

REAL CHANGE

THE NEWSLETTER OF REDWOOD GOSPEL MISSION

MAY 2022

INSIDE:

- Ice Cream Encounter
- Mobile Shower Ministry Expands
- Abundant Outreach Opportunities!
- Mobilizing to Meet Needs
- Meet People Where They Are



“When you’re homeless, it’s hard. . . people look at you and then they really don’t look at you. They just walk past you. They don’t dare to look you in the eye.” – Roseanna

Beyond the Mission Walls

Roseanna never went through any of our recovery programs. She never stayed here for more than a few nights at a time. But she came to several of our outreach events. Every time, she felt loved, closer to God and encouraged to keep taking steps towards a new life.

“When you’re homeless, you don’t want to miss a Redwood Gospel Mission event,” she says.

And it wasn’t just that she could get a good, hot meal at those events. It was that when she was there, she felt God’s love. It fed her soul and gave her hope to keep going.

Roseanna Didn’t Expect to Be Homeless

“I was previously married for 14 years and owned my house for 10 years,” she says.

But then, Roseanna’s husband turned violent. She called the police, and he went to jail. But without his income, she couldn’t keep up with the house payments.

“That got me eight years homeless on the street,” she says.

(Continued inside . . .)



Get involved at srmission.org/outreach

Beyond the Mission Walls

(Continued from cover)

One of the events she went to most of those years was our Homeless Birthday Party, which we hold every year.

Seven Years of Birthday Parties

"I probably went there maybe six or seven out of all the years I was homeless," she says. "You don't want to miss an event where you're getting barbecue, a chance to win a bike and maybe get a haircut."

The first time Roseanna came, she thought the party was for the Mission – that we were celebrating *our* birthday. But then, she realized it was for *her*.

"You felt the love, the joy. It was a big party really meant for you," she says. "It's a very worthy cause because a lot of people who are homeless lose their family members . . . So for that day to be able to celebrate you, it's huge and the impact that you have on that person could be a life changer."

In addition to the Homeless Birthday Party, Roseanna attended the Great Thanksgiving Banquet and took advantage of as many other outreach events as she could.

Finally, after eight years of being homeless, she was willing to stop trying to fix the problem herself and asked for help.

"My last resort was finally going into a shelter, which I didn't want to do because I thought I was self-sufficient . . . but you learn as you go," Roseanna shares.

After asking for help, Roseanna was able to connect with additional services in our area, get a great job and move into a new home.

If We Don't Go, Who Will?

"I'd tell people to keep doing what you're doing. It makes an impact where you least expect it. It brings people to Christ. It shows Christ's love. It shows who Christ is, what He's about, why He came."



"You felt the love, the joy. It was a big party really meant for you." – Roseanna

Thanks to the support of partners like you, we're able to make every event and everything we do at the Mission all about Jesus! He's the one that changes lives, but He's so gracious that He invites friends like you to be part of it!

Your gift today will share God's love with our community!

Mobile Shower Ministry Expands



At the Mission, we know we can't share God's love with everyone who needs it on our own. That's why we love partnering with local churches and faithful partners like Unsheltered Friends, who we recently worked with to get our mobile shower ministry into Rohnert Park.

"We were overjoyed that we had the opportunity to bring it here to Rohnert Park," Paula, one of the co-founders of Unsheltered Friends, says. *"The people appreciate it so much . . . They can come, and they can get their physical needs met and also we can look for opportunities to talk about spiritual needs."*

"We're showing them the love of God and just letting them know that they're valued and that God loves them and that we love them and that we care and that people care. It really starts a lot of people thinking."

Anything that helps people think about God's love is something we want to support. That's why, along with Unsheltered Friends, your support allows us to partner with



Every person who showers is also offered prayer, support and spiritual counseling, and if they are interested, we connect them to our other ministries and services.

churches throughout Sonoma County, offering showers six days a week at locations in Santa Rosa, Cloverdale, Guerneville and Petaluma.

Abundant Outreach Opportunities!



Sonoma County has one of the highest rates of homelessness in the US.

Yet, the Mission is the only facility in the county offering emergency overnight shelter.

- Subsidized housing and other government efforts have waiting lists in excess of 6 months.
- People struggling with homelessness need more than a spot on a 6-month-long waiting list.
- The Mission and our Outreach Ministry can help!

