

Healed and Humbled

Fernando Moreno was constantly surrounded by family and friends throughout his young life. He had a special close relationship with his brother-in-law, who was killed in 2003 – a tragedy in Fernando’s life that led him into dark times. The death of Fernando’s cousin in 2010, who he was also close with, only hurt Fernando more.

Losing two of his best friends put Fernando into “depression mode,” as he calls it, and led to his addiction. He started doing drugs with his friends as a social activity, but he soon became dependent on them.

Born and raised in Richmond, CA, Fernando lived with his mom his entire life until she passed away of cancer in 2014. He had instantly lost everything he had ever known, and decided to move to Arizona to live with his dad, who had been absent through his teen years. His dad gave him the support he needed for the next two years, but Fernando continued his addiction.

Fernando moved back to Richmond with his aunt and cousins, who encouraged him to go to rehab. Fernando got a job and felt like he was headed in the right direction, but did not want to take the next step. “I wasn’t ready for all the drug rehab. I didn’t want an intervention,” he said.

continued on page 3





A Behind the Scenes Look at *The Vision*

It's been just over a year since we launched our new and improved version of *The Vision*, and I wanted to take this opportunity to give you some "behind the scenes" information about this publication. In doing so, I will address three key questions:

Why did the Gospel Center Rescue Mission re-launch *The Vision* a year ago?

Many of you may recall that before *The Vision's* current monthly publication in its 4-page format, we sent out several different types of letters comprising the 12 monthly mailings. By switching from a national mailing firm to a local marketing firm, SASS! Public Relations, and using a local printing company, we were able to:

- Save almost \$40,000 per year on newsletters, including our new donor acquisition mailing.
- Have a consistent monthly 4-page newsletter, allowing us to have more content as a means of stewardship for you – our faithful supporters.
- Be more hands-on in our efforts to create a quality, effective newsletter. Working locally with SASS! Public Relations has given us more freedom and time to edit the upcoming newsletter up until we send it to print. In using a national mail firm in the past, we had to work months in advance, limiting our ability to include timely information in our newsletters.



How is *The Vision* produced each month?

It's a team effort between SASS! Public Relations and the Mission. Katie Kishi, of SASS! Public Relations, works with Sal Azevedo, our Director of Administration, to select and gather the content and photos for each newsletter. Katie then does her magic – interviews our students, writes the stories, and works with a designer on the layout. In a combined effort, we all proof and edit as necessary. The newsletter then goes to print and is mailed out to your door by the first of every month! This whole process is done within a 30-day period.

Do I really write the "A Message from the CEO" piece every month?

Yes! Many non-profit CEOs simply add a signature to the message written by someone on staff. However, I do take the time to write a message every month. My pledge to you is that this message will always be directly from me.

I hope this gives you some insight into *The Vision*. In the future, our goal is for *The Vision* to be 100% underwritten so that every dollar you give goes directly to our amazing programs. If you would like more information about underwriting *The Vision*, please contact us at (209) 320-2310.

Blessings,

Wayne G. Richardson

IN THE COMMUNITY



Faith Night at the Stockton Ports game was a blast! Many Mission students and staff had a great time off campus cheering on local players and hearing their testimonies. The Mission collected socks at the game for the students and homeless who use our Clothing PLUS program. Thanks to the Stockton Ports for a partnership that promotes the work of the Mission!

Fernando hit a low point when he ended up on the streets of Stockton. He worked a late shift at his job and would often rush to his storage unit before the gates closed to have a place to sleep. When he didn't make it in time, he was left to sleep outside on the streets.

During this time Fernando often walked by the Mission and saw the students happy and successful, but he was not ready to make a change. He acquired a foot infection from stepping on glass, which landed him in the hospital.

With nowhere to go to recover, he was sent to the Gospel Center Rescue Mission's Recuperative Care Program – a stepping stone to new life. "Being in the hospital made me realize it was time for me to go to this program because the doctors were actually concerned and they cared about me," said Fernando.

Fernando made friends instantly and decided to stay after healing in Recuperative Care. "I realized I wanted to be here," he said. After 30 days of recovery, he transitioned into the Mission's New Life Program.

He successfully completed the program and graduated this past May. Fernando realized that the things the Mission taught him were the exact things he had lost sight of throughout his life. "The Mission helped me regain hope, structure, and leadership," he said.

One of the lessons the Mission teaches is to live like Jesus. But to Fernando, this lesson is a fundamental part of being human, and he had always tried to be Christ-like even in his darkest days. "As a human we should have compassion for others," he said. His family, doctors, teachers, and peers were compassionate towards him when he needed it most, and he wants to dedicate his life to helping others.

Fernando is currently in the second phase of the New Life Program and got a job with Pelton Shepherd, which he is grateful for, and is looking forward to where God takes him next.

Due to his past experiences living on the streets and having two family members killed, Fernando has a passion for keeping people safe. He wants to build a career in security with the goal of being a TSA agent.

The Recuperative Care Program is a direct path to the many programs the Mission has to offer. For Fernando, it was the nudge he needed to change his life. He not only found recovery in Recuperative Care, but also went on to build a foundation for the rest of his life through the New Life Program.

With your support, the Mission can continue to make the Recuperative Care Program a place of recovery, rest, and refreshment for people like Fernando.

gcrms.org/programs/recuperative-care-program

Service above self



First Baptist of Stockton and Stockton Community Church came together in August for a day of community service at the Gospel Center Rescue Mission. They painted our courtyard and other major areas on campus – a huge blessing to us as we make gradual renovations to our heavily populated areas.

We are thankful for these churches and others in the community who contribute to the Gospel Center Rescue Mission and show God's love through acts of service.

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A NEW PARTNERSHIP

We recently welcomed our newest Cause-Related Marketing Partner, RC Plumbing!

With this partnership, RC Plumbing will be helping with our campus plumbing needs and underwriting the costs of necessary repairs. Please consider them for your plumbing needs by calling (209) 400-7651. If you do, you will be getting great service and aiding their ability to assist the Mission.

DONATIONS NEEDED

A new season is approaching, which means we are restocking our Clothing PLUS ministry! As the weather gets cooler, our students and homeless individuals need warmer clothes, jackets, and blankets. The Mission is also always in need of toiletries for the homeless. Please bring donations to 445 S. San Joaquin Street or arrange for a pickup by calling (209) 466-2138.



Fernando Moreno visits the room he stayed in during Recuperative Care

THANK YOU

Your donation to the Gospel Center Rescue Mission, via the attached envelope, can help students like Fernando gain physical, emotional, and spiritual restoration through the love of Jesus.