



A Mother's Journey

"I'm a little bit of a sister and a little bit of a mom," states Tianna Marie Morgan commenting on the miraculous relationship that she currently has with her daughter Tashianna Marie. What started out as a rough beginning has evolved into a blessing from God.

The struggle began when Tianna was a young girl with very low self-esteem. Heavyset and reserved she was bullied by her peers, finding solace in bad relationships and promiscuity. She completed high school, then soon after at the age of 17, became pregnant. The father of her child went to prison; and to sustain herself she turned to prostitution, drugs and eventually homelessness.

Tianna's family origins were in Oakland until relocating to Stockton. Tianna didn't want to leave Oakland and she didn't want to give her daughter to her Mom, but she also didn't want to change her ways. She didn't want to give up the fast and dangerous lifestyle. Tianna's mother intervened and said she was *going* to take Tashianna to live with her in Stockton. Tianna's mother made it clear that she could come home when she was ready. Throughout this time Tianna's mother continued to raise her granddaughter, encouraging her to maintain a relationship with her estranged mother.

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Coronavirus Prevention Plan

Many of our “Gospel Center Family” members are asking what we are doing regarding the Coronavirus. Below is our Prevention Plan that will be updated as we navigate this challenge.

The Gospel Center Rescue Mission (GCRM) is taking measures to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) across all homeless programs on Campus. The four factors pertaining to our approach regarding our Prevention Plan are:

1. GCRM deals with a very unsanitary and often mentally ill population in our four overnight shelters; Women’s/Family Shelter, Men Shelter, Women’s Recuperative Care, and Men’s Recuperative Care), Community Feeding, Clothing Plus, and Representative Payee Services programs.
2. Our shelters provide daily showers to all guests.
3. Cost is a factor on what can be done as GCRM operates on a bank line of credit. Any City, County, State or Federal emergency funding takes between 6-12 weeks to reimburse from the time supplies have been ordered or services are performed that require payroll. This period can present a financial hardship and means GCRM must pay extra loan fees and interest to front the funding.
4. **GCRM will, until forced to do otherwise, operate all of its Homeless services. The Gospel Center Rescue Mission is one of the Lord’s Combat Units, and we “run to the fight” (prepared as best we can) and not away from it.**

With this in mind the following approach is current or is being put in place:

A. CAMPUS CLEANING

1. All surfaces will be wiped down daily upon guest departure for Men’s Lodge and three times daily for New Hope Family Shelter, Women’s Recuperative Care and Men’s Recuperative Care. Bleach solution: 1/3 cup bleach per gallon of water.
2. Kitchen will be wiped down three times daily with bleach solution.
3. Install a hand washing sink in the Homeless Courtyard.
4. Hand sanitizer wall dispensers or pump bottles will be placed throughout Campus
5. Employees and volunteers are required to wash hands throughout the day.
6. Gloves will be used for all cleaning and disposed after each use. This is in addition to normal food service operations.
7. GCRM is ramping up its stockpile of cleaning supplies in case of a run/demand.

B. VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

1. Limit or halt all outside visitors to include evening chapel providers and volunteers.
2. Suspend volunteer recruiting initiatives.

C. COVID-19 AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS

1. Refer all people on or near the GCRM who are displaying symptoms of Coronavirus to be assessed at Gleason House Clinic, run by Community Medical Centers.
2. Use Winter Emergency Overflow Shelter as a location for affected persons if Public Health Services cannot place.
3. The six beds in our newly acquired 218 E. Sonora property will be looked at as an option to isolate any New Life Program students who comes down with COVID-19. Meals will be brought to them.
4. Staff who live on campus will be restricted to their lodging with meals brought to them.
5. Staff who live off campus who comes down with COVID-19 will recuperate from their homes.
6. If their recovery permits, staff will be provided with laptops to work from their home or campus lodging. They will also have a staff member assigned as their sponsor to buy and deliver any items they may need during quarantine.
7. Staff pay and benefits will continue even if employee has exceeded sick time.

D. TRAINING

1. We held staff training on 2/21/20 and 3/27/20, and our Directors have attended COVID-19 preventative training held by Dignity Health / St. Joseph’s Medical Center.
2. GCRM continues to monitor public health alerts pertaining to COVID-19.

During this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, please continue to financially support the Gospel Center Rescue Mission as we look to implement every measure we can towards prevention. For example, the 218 E. Sonora property mentioned will need some immediate renovation to be a quarantine facility.

In conclusion, this challenge facing the world makes me think of the life of Mother Teresa. Every day she provided aid and comfort to people who I’m sure many had infectious diseases. If the Gospel Center Rescue Mission can keep the faith and serve as Mother Teresa did, then I know that God will be pleased. This said, please remember the Rescue Mission and its amazing dedicated staff in your prayers.

