

## PRODUCTIVE & SELF SUPPORTING

"My past doesn't dictate the man I am today."

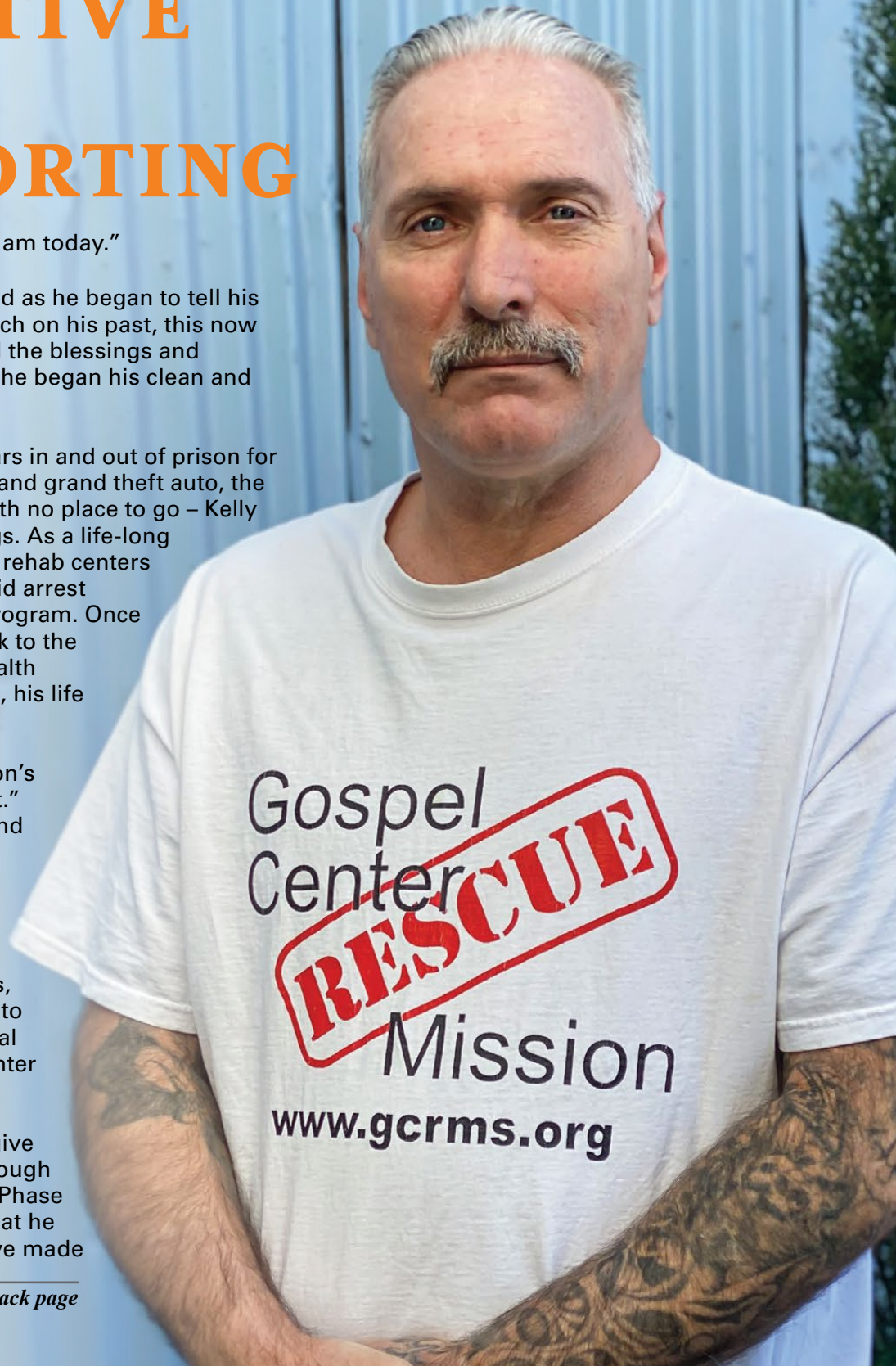
This is the first thing Kelly Long said as he began to tell his story. Not wanting to focus too much on his past, this now gentle, compassionate man shared the blessings and victories he has experienced since he began his clean and sober journey at the Mission.

