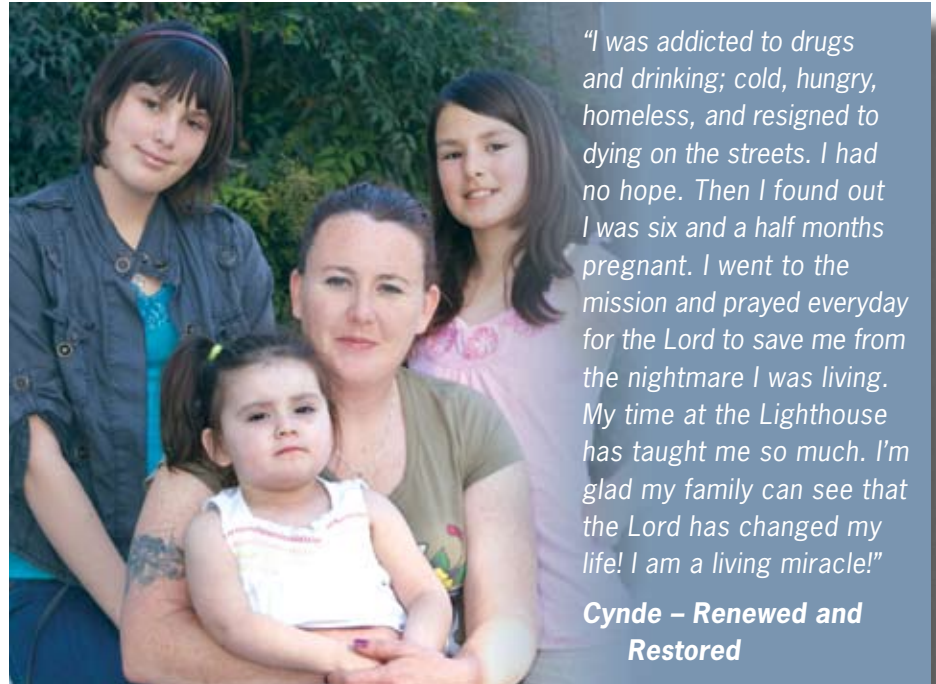
# LIGHTHOUSE WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S MISSION

Women and children make up 39% of the homeless population in Ventura County. Poverty rates are higher for children than for adults or senior citizens.

The Lighthouse began in 1998 as a substance abuse recovery program. Today, the Lighthouse provides a full range of services to meet the growing needs of homeless women and children.



Our long-term life recovery program enables women to conquer addictions and instills confidence through biblically-based discipleship and mentoring to help women and children overcome the devastation of homelessness.



*"I was addicted to drugs and drinking; cold, hungry, homeless, and resigned to dying on the streets. I had no hope. Then I found out I was six and a half months pregnant. I went to the mission and prayed everyday for the Lord to save me from the nightmare I was living. My time at the Lighthouse has taught me so much. I'm glad my family can see that the Lord has changed my life! I am a living miracle!"*

**Cynde – Renewed and Restored**

**14 women graduated our life recovery program and 25 children were reunited with their mothers.** 67 women and their children found housing and 53 women found employment.



**204** children received food, clothing, and shelter at the Lighthouse.

In 2009, your support provided...

...**78,752** meals, **28,449** nights of safe shelter, **23,984** hot showers, and **10,734** articles of clothing.



*"Life before coming to the Lighthouse with my two-year-old son, Luis, wasn't very "normal" for me. I was addicted to drugs and alcohol and, to make matters worse, I was living on the streets and running from the law. The Lighthouse took me in and helped me learn to be independent by placing me at a vocational assignment. I'm becoming a contributing, normal member of society; something I'd never thought I'd be."*

**Andrea – Sober and Independent**

## SAN FERNANDO VALLEY RESCUE MISSION

Over 28% of Los Angeles County residents live below the poverty level. The child poverty rate is 25%. The ailing economy has forced many families into homelessness. San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission is meeting this challenge by providing shelter for families in the San Fernando Valley.

