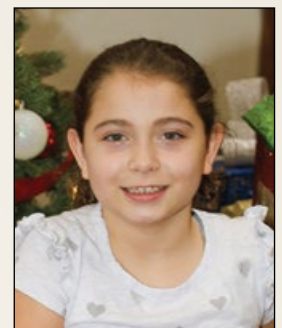
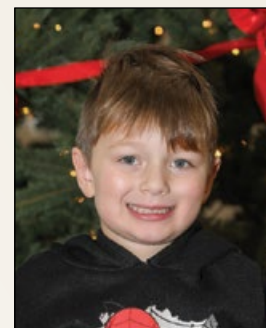
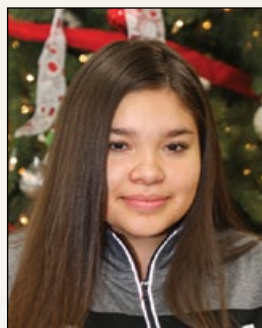


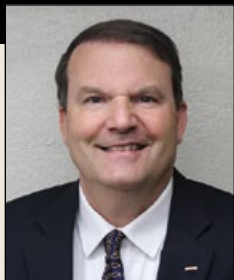
O Holy Night

Oh, the excitement of planning and preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus! The shopping list, the holiday caroling throughout the neighborhood, the rehearsals for the Christmas play - shopping for the delicious Christmas Day dinner that brings everyone to the beautifully set dining room table. Families traveling from near and far to gather and enjoy family togetherness. You put on your Sunday best for the Christmas Eve Service, and then hurry back home to surround the Christmas Tree - glistening with festive ornaments, sparkling lights and beautifully wrapped gifts. After the traditional reading of the Christmas Story, presents are shared, and we eat pecan pie and drink hot spiced cider. The children are over-the-moon excited for Christmas morning as they slip into their new flannel pj's and snuggle up in their warm bed.

In this ever-changing midst of a global pandemic, while we will do our best to keep our Christmas traditions as normal as possible, we know that it will truly be different. Families may not be able to travel or gather. Hopefully, we will be able to attend the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – but we certainly won't have a choir of hundreds performing the annual Christmas Cantata. Even visits from Santa will be socially distanced and Amazon will most likely be delivering our presents, while small businesses are struggling to stay open

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A Child's Life-Changing Christmas Gift

Children are truly our greatest treasure. Recently, I came across this photo, taken during the 2017 Christmas season, of one of our precious children, Daniel. At the time, he was in 3rd grade and a resident of the Gospel Center. He had been waiting several hours for the new sidewalk cement to be poured, so he could be the first to carve his name into it. Today, not only is there a completed sidewalk where Daniel had been sitting (with his name engraved!), but also 2 gazebos on a new cement pad where the dirt used to be in the upper right corner of the photo. Additionally, we have expanded our New Life Program to house a total of 218 beds for women and children in the Family Shelter not shown behind Daniel, which is now the new William R. "Bill" Brown Building.



often visit or simply write notes to the mom's and their kids. This Christmas, a scholarship to our New Life Program for an incoming mom can be a child's life-changing gift.

Coincidentally, December is the last month of our "Public Phase" for the William R. "Bill" Brown Building with the New Life Program Scholarship still in need of funding (shown in the table below). Please consider donating to these scholarships, knowing our Mission children directly benefit from your gifts. All contributions for the New Life Program for 2020 and 2021, will be matched by

Phyllis and Fritz Grupe! Your support makes a huge difference in not only creating a wonderful Christmas for our precious Mission Kids, but also their lives!

May God bless you always, and Merry Christmas!

Wayne G. Richardson

Perhaps kids like Daniel do not realize now, but might later on in life, that when their mothers are gifted a scholarship, our Mission Kids are included too. They benefit from scholarship providers who

