

TRANSFORMED BY MOTHERHOOD

Kelsey DesRoches used drugs during her two pregnancies. It is a miracle that she has two perfectly healthy daughters. Though pregnancy didn't get her clean, God used her daughters to change her life.

Kelsey struggled with emotions at a young age. She grew up with divorced parents – she experienced many emotions with her mom, yet she was not allowed to show emotion with her dad. Watching her mom do drugs and experiencing her dad's verbal abuse sent Kelsey into a dark place.

As a teenager, Kelsey used partying and drugs to mask her emotions and fill the void in her life. She got pregnant at 16. "I didn't want to feel unwanted. I was trying to find love in all the wrong places," said Kelsey.

Kelsey's mom took care of her daughter, Jersey, while Kelsey continued her addictive lifestyle. Even Kelsey's pregnancy with her second child didn't result in sobriety. "I knew that if I got pregnant I couldn't just have a kid in the world and not care, so that's what I thought would get me clean," she said. But it wasn't until after her daughter, Charlie, was born that Kelsey wanted to turn things around.

Child Protective Services (CPS) got involved and offered Kelsey and her

continued on page 3

Kelsey DesRoches and her daughter, Charlie





Our Goal to be 100% Self-funded

As I speak to different audiences throughout San Joaquin County, I mention one of our main goals: "We are working towards being 100% self-funded." Since 2017, we have gone from 20% to 40%. So what does this mean? We define self-funding, or non-fundraising revenue, in 3 areas:

- **Micro-enterprises.** Currently we recycle and sell high-end items we receive, such as collectables and paintings, that do not fit within our free Clothing Plus ministry (clothing & furniture) for homeless and low-income individuals. This helps keep our Clothing Plus ministry up and running. We hope to expand this area and recycle more through a thrift store in the next ten years.
- **Fee-for-service.** Currently our Representative Payee Services (assists clients who receive Social Security Income for disability and/or mental health problems) and Recuperative Care Program (provides homeless individuals a safe place to complete their medical recovery after being discharged from hospitals) are entities that pay for themselves. As we grow our New Life Program, we will seek government clean-up and other fee-for-service contracts.
- **Cause-related marketing.** This type of partnership between a non-profit and a for-profit allows the non-profit to receive cash, in-kind

services, product, and/or marketing from the for-profit, and allows the for-profit to receive greater customer affinity and long-term revenue increase. We launched this program in June 2017 and now have four partners. If you run a company based in San Joaquin County and are interested in exploring this type of partnership, feel free to give me a call.

In sum, no matter what the total philanthropy is in San Joaquin County, it's a fixed number. And there are numerous wonderful charities competing for these funds. So, if we want to grow our budget and increase our ability to serve the homeless, we must be entrepreneurial in addition to fundraising. I am reminded of "The Parable of the Ten Minas" in Luke 19:11-26 where upon the king's return, he rewarded the servants who were entrepreneurial and showed leadership and creativity. The king also took the mina from the unproductive servant and gave it to the most productive servant.

Blessings,

Wayne G. Richardson

IN THE COMMUNITY

On May 30 the Gospel Center Rescue Mission was featured on KXVS The Voice of Stockton Radio. Director of Administration Sal Azevedo and New Hope Family Shelter Director Carrie Williams, along with two of our graduates, Amy Downes and Kathleen Nesler (featured in *The Vision's* May edition) got to speak about the Mission, its programs, and community events.

Amy and Kathleen shared their testimonies to thousands who listen to KXVS via radio, Facebook Live, and YouTube Live. This was a great opportunity for the Mission to spread the word about God's work on its campus. Thanks to The Voice of Stockton for having us!



fiancé rehab. Motivated by the goal of getting her daughters back, Kelsey went to a rehab facility for three months before coming to the Gospel Center Rescue Mission in June 2017. She graduated from the New Life Program this past January – the same time she regained custody of Charlie.

Since coming to the Mission, Kelsey has gained a whole new family. The Mission's staff and students became the supporters she never had growing up. "They loved me when I didn't love myself," said Kelsey.

The challenges she faced throughout the program allowed her to see who she truly was and what got her there. "It was hard getting an outside view of who I was. If you didn't know who you were before, you definitely find out," said Kelsey.

Kelsey moved off campus in May and is currently seeking employment. She closed her CPS case with Jersey, now 7, and has regained custody. She now has both of her daughters full time.

Kelsey has been able to stay clean since coming to the Mission because of the things she's learned about God and herself. She always knew God was there, but her guilt kept her from fully understanding who He was.

"Once I got clean I started to see that God gives you the right to make decisions. When I started making the right ones I realized he does listen – you just have to be willing to listen too." Kelsey's realizations are something we can all learn from as Christians. By listening to God's call to support the Mission, you can give hope to young moms like Kelsey.

GRADUATION

On May 18 we celebrated 14 students – one of our largest graduating classes! We had the honor of hearing from our keynote speaker, U.S. Army Colonel Gordon Richardson, as he encouraged students in their charge to success. Congratulations to Joletta Bishop, Emily Bradbury, Jody De La Cruz, Matthew Dierking, Viola Dinkins, Edward Hamilton, Rochelle McDonald, Fernando Moreno, Andrea Mountjoy, Martin Olney, Debra Rocha, Tiffany Steenburg, Jack Wesby, and Rodney Westenhaver!



Off Campus Family Fun



Some of our New Life Program students enjoyed a night out at the Stockton Ports game on May 5. It was a fun time of fellowship for all. We are blessed by support from the Stockton Ports and we will continue to cheer them on! We hope to see you at the Stockton Ports Faith Night on August 18.



GOSPEL CENTER RESCUE MISSION

over 75 years of restoring lives

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

Fourth of July – Thank you for our freedom to worship God.

SAVE *the* DATE

WHAT:	ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Overcomers presents:	
	“Trauma-Informed and Beyond” Seminar and Workshop for professional secular counselors	“The Power of a Trauma-Informed Ministry” Seminar and Workshop for Biblical-based professionals, clergy, and laymen
WHEN:	Friday, August 24, 9am – 4pm	Friday, August 24, 6 – 9pm Saturday, August 25, 9am – 4:30pm
WHERE:	Gospel Center Rescue Mission, 445 S. San Joaquin St. Stockton	
REGISTRATION:	\$200 (covers instructors, curriculum, and meals), call (209) 320-2310	
INFO:	aceovercomers.org	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand your clients through a trauma-informed lens• Discover how to apply the science in your delivery and service• Master essential communication skills	



Kelsey DesRoches and her daughter, Charlie

THANK YOU

Kelsey wants to help young drug-addicted moms and let them know there is hope. Your gift could provide women like Kelsey with a second chance to restore relationships with their children.