Guests at the mission receive shelter, hot meals, showers, clean clothes, case management, job training, life skills training, and a renewed sense of hope to overcome their circumstances. 50% of the mission's guests are children age 12 and younger.

*"I was offered a scholarship to play soccer at Cal Berkley. I chose drugs and gangs over a college education. I promised my girlfriend and kids that I would change my ways, but that was short lived. We lost everything and became homeless because of my addiction. Broken and defeated, we turned to the mission and they welcomed us with open arms. I decided to abandon my drug use and open my heart to God. Wow, what a change! Instead of hate and rebellion, my heart is filled with love and compassion. My life will never be the same."*

**Alex, former shelter guest**





The San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission's "Survival Outreach Services" is on the streets where the homeless receive showers from our state-of-the-art mobile shower unit. In addition to a refreshing shower, we offer hot meals, clean clothes, personal hygiene items, and an opportunity to leave life on the streets for good.

*74 families found transitional or permanent housing in 2009, and are no longer homeless.*



In 2009, your support provided...

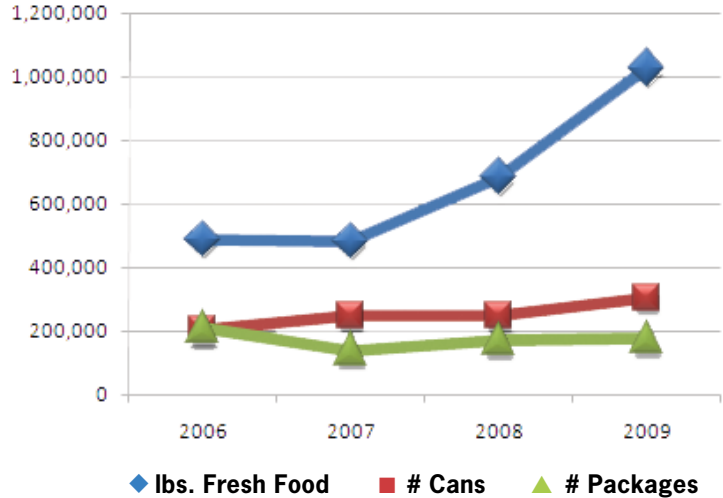
**52,359** meals, **17,076** nights of safe shelter, **10,734** hot showers, **20,505** articles of clothing.

# VALLEY FOOD BANK

Nearly one third of California's low-income residents live in Los Angeles County where 160,000 children go hungry every day.



## Bringing more fresh food to the table...



In 2009, requests for food assistance increased by 58%. Valley Food Bank responded by distributing 1,023,658 pounds of fresh food, 475,640 cans and packages, and 41,600 food boxes.

Our distribution network of 30 organizations is diverse—emergency shelters, soup kitchens, community pantries, and other nonprofit social service organizations.



Our Fighting Hunger Feeding Hope program provides food for thousands of children, seniors, and working poor families.

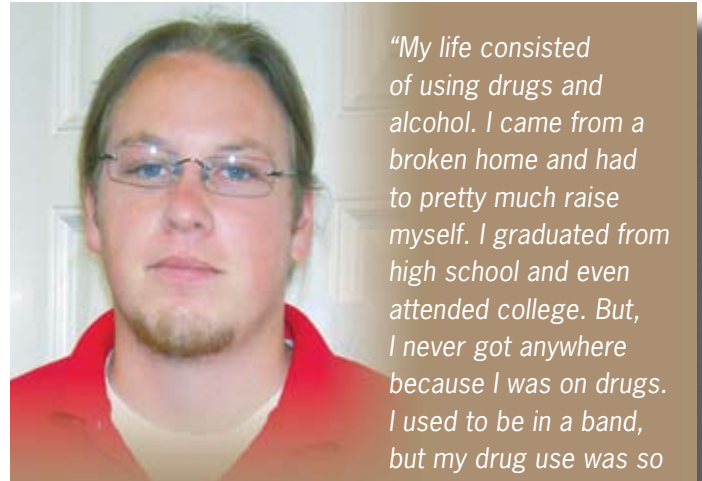
## CENTRAL COAST RESCUE MISSION



On any given night, over 4,000 people are homeless in Santa Barbara County. An estimated 80% of the chronically homeless struggle with substance abuse issues.

