

Looking Towards the Future

As she was graduating from high school, a tragic accident began the downward spiral into drugs and alcohol for Kirbie Davis. “I was in a very bad car accident that took the life of my boyfriend. I should have died myself,” Kirbie Davis shared. “Unfortunately, I didn’t take time to deal with the tragedy and tried to keep moving on with life.”

That life changing event soon turned to anger and depression. Without allowing healing to occur and trying to move forward too quickly proved to be one of the greatest struggles Kirbie would face. After completing her high school and community college education, Kirbie was accepted and enrolled at Chico State. Still dealing with depression, she became a recreational drug user. The depression and physical pain from the accident led her to prescription drugs like Xanax and other pain medication. Due to Kirbie’s drug use, her world view was obscured and obstructed by a constant “fog”. As Kirbie’s addiction escalated, her life choices fostered a growing life full of insecurities and doubt.

Kirbie made the decision to leave school to enter a rehab program, which she completed. Kirbie then became involved in a relationship and became pregnant with her first son Kannon. Although she stayed sober throughout her pregnancy, once Kannon was born both she and the baby’s father – also an addict - relapsed. They eventually broke up, and she was evicted from where she was living. The downward direction of her life continued. Four years after Kannon was born, Kirbie was homeless, pregnant again and living in her car. Her son went to live with

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Adverse Childhood Experiences

This month, I want to give you an inside look at our New Life Program's key curriculum, ACE Overcomers. ACE is an abbreviation of Adverse Childhood Experiences. ACEs come in many forms, from physical and mental abuse to neglect and household dysfunction. In 1998 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Kaiser Permanente published a groundbreaking study that investigated the impact of ACEs on physical and mental health problems. During the study, adults were given a survey asking about ACEs they experienced prior to the age of 18. The study showed a direct correlation between ACEs and future health complications, homelessness, addictions and health-risk behaviors.

Here is the 10 question ACE survey which our New Life Program "Students," and we all, should take.

Prior to your 18th birthday:

1. Did a parent or other adult in the household often or very often... Swear at you, insult you, put you down, or humiliate you? or act in a way that made you afraid that you might be physically hurt?
2. Did a parent or other adult in the household often or very often... Push, grab, slap, or throw something at you? or ever hit you so hard that you had marks or were injured?
3. Did an adult or person at least 5 years older than you ever... Touch or fondle you or have you touch their body in a sexual way? or attempt or actually have oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you?
4. Did you often or very often feel that ... No one in your family loved you or thought you were important or special? or your family didn't look out for each other, feel close to each other, or support each other?
5. Did you often or very often feel that ... You didn't have enough to eat, had to wear dirty clothes, and had no one to protect you? or your parents were too drunk or high to take

care of you or take you to the doctor if you needed it?

6. Were your parents ever separated or divorced?
7. Was your mother or stepmother: Often or very often pushed, grabbed, slapped, or had something thrown at her? or sometimes, often, or very often kicked, bitten, hit with a fist, or hit with something hard? or ever repeatedly hit over at least a few minutes or threatened with a gun or knife?
8. Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic, or who used street drugs?
9. Was a household member depressed or mentally ill, or did a household member attempt suicide?
10. Did a household member go to prison?

If you answer "Yes" to three or more of these, I highly recommend obtaining ACE resources or seek other professional resources. I recommend ACE Overcomers – which has a faith-based version which adds a spiritual component. You can contact its Founder, Dave Lockridge at 209-626-5446 or dave@aceovercomers.org or visit their website at aceovercomers.org.

In our New Life Program, this test gives the Student's Treatment Team insight into the Student's past and the hurts that need to be addressed. Unlike other programs, the ACE survey and the ACE Overcomers curriculum not only draw back the curtain to reveal the source of physical and emotional problems, it teaches sound biblical principles that retrain the brain and reset the nervous system. The ACE program has been studied by University of California Merced and demonstrates evidence-based effectiveness. We are blessed to have a core curriculum that is scientifically solid and scripturally sound.

Wayne G. Richardson

Fritz and Phyllis Grupe Lead the Way for New Life Program Scholarships

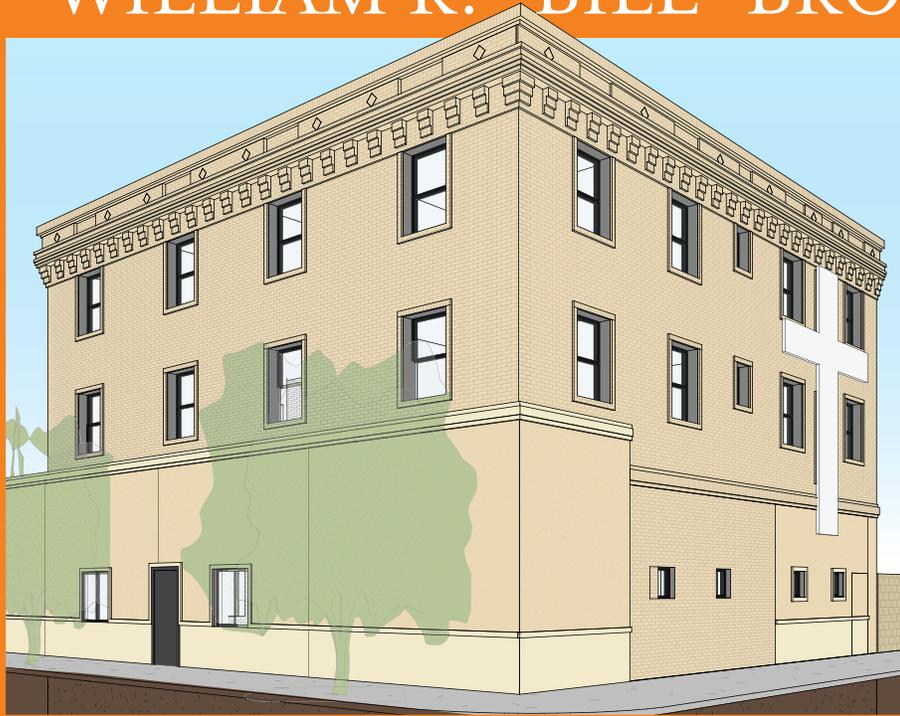
We are grateful to Fritz and Phyllis Grupe who have taken a lead role towards transforming the lives of homeless, addicted, abused and trafficked women - and their children. The Grupe's have made a generous \$250,000 donation which will fund 50 of the 118 New Life Program Scholarships when the William R. "Bill" Brown Building opens in November of this year. Through this support, these women will have the opportunity to embrace the "purpose driven" and abundant life that God has planned for them.