Meet People Where They Are



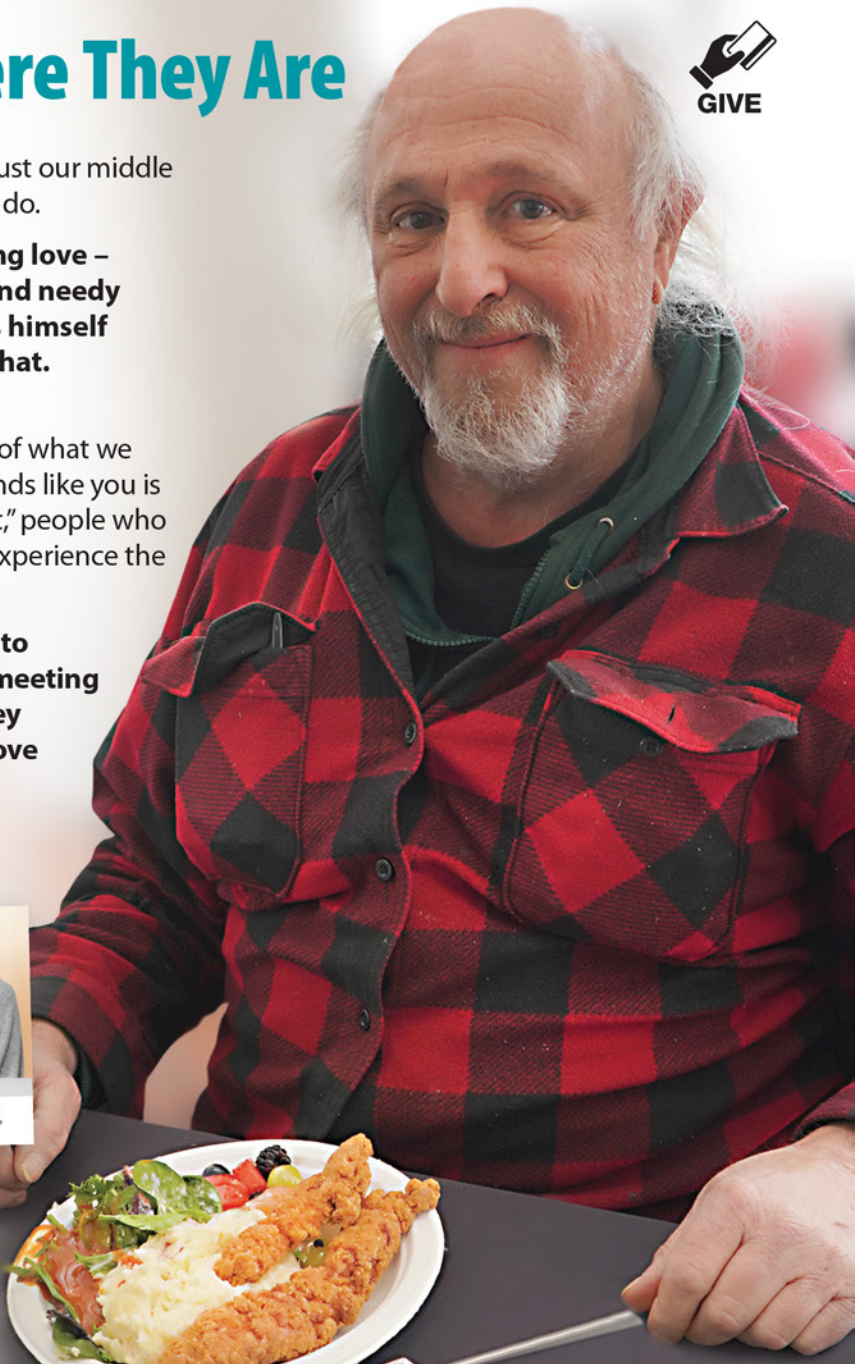
At Redwood Gospel Mission, "Gospel" isn't just our middle name, it's the reason behind everything we do.

We are called to share God's transforming love – the Gospel – with as many of our poor and needy neighbors as we possibly can, and Jesus himself gave us the best example of how to do that. Meet people right where they are.

That's why outreach ministries are the core of what we do and why the support and prayers of friends like you is so impactful. Every time you help us "go out," people who may never set foot on our property get to experience the love, mercy, grace and kindness of our God.

Any amount you give today will allow us to continue to go out into our community, meeting our poor and needy neighbors where they are – in the mess of life – to share God's love and help meet their urgent needs.

Please give as generously as you can!



Any amount you give today will help share God's love with your hurting neighbors in desperate need.

We are the only emergency shelter for homeless individuals in Sonoma County. Your prayers and support not only keep the Mission running, they allow us to continue to minister to people like Roseanna, even if they never knock on our door.

Help most quickly by giving at srmission.org/outreach

REAL CHANGE
is the newsletter of
Redwood Gospel Mission
PO Box 493, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0493
T: 707.578.1830 | F: 707.578.4841
srmission.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Kevin P. O'Malley, President
Richard Pedersen, Vice President
Judy Bowhall, Secretary
Gary Bei, Treasurer

Dave Edmonds
John Adams
Judy Samson
Brad Benson



Ice Cream Encounter



Jeff Gilman
Executive Director

Every time we host an outreach event, someone who may never set foot on our property has the chance to hear about Jesus. In fact, I recently ran into a woman at my wife's favorite ice cream shop who had stayed at one of our partner churches through our nomadic shelter ministry.

This woman told me that through her experience at the Nomadic Shelter, she came to know Christ and was baptized.

If we didn't partner with the community and friends like you, that might not have happened. And that's just one story of many that I could share. The truth is, every one of our outreach ministries has helped someone meet Jesus.

Every single one.

That makes all the work of packing up and transporting food and supplies out into our community worth it. In fact, it makes me want to do it even more. If you have an idea for another outreach ministry, give me a call. I'd love to hear about it!

It's truly a joy to partner with you.





Mobilizing to Meet Needs

Because of your support, we're able to continue to expand our outreach ministries, including one of our newest additions, our Mobile Kitchen, a food truck that allows us to prepare and take meals to people out on the streets so that we can feed even more people!

We're working hard to get the Mobile Kitchen ready for service as quickly as possible. We hope to have it on the road by late summer.

Other Outreach Ministries You Support Include:

- **The Homeless Birthday Party** – Friday, June 3rd. For more information, go to srmission.org/hbp2022
- **Mobile Shower Ministries** – 6 days a week throughout the county
- **Nomadic Shelter** – providing meals and shelter with local churches all winter long
- **Search and Rescue** – going out to the highways and hedges to meet people and invite them to come to the Mission for care and life-changing services
- **CityKids Festivals** – offering backpacks, school supplies, meals, clothes and haircuts to poor families at the start of every school year
- **The Great Thanksgiving Banquet** – Wednesday, November 24th, Sonoma County Fairgrounds
- **Easter Feast** – Sunday, April 9, 2023

Want to see the impact of outreach yourself? Volunteer!

Contact Mariella Zapata at 707.578.1830 x306 or mzapata@srmission.org. OR mark the box on your return form when you send your gift!