Our 9-month Life Recovery Program has rescued many men from a life of addiction, prison, poverty, and homelessness.

**6 men graduated our Life Recovery Program.** They are now living sober and positively contributing to their families and community.



*"My life consisted of using drugs and alcohol. I came from a broken home and had to pretty much raise myself. I graduated from high school and even attended college. But, I never got anywhere because I was on drugs. I used to be in a band, but my drug use was so bad they kicked me out. Since coming to the mission, I have a better understanding of God and I know that if I do not trust Him I will have nothing. I plan on going back to college and getting my degree in music. God is working in my life and I am looking forward to what he has planned for my future."*

**Scott – Recovery Program Participant**

In 2009...

...our meals outreach **served 15,511 hot meals.**

**38% MORE** meals were provided than last year.



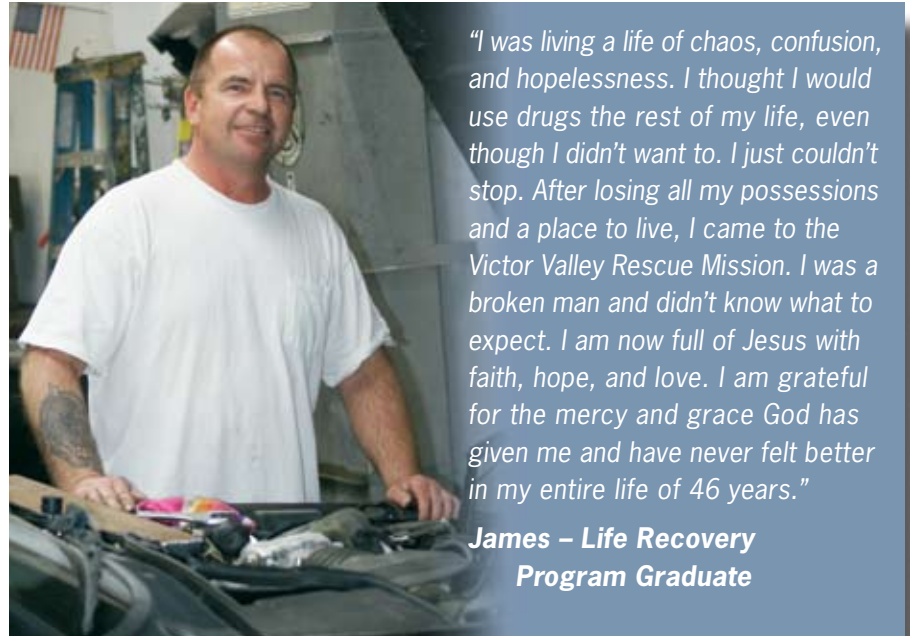
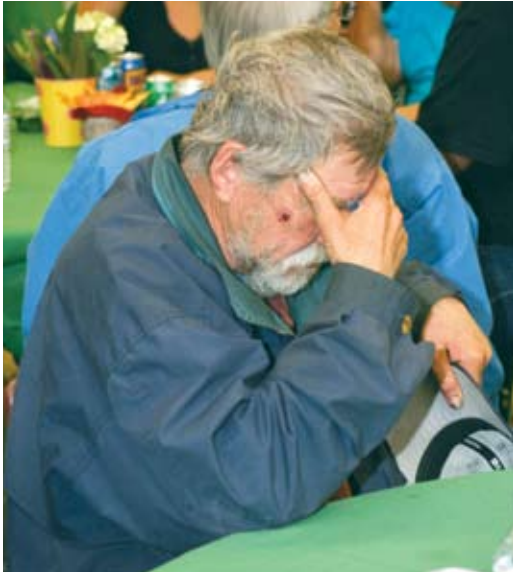
14% of the population countywide lives below the poverty level and **30% of those living in poverty are children under the age of 18.**