WILLIAM R. "BILL" BROWN BUILDING



Public Phase

August 1 - December 31

Update on Donations Raised

New Life Scholarships

(\$590K Requirement @ \$5K Each)..... \$450,000

Dog Foster Program

(Fully Funded!)..... \$10,000

28 Passenger Bus

(2nd Bus Funded Too!) \$168,000

Dormitory Full Furnishings

(Additional Furnishings Received!) \$267,000

Kid's Sprinkler Park

(Fully Funded!)..... \$100,000

Construction Loan

(Fully Funded!)..... \$1,000,000

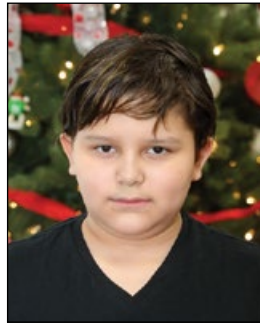
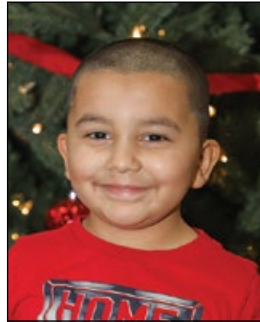
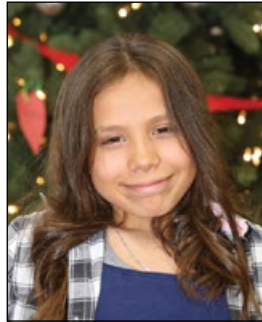
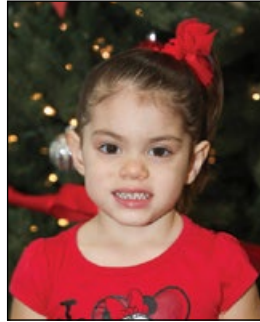
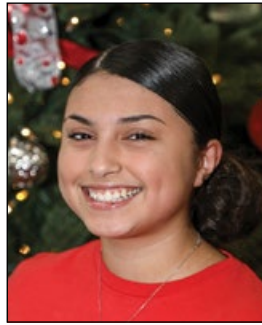
because shoppers are staying home and CDC restrictions limit shopping options. Seniors in convalescent homes are still unable to visit with family, and people are unemployed, while others are still working remotely from home. Christmas break for students is simply shutting off the computer for a few weeks for Christmas "vacation" – while they struggle to live in a new virtual world without seeing their friends at school.

Life is different.

For many, *our* ideal view of Christmas traditions even during this difficult year is not even close to being reality. This is especially true for many of the kids when they first come to the Mission. Their world has been a constant *on-going* pandemic of instability, homelessness, and heartbreak. And no fault of their own.

Just for a moment, picture your child or your grandchild going through this unprecedented time moving from shelter to shelter, food insecurity, loneliness, and surrounded by drug abuse. It's a world we simply cannot relate to. This is everyday – not just during a pandemic and not just at Christmas – it is every single day!

And by the grace of God, we have an average of 30-40 Mission Kids that we are blessed with. Jesus has entrusted us to care for these amazing Mission Kids while their mothers have been led by God to enroll in



the New Life Program. Many of these kids will be with us for several years. While at the Mission, it is our window of opportunity that God has given us to share the Gospel and create a welcoming environment. During 2020 we focused on education and fun for our Mission Kids! We updated the children's nursery along with adding a computer and study area. We hired a part-time tutor to assist our kids with distance learning. We also upgraded the playground and fundraised for our future Kid's Sprinkler Park.

It is because of you and your continued support of the Gospel Center Rescue Mission – through fervent prayers, generous financial support, and selfless volunteer hours – that we are able to provide our Mission Kids with positive experiences that will be remembered throughout their lifetime... not just at Christmas, but every day!

Thankfully, as this year comes to an end, the birth of Jesus – and His love for us - will always remain the same. Every day of every year, regardless of the circumstances, we can celebrate the birth of Jesus – together, alone, with or without our family and friends. His birthday is a reminder of His faithful, unchanging love for us, and

especially our Mission Kids.

Merry Christmas, and God Bless you, your family, and especially your kids!

Christmas Toy Drive



DECEMBER
1ST – 18TH

Donate NEW and unwrapped toys for the Mission Kids!

Drop toys off at
SASS! Public Relations
628 Lincoln Center
Stockton, CA 95207
Mon-Fri: 8:30am – 4:30pm

Delivery to GCRM
by Journey Transport



GOSPEL CENTER RESCUE MISSION

restoring lives since 1940

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

*“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” ~ Matthew 19:14*

Thank You!

First Baptist Church and Quail Lakes Baptist Church for helping assemble 118 metal heavy duty beds, mattresses and supporting drawers for the William R. "Bill" Brown Building admission of women and children this month.



Studio for on-sight staff at the William R. "Bill" Brown Building.



Completed William R. "Bill" Brown Building.



CHRISTMAS HAMS NEEDED
For donation drop-off or pick-up, call (209) 320-2310.