These New Life Program Scholarships are essential for the women entering into this life-changing program. After almost two decades of prayers planning and fundraising, the transformation of an empty, decaying building that was once the vibrant Alustiza Hotel and

Restaurant is close to completion. Within months, the William R. "Bill" Brown Building – a modern ADA enhanced, seismically reinforced 118 bed resource for homeless women and children will open its doors. Along with our current 100 bed facility for women and children, the Gospel Center Rescue Mission's Women's New Life Program is one of the largest County homeless regeneration resources of its kind in America.

Join Fritz and Phyllis in this challenge to fund all 118 scholarships - at \$5,000 each. Participate in the transformation of the lives of women who will soon be entering into the New Life Program! To learn more about how you too can support a female student through a scholarship please reach out to Wayne Richardson at (209) 320-2312 or visit gcrms.org.

WILLIAM R. "BILL" BROWN BUILDING



Public Phase
August 1 - December 31
Update on \$ Raised

New Life Scholarships (\$590K Requirement @ \$5K Each)	\$320,000
Dog Foster Program (10K for 1 Year)	\$200
28 Passenger Bus (Fully Funded!)	\$70,000
Dormitory Full Furnishings (Fully Funded!)	\$166,000
Kid's Sprinkler Park (Fully Funded!)	\$100,000
Construction Loan (1M Requirement)	\$200,000



Thank you to Rotary of Stockton for the Kid's Playground renovation! Pictured are Rotarian past Presidents Melanie Vieux and Bill Brown who spearheaded the project.



CEO, Wayne Richardson recently updated Quail Lakes Baptist Church on all happenings at the Mission via their live stream Sunday service. Please call 209-466-2310 if you would like an update during your church service.

GOSPEL CENTER RESCUE MISSION

restoring lives since 1940

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Join the Challenge to Fund Scholarships!

Continued from cover

relatives during the pregnancy. She was sleeping in motels or staying with friends until Kirbie's mom moved to Tennessee and left behind a car – so Kirbie at least had somewhere to sleep.

In the spring of 2019, family friends opened their doors to her so she had a safe and secure place to prepare for her second son, Kourage. Even in this secure environment, a few months before he was born, she relapsed again. It was a miracle her newborn was born without drugs in his system. Child Protective Services (CPS) almost took Kourage, but because she had a place to stay, she was allowed to keep him. Again, she relapsed.

It took a social worker - and the hand of God - to help Kirbie see that she needed to make a life change. Along with persistence from Lindsey, a personal friend and GCRM case worker, she came to the Mission. Her motivation? She never wanted to lose her kids.

While Kirbie's boys stayed with her father, she spent the first two months at the Mission getting a new start on life. She took this time to really deal with her past and get a grip on where she was in life. "The Mission has given me a place to stay safe and grow closer to God," shared Kirbie. "I began reading my Bible and calling upon Him in my daily life." And as she healed, her boys Kannon (6) and Kourage (1) joined her at the Mission. Like many of the women with children who come to the Mission, children are the motivation to get healthy and to create a stable and secure homelife.

Kirbie continues to take parenting classes, attend therapy and recently graduated from the New Life Program. "I feel good about my future," said Kirbie. "I don't look back on my past. I am looking forward to what God has in store for me! I am currently a full-time

employee of Amazon with a vision to go back to college to get a degree in Psychology with a minor in Spanish."

"The Mission has given me the strength to be a mom," shared Kirbie. "The family atmosphere has given me motivation. I am right with God and I know I am blessed to now raise my boys in a Christian environment. If not for Child Prevention Services and the Mission, I would probably be high and missing out on their lives. Instead, I am watching them grow and succeed. It is such a blessing."

"Keeping myself sober is my decision – but without the Mission I am not sure I would be able to stay strong and sober. Just one year ago CPS got involved in my life and I entered the Gospel Center Rescue Mission," Kirbie continued. "Ten months later I am one-year sober, have both of my children, a full-time job, money in the bank, paying off my debts and student loans, and preparing a future for my family."

In closing Kirbie shared, "The Mission is more than a roof over my head. It is a safe place – and as I live through this journey it is a place where there is always someone available to talk to and be mentored. This Mission has everything I need to keep getting stronger and healthier. I am getting to the point where I don't *have* to be here – but I am going to stay put until I get all my ducks in a row!"

Whether our students come to the Gospel Center Rescue Mission for six months, a year, or two years, God continues to change the lives of the homeless and addicted. He continues to bless the hearts and souls of individuals, their children and families. We thank you, the reader of *The Vision* publication, for your ongoing and continued support by providing a life-changing atmosphere for our students.