Our food pantry distributed **1,543 food boxes** to our **needy neighbors.**



## VICTOR VALLEY RESCUE MISSION

In San Bernardino County, homelessness increased 39% in two years. The primary cause of homelessness is unemployment, followed by drug or alcohol abuse.



*"I was living a life of chaos, confusion, and hopelessness. I thought I would use drugs the rest of my life, even though I didn't want to. I just couldn't stop. After losing all my possessions and a place to live, I came to the Victor Valley Rescue Mission. I was a broken man and didn't know what to expect. I am now full of Jesus with faith, hope, and love. I am grateful for the mercy and grace God has given me and have never felt better in my entire life of 46 years."*

**James – Life Recovery Program Graduate**

The Victor Valley Rescue Mission helps homeless men to overcome addictions, learn valuable life and vocational skills to reenter the work force, and become restored, productive citizens again.

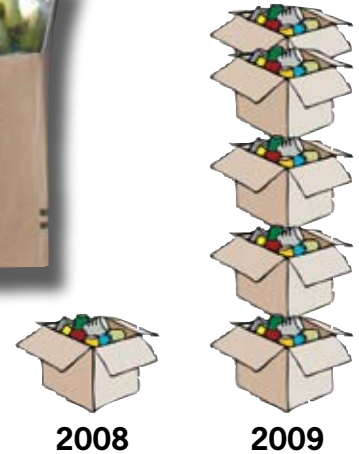
Over 45% of children, less than 18 years of age, live near or below poverty levels in San Bernardino County.



In 2009, our meals outreach served **34,303 hot meals to the needy in our community.**



Our food pantry distributed **4,172 boxes of food and 24,426 articles of clothing to struggling families.**



The number of food boxes distributed in 2009 **increased by more than 330%** over 2008.

## RETAIL MINISTRIES

The Rescue Mission Alliance operates six thrift stores that sell quality, low cost, donated merchandise. The revenue generated by the thrift stores is put to use feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and helping people become productive citizens again.



In May 2009, the Victor Valley Rescue Mission relocated its thrift store to a larger building in Hesperia to support the growing outreach to the poor and homeless.



Our thrift stores provide valuable job training and employment opportunities in our community.

In 2009, there were 160 people employed in our retail programs.

Customers enjoy shopping with us. In 2009, over 640,000 people shopped at our thrift stores.

Customers keep coming back because of the great deals, product selection, and the satisfaction of helping the needy.



## DRIVING AWAY HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS

Formerly homeless men and women are trained to detail, repair, and sell donated cars at our Auto Center. 100% of the net proceeds from our vehicle donation program go to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the poor, and rehabilitate men and women in recovery.



Our Auto Vocational Training Center provides excellent career opportunities for the men and women in our recovery programs and affordable vehicles for low-income families in our community.

*Through the generosity of our community, we received **329 vehicle donations in 2009** and Life Recovery program participants received **5,556 hours of valuable training** in auto repair and sales.*



*"My family shops at the thrift store and auto lot. When I needed a car for my wife, I knew where I wanted to shop. My wife loves her car and we feel great knowing our purchase helps the poor and homeless."*

**Robert - Proud owner of a 1996 Mitsubishi Montero**

## OUR CARING COMMUNITY

Because of the faithfulness of our generous donors and volunteers, thousands of people in need were fed, clothed, sheltered, and given renewed hope for a better life.



In the midst of a struggling economy and double digit unemployment rate, the Rescue Mission Alliance experienced a remarkable increase in volunteerism. The number of volunteers serving the poor and homeless was up 22% over the previous year.

In 2009...