Spending more than seventeen years in and out of prison for robbery, receiving stolen property and grand theft auto, the minute he would get out of jail – with no place to go – Kelly would immediately go back to drugs. As a life-long addict, he was well versed on local rehab centers where he knew he could easily avoid arrest warrants by self-admitting into a program. Once the 'heat' was off, he would go back to the streets. Dealing with behavioral health issues, PTSD, and chronic drug use, his life was chaos.

Kelly often spent time in the Mission's Emergency Shelter to "eat and rest." He would stay a couple of weeks and then move back to the streets. He knew he wanted the program but had great difficulty with commitment. He was tired and wanted something different but too scared to change his life. Drugs, trust and anxiety issues continued to plague and overshadow any rational thinking that would move him to enter the Mission.

Kelly finally made the decision to give the Mission a chance and went through the New Life Program Phase I and Phase II. Once sober, learning life skills that he never learned as a young adult have made

*continued on back page*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



### It's tax time!

**T**his time of year means tax time for most Americans. A relatively new tax code has many of us rethinking our taxes. One concern that you may be hearing and reading about is that the higher standard deduction will decrease individual giving to charities. Here are my thoughts on this concern and this year's filing in general.

1. If you have heard me speak publicly or recall past issues of The Vision, we are growing from 225 to over 500 beds in the next several years. This will help us move towards funding 100% of our total annual operating budget. We are currently at 20%. We define self-funding as micro-enterprises, fee for service and cause related marketing revenue (multi-year corporate partnerships). When we reach 500 beds, approximately 300 of these will be New Life Program Students (100 children and 100 overnight shelter guests are the balance.) This student increase will launch our micro-enterprise/job training, revenue producing ventures, as well as enhance our fee-for-service activities. In short, I believe that regardless of the
2. The Bible tells us in Exodus 34:26a (NIV) *"Bring the best of the first fruits of your soil to the house of the LORD your God."* I hope that no matter how the tax code affects each of us that we honor God's Word and support efficient Christian charities. The national average is twenty (20) cents on the dollar raised goes to fundraising. We are at fourteen (14) cents and constantly working to be more efficient.
3. If you are reading this and are in a low income tax bracket, please come visit our free Clothing Plus Ministry where you can get clothing and household items. Call 209-466-2138 to obtain the Clothing Plus hours of operation.
4. And finally, should your 2019 tax filing result in a refund, please consider blessing the Gospel Center Rescue Mission as we work to enhance our programs and campus to serve all homeless and addicted in San Joaquin County.

Wayne G. Richardson

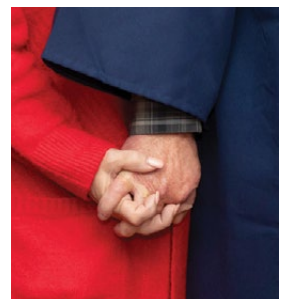
## GRADUATING CLASS



Dr. John Zeiter was Keynote Speaker at the January Graduation. We are grateful for the involvement and support that John and his wife Lynette give to the Mission.

## Prayers for our Students

Taken during a recent graduation, this photo reflects the importance of prayer for our graduates. Prayers of thankfulness for the programs at the Mission that get them to this time and place. Prayers of gratitude for renewed relationships with Christ and families. Prayers for continued strength as each graduate begins their clean and sober journey.



Please keep our current students and those who have graduated to be strong - in their faith, with their families, and in their lives and jobs outside the Mission.



# 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



## Donations Needed

With the increase in overnight guests in the emergency winter shelter and the steady increase in children being reunited with their parents – we are in dire need of hygiene products.

Tooth brushes and toothpaste • Feminine hygiene • Laundry soap  
Body wash • Shampoo and conditioner • Hair brushes  
Wash clothes and towels

The Stockton Heat and the Gospel Center Rescue Mission have partnered for the  
**Gospel Center Rescue Mission Night**  
Get your **discounted tickets** now to support!

STOCKTON  
HEAT



VS



BAKERSFIELD  
CONDORS

Join the **Gospel Center Rescue Mission** on Friday, March 6, 2020 to experience the Stockton Heat's celebration of 15 hockey seasons of working hard and playing harder as the Heat take on their longtime rival, the Bakersfield Condors!