Wayne G. Richardson

IN THE COMMUNITY



Stockton Heat Hockey GCRM Night with Frankie, Sirreen, Alize and Nate.

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

We are thankful for our relationship with the owners and staff of NJ McCutchen. They are supplying special metal seismic brackets for the Alustiza renovation, as well as fabricating the huge metal cross that will be on the outside of the building. They have a machine shop, and offer fabrication, painting and sandblasting. Located just around the corner from the Mission at El Dorado and the Crosstown Freeway, we are grateful to these neighbors for their dedication to our Mission.



THANK YOU



Feemaan Kaur, middle, second row, chose to celebrate her birthday with us. Her family belongs to Sikh-Sangat – an organization that believes in sharing and peace. In lieu of birthday gifts, Feemaan requested the family bring and serve pizza and soda/water to the ENTIRE Gospel Center Rescue Mission. They also fed the homeless outside the Mission because there was that much food to go around! It reminded us of how Jesus multiplied bread and fish to feed the multitudes. We all fell in love with Feemaan and her family! Happy Birthday Feemaan.

SAVE the DATE

Gospel Center Rescue Mission
Annual Gala

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020

Villa Angelica

5:30pm Reception • 6:00pm Dinner

Keynote Speaker
FRANCO SANTORIELLO

For sponsorship opportunities
call (209) 957-7277



Gala Keynote Speaker

Franco Santoriello was one of the biggest name bodybuilders of his time. Undoubtedly the best teenage bodybuilder in America—maybe even history—Franco defeated some of the greatest in the sport's history to earn his pro-card. However, after becoming a professional athlete, Franco traveled the world showing off his physique but never reached his full potential due to drugs.



He doesn't have a Master's in Theology and Franco never received any formal seminary training. Rather, as a former drug addict and convict turned follower and servant of Jesus Christ, he received his biblical education while in Noble Correctional Institution in Caldwell, Ohio. It was there he discovered the Bible as he was being mentored and receiving direct revelation from his treasured friend, the Holy Spirit.

Please join us for the 2020 Gospel Center Rescue Mission and hear Franco's inspiring life story.

Donations Needed

Bleach • Hand Sanitizer • Soap • Lysol
Toilet Paper • Water • Sheets • Towels

GOSPEL CENTER RESCUE MISSION

restoring lives since 1940

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gcrms.org

Have a Blessed Easter!

Continued from cover

Some of Tashianna's younger years were filled with anger, some with pure disappointment, but she always stayed in contact with her mom. "I was in and out of my daughter's life", stated Tianna, "but she was always there for me. She has been my rock and my strength." As if enough had not already happened, Tianna ended up in jail facing prison time.

Tashianna fought hard for her mother along with Tianna's mother and attorney. Attending every court hearing, she kept encouraging her mother. When Tianna realized she was facing ten years or more in prison, her attorney made arrangements with the Gospel Center Rescue Mission to help find a solution to keep her out of prison. A Mission New Life Guidance Counselor came to court and advocated on Tianna's behalf. She was released into the New Life Program in 2017 and graduated this past January.

"At the Mission, I had opportunity to get to know myself, to find space and freedom and begin a relationship with God. I realized that the determination that I found deep within my soul, my new-found work ethic and taking care of myself are such blessings to me. It just took time at the Mission for God to work in my life and to help me find myself," stated Tianna.

Now a staff cook in the Mission Kitchen, under the direction of Food Service Director Bobby Smith, she has been given a chance to become self-sufficient and now lives off campus.

She is grateful for her renewed relationship with her daughter. "My mom is so happy, outgoing, and even more affectionate – these are all the many changes I have seen in my mom." Tashianna stated. "She has blossomed. Now she's *my* rock."



Tashianna, Tianna, and two year old son, Bomani

Tianna gets the opportunity to guide and support her daughter as she prepares to graduate from Edison High School in Stockton. She has been accepted into seven universities, with the goal of majoring in photojournalism. She has already begun a photo portfolio of the "Lives of the Homeless." Her motivation is at the core of who she is and what she has experienced. And her mom is so proud.

Tianna is very thankful for her children. Her daughter Tashianna has been by her side throughout her recovery, and she believes God also gave her Bomani, a beautiful son. Beaming with pride, along with a few tears Tianna said, "At a time when I was praying for God to keep me sober during my second year in the New Life Program, being blessed with Bomani was a very big turning point in my recovery. I am thankful for my life, my trust in God, my mindset and safety, and the relationship with my family."