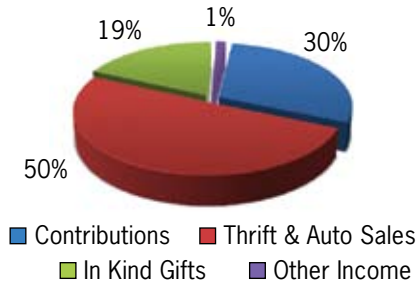
...**33,909** donors supported us financially, **100,579** people donated clothing/household items, **20,993** volunteers donated **432,374** hours of service.



*"I have been unemployed since last year and have time to help. I volunteer at the Valley Food Bank several hours each day, allowing me to drop my children off at school, pick them up, and still know that I have done some work that will help others. I know what it is like to need food and for your children to be hungry. I am part of the team that helps others and I really enjoy that."* **Manny**

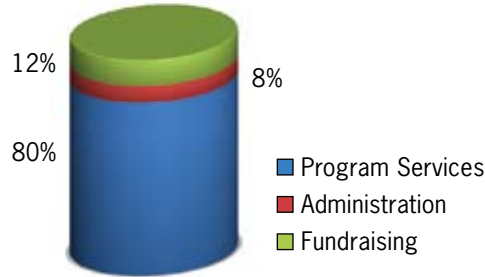
# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Rescue Mission Alliance is firmly committed to the highest standards of financial and institutional integrity. We are a member in good standing with the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) and are “Certified Excellent” by the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions (AGRM). You can trust your donations are used wisely to assist the poor and needy.



## Revenues

Contributions	\$4,498,041
Thrift & Auto Sales	\$7,693,506
In-Kind Gifts	\$2,851,251
Other Income	\$202,412
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>\$15,245,210</b>



## Expenses

Program Services	\$11,725,918
Administration	\$1,119,996
Fundraising	\$1,763,559
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$14,609,473</b>

## BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Owens, Chairman  
*Contractor*

MaryEllen Rasnick, Secretary  
*Marketing*

Andy Stay  
*Small Business Owner*

Janet Nickel  
*Human Resources*

Uel Leite  
*Engineer*

Don Loomer  
*Retired Pastor*



A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.

\*FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2008 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2009

# LOCATIONS

## Headquarters

### Rescue Mission Alliance

315 North A Street  
Oxnard, CA 93030  
(805) 487-1234

## Outreach Ministries

### Ventura County Rescue Mission

234 East 6th Street  
Oxnard, CA 93030  
(805) 487-1234

### Lighthouse Women & Children's Mission

150 North Hayes Avenue  
Oxnard, CA 93030  
(805) 240-1644

### San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission

13422 Saticoy Street  
North Hollywood, CA 91605  
(818) 785-4476

### Central Coast Rescue Mission

1207 North McClelland Street  
Santa Maria, CA 93454  
(805) 614-0220

### Victor Valley Rescue Mission

16611 Tracy Street, Suite C  
Victorville, CA 92395  
(760) 955-5958

### Valley Food Bank

12701 Van Nuys Blvd., Suite A  
Pacoima, CA 91331  
(818) 510-4140

## Retail Ministries

### Mission Bargain Center/ Auto Sales

125 South Harrison Avenue  
Oxnard, CA 93030  
(805) 201-4341



### Oxnard Super Thrift

815 North Oxnard Boulevard  
Oxnard, CA 93030  
(805) 201-3750

### North Hollywood Super Thrift

13422 Saticoy Street  
North Hollywood, CA 91605  
(818) 474-1291

### Reseda Super Thrift

18344 Sherman Way  
Reseda, CA 91335  
(818) 654-4806

### Santa Maria Super Thrift

306 North Broadway  
Santa Maria, CA 93454  
(805) 357-1214

### Victor Valley Super Thrift

17376b Main Street  
Hesperia, CA 92345  
(760) 947-1747

[www.erescuemission.org](http://www.erescuemission.org)