For every ticket purchased, \$7 will go back to the **Gospel Center Rescue Mission**! As an added bonus, everyone will be invited onto the ice after the game for a post-game photo.

Purchase your discounted tickets below for either \$18 or \$23!

Purchase your tickets at  
[groupmatics.events/gcrmnight20](http://groupmatics.events/gcrmnight20)



Twice a year, CEO Wayne Richardson presents a Fundraising Seminar for all non-profits in the area. With a belief that all of us should be working together for the betterment of the entire community he shares his years of knowledge as we all grow together to make a difference.

Fifteen students and 3 teachers from Ripon Christian blessed the Mission by volunteering to help clean-up around the campus, including the children's nursery! Thank you for generously giving of your time!

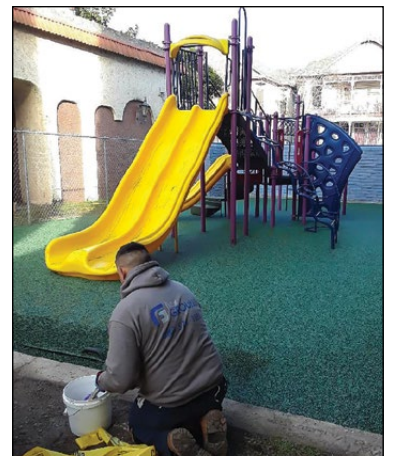


Thank you to Leadership Stockton Alumni Association for their generosity and thoughtfulness for including the Mission with a \$1,000 donation. We are thankful for your continued support

## LET'S GO OUTSIDE AND PLAY



Our Mission crew worked hard to prepare the playground for the new surface. Final touches were made to complete the kid-friendly playground located just outside the Alustiza building – soon to be the New Life Women's Home – for Women and Children.



# GOSPEL CENTER RESCUE MISSION

*restoring lives since 1940*

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

## *Pray for our New Life Students.*

*Continued from cover*

the greatest impact on his daily life. He took classes on saving money, staying accountable with the rewards of freedom and learned how to have compassion for people. Currently in his final phase, he credits God and Mission COO, Britton Kimball, for dramatically changing his life. He beamed as he said "Britton is the brother I never had. He has taught me the importance of a strong work ethic and how to live. I am productive and self-supporting. I have a car, and I pay my insurance and my phone bills. Most importantly I have learned to be truly compassionate, to truly love and always be non-judgmental. The Mission is and will continue to be my family. I feel safe here." Then unexpectedly, his family grew.

"I am very excited to get to know the daughter I didn't even know I had," Kelly said. His daughter had searched for him for years and finally found her dad. Kelly didn't even realize he had a daughter. Anxious to personally meet her, he will soon travel out of state to meet her for the very first time. "At fifty-six years old, I don't know how to be a dad, much less a

grandfather to four children – but I am going to learn!" Kelly has also renewed his relationship with his son and his estranged sister – someone who means the world to him.

A valued employee of the Mission, Kelly oversees the Emergency Lodge Guest program. Daily, he serves the needs of overnight residents – assisting them with meals, clean clothes, making sure they are showered and have a warm bed in which to sleep. He has been blessed to be a blessing to others and hoping each guest will see the stability and value the Mission can give to their lives.

Kelly recently ran into an old street buddy at the market. His friend told Kelly, "You really look good. You shine. I want to have what you have." Inviting him to the Mission, his friend is now 4 ½ months into Phase I of the New Life Program. As Kelly continues to grow his family – both his immediate family *and* his Mission family – he has learned to trust and enjoy a new life of hope, compassion and continued spiritual growth.



## SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

### WMB ARCHITECTS

When your Mission seems to always be building, remodeling, adding on .... it is wonderful to have supportive partners in every aspect of construction.

This month we recognize WMB Architects, Inc. Most recently they have been instrumental in being the lead in finalizing our contract for the Alustiza/New Life Woman's Home. Over the past few years, in addition to

the Alustiza/New Life Woman's Home, they have provided assistance with the future New Life Men's Home, and the kitchen renovation and expansion.

We are also very excited to have WMB Architect Melanie Vieux as our Keynote Speaker for the March 2020 Graduation. In addition to her professional involvement with the Mission, as President of Rotary, she was very instrumental in Rotary helping with the upgrade of the Children's Playground at the Mission.