



Cover Photo: Conrad Borba
Children's Pajamas: SASSI Public Relations
Christmas Tree Decorating: Carol Burns, Jan Watts and Linda Dillon

God bless OUR MISSION KIDS

What was Christmas time like in your home when you were growing up? A flood of emotions well up in our hearts and minds as memories are recalled.

For many, Christmas was a magical time filled with family and friends, with beautifully decorated gifts carefully placed under the perfectly trimmed tree, sparkling with heirloom ornaments and twinkling lights. Food was plentiful and shared around the large, family style table set with the finest china, centerpieces sparkling with candles, holly, and glitter sprinkled pinecones. We were in awe of the lights and all the festivities.

continued on page 3





Key Developments expand services into the community!

This month I am sharing two key developments that have happened at the Mission:

1. Emergency Winter Shelter

Because of the unsheltered Homeless crisis projected for this winter in San Joaquin County, starting December 1st through the end of March we will be using our Chapel to house fifty additional men as overnight guests. Unfortunately, we can only house men because the men's shelter program is tied to the Chapel. We anticipate 120 men as guests each evening. All overnight guests can receive 3 meals (2 hot and 1 cold), showers, clothing and other services we provide, including Christmas dinner and a gift courtesy of area churches, businesses and you, our faithful supporters. (Thank you!) The emergency winter expansion is a short-term solution - as part of a long-term solution - to expand emergency shelter capacity within the County by the non-profit, civic and business communities.

2. Additional Housing Opportunity

We recently purchased property at 218 E. Sonora Street between the Women's Shelter and Men's Recuperative Care Center, and it officially became ours in late November. The interior has been renovated and features six small bedrooms, two full baths, a small kitchen and living room. However, the exterior will need an extensive renovation. Possible future uses for this property are a Women's Recuperative Care

Center; Child Care Center; New Life Program Intake Center; or housing for our staff. Look out for an opportunity to participate in a community service project this spring!



218 E. Sonora with Women's Shelter on the left & Men's Recuperative Care Center on the right (hidden)

As the year comes to an end, I thank each of you for your faithful support of the Gospel Center Rescue Mission. Because of you the children we care for, the emergency capability of an expanded winter shelter, and the purchase of additional property for future ministry, are all possible.

You are our Family and our Christmas Gift from God – not just at Christmas time, but throughout the entire year!

May God bless you always, and Merry Christmas!

Wayne G. Richardson

SAVE *the* DATE 2020 Graduation Schedule

All graduations are at 1:30pm

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

John Zeiter, Keynote Speaker
Zeiter Eye Medical Group

FRIDAY, MAY 15

Miguel Villapudua, Keynote Speaker
SJC Supervisor, District 1

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Karen Douglas, Keynote Speaker
GCRM Alumnae, Board Member, Former Shelter Director

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

Melanie Vieux, Keynote Speaker
Principal – WMB Architects, President of Stockton Rotary

FRIDAY, JULY 17

Susan Lenz, Keynote Speaker
Stockton City Council, District 4

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Bill Brown, Keynote Speaker
GCRM CEO, emeritus



Continued from cover



The birth of Jesus Christ was at the center. Participating in Christmas plays where children were angels, and shimmering stars, and manger animals. A time when parents took their families to the annual Christmas Cantata where church choirs sang long-rehearsed programs that were annual holiday traditions, and Christmas Eve candlelight services tugged at our hearts as Silent Night was sung.

For many, Christmas was and still is nothing like the reflection above. It is a time of sadness, homelessness, and estrangement from family. A time where poverty, once again, is a sad reminder because money was limited – and preparing a Christmas feast and giving gifts was not an option. And often times when addiction and life choices became more important than what really mattered in life.

For our Mission children, this time in their lives is even more real. A time when life's circumstances, no fault of their own, can take away and overshadow the birth of Christ and the joy that Christmas brings.



Even through tough times, we are blessed to have these beautiful children at the Mission, who bring us such joy. God has brought them to us so we can care for, love unconditionally, shelter and teach that they are all children of God. We pray the memories we build and create with each child, with the help of so many like you in our community, will be memories they will cherish forever. We pray they will look back on their Christmas 2019 spent at the Mission, with a smile. Smile, because they knew, even though their family was going through a difficult time, they were surrounded by so many people who loved them... while they sang Christmas Carols around the decorated Christmas Tree, hearing the Christmas story read aloud, enjoying a Christmas Dinner with their shelter family, opening Christmas presents sent by Mission Friends, and celebrating the birth of their friend, Jesus Christ.



GOSPEL CENTER RESCUE MISSION

restoring lives since 1940

445 S. San Joaquin Street
Stockton, CA 95203
(209) 320-2310
gcrms.org

Please consider GCRM for your year-end donation.

IN THE COMMUNITY



Wayne Richardson leads a recent foundation panel assembled to train area non-profits on corporate fundraising. Pictured from left to right: Kristen Birtwhistle, United Way; Natalia Orfanos, A.G.Spanos Companies; Tammy Shaff, St. Joseph's Medical Center; Moses Zapien, Community Foundation of San Joaquin.



October 27th at Immanuel Reformed Church in Ripon, Mike Viss, GCRM CFO, interviewed Andrea Mountjoy who spoke about her journey from homelessness to becoming Donor Relations Manager at GCRM.

Donations Needed

Christmas toys, stocking stuffers
and gifts for children
including pajamas, blankets and socks

We thank you for any donations
For donation drop-off or pick-up,
call (209) 320-2310.

Volunteers Needed

Our Women's and Children's Shelter is
always in need of volunteers. The
six-month commitment includes
children's activities and projects, along
with tutoring in the learning center.

Please visit gcrms.org/Give/Volunteer or call
(209) 466-2138 for more information.

**COAT
AND
SOCK
DRIVE**

Give the gift of warmth

At Lincoln Center

December 1-31

Visit LincolnCenterShops.com for drop-off locations



NEW LIFE

Lincoln Center
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
**GOSPEL CENTER
RESCUE MISSION**