

## Pure Joy

It was one of those mornings to prepare for, *what might be*, total chaos. Reflect for a moment on your experiences organizing a family Christmas Card photo shoot! It's not easy rounding up everyone to look their best, act their best, to genuinely smile and yet, be at ease. Throw the family dog into the mix and you have moved the production to a whole new level! This beautiful Saturday morning had all the potential to be exhausting, disruptive and a total fail. Everyone, including moms, photographer, organizer, staff and the kids were a bit anxious. Just the anticipation of gathering twenty kids for a photo shoot seemed daunting. Count them. Twenty kids! All at one time! These precious kids were all there – anxiously awaiting the annual Mission Kids Christmas photo shoot! Sweet little newborn babies, rambling toddlers, elementary aged children, pre-teens and the teenagers (who were not only good sports but also very helpful)! Their moms were proudly watching as the production unfolded.

Surprisingly, our Mission Kids handled it all with ease. Dressed in green or red sweatshirts, and flickering Christmas light necklaces, they waited patiently as the photographer carefully selected their spot on each step. It was awesome to see how these adorable kids were being so kind to one another. They were happy, and helpful, and full of joy! Their sweet smiles were captured with every snap of the camera. After a few extra 'silly funny face' photos, it was all wrapped up in less than an hour!

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# December celebrates Christmas, Jesus's birthday!

**M**y greatest Christmas image is Charlie Brown suffering through all the commercialism of Christmas and finally throwing up his arms and stating: "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?" to which Linus answers with Luke 2: 8-14 (KJV) stating:

<sup>8</sup> And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Here at the Gospel Center, Christmas is very special. You see, the Lord entrusts us with the care of children, from newborn through high school, who call the campus their home. They are with us for up to two years while their moms go through the three phases of the New Life Program. On weekends, this number expands as mothers who

have lost custody of their children regain visitation privileges. The campus presents a safe place, at no cost, for moms to be with their children.

When I first arrived as CEO, I felt very sad for the children here, as they did not have a "normal" home to grow up in. But that feeling has changed as I see that our campus is the first safe and stable environment that some of these children have ever had. Plus, all staff, students and volunteers at The Mission are their adopted Uncles and Aunts who cherish them! Because of your gifts, Christmas is extra special! Not only at Christmas, but throughout the year! Easter, Summer Fun Scholarships, Back to School, and Campus improvements – like the Kid's Sprinkler Park planned for 2022 – have all been made possible because of YOU! THANK YOU!

This December as you think of Christmas and children, remember our children at the Rescue Mission. Your support makes a huge difference in their lives.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Wayne G. Richardson



## Christmas Toy Drive

**DECEMBER**  
1<sup>ST</sup> - 18<sup>TH</sup>

*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



**COAT  
AND  
SOCK DRIVE**

**SPREAD THE WARMTH THIS SEASON**

**Nov. 1 -** Donate gently used coats and new socks.

**Dec 31** Visit [LincolnCenterShops.com](http://LincolnCenterShops.com) for drop-off locations.



**NEW LIFE**

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

# GCRM HAPPENINGS



(L to R) GCRM COO, Britton Kimball; GCRM New Life Program Director Billy Freeman; GCRM Board Representative Bill Conley; Supervisors Tom Patti and Miguel Villapudua; RB Environmental owners Ron and Bonnie Barber; and GCRM CEO Wayne Richardson. (Photo on Right) Former Boxer and SJC Supervisor Tom Patti demonstrates his boxing moves to the students.

A ribbon cutting was held in late October for the opening of the Men's New Life Program Gym. San Joaquin County Supervisors, Tom Patti and Miguel Villapudua were in attendance. Although the gym is small, it has been a huge need for our students and staff who live on campus. The new gym, which is the last phase of the project that also included newly refurbished restrooms, was renovated by RB Environmental. We are also excited to be adding a Women's Gym in the New Hope Family Shelter, which is expected to be completed by December 31, 2021. The equipment and flooring for these two gyms has been made possible through San Joaquin County CARES ACT funding.



## Blessing Others

Adelaide, pictured here in her sassy pink tennis shoes, saved her weekly allowance to purchase and fill backpacks with hygiene products. She, along with her mom Sierra, visited the campus and gave them to the ladies in the New Life Program. What a blessing she is! Train up a child in the way they should go...

~ Proverbs 22:6



## Love Stockton Project

LOVE STOCKTON volunteers, including folks from Lincoln Presbyterian, Quail Lakes Baptist and Church of the Presentation, graciously assisted Gospel Center staff and students at the Mission Campus in early October.

With paint donated from Leadership Stockton Foundation volunteers painted the homeless courtyard, and other exterior projects around the campus. We are blessed by these volunteers and LOVE STOCKTON!

## New GCRM Website and I.T. Upgrades

We are excited that our new website is up and running! Go check it out at [gcrms.org](http://gcrms.org). This new site gives us more opportunity to tell our story, provide vital information on our programs, and create an easy pathway for our donors to give on-line. We have also been working diligently to upgrade and overhaul our campus I.T. infrastructure. We know that the website and I.T. upgrades will provide a more efficient process as we continue to build and grow.

## Join Us for Faith Night

\$10 of your ticket will go to the Gospel Center Rescue Mission

Watch Stockton Heat take on San Diego Gulls and enjoy a post game concert by Mike Donehey presented by Chick-fil-A

Order your tickets today at: <http://stocktonheat.spinzo.com/GCRM>

Dec. 3, 2021  
7:00pm



Mike Donehey

# GOSPEL CENTER RESCUE MISSION

*restoring lives since 1940*

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

## *Please Remember the Rescue Mission in Your Year-End Giving.*

*Continued from cover*

What a joyful and blessed morning! While watching these kids gather, seeing their closeness and the relationship they have with one another was precious. It was such a reminder that we need our brothers, our sisters, and our families. Even though the lives of our Mission Kids are disrupted in ways that most of us cannot even imagine, they stick together. They are such a blessing to the staff, the families and most importantly to the other children residing at Gospel Center.

Please join us this Holy Christmas season to pray for these precious children. Pray to give them a sense of belonging, to know they are loved by Jesus, their families, and the staff at The Mission. Pray for their

safety, and that their basic needs are met. Pray that they learn to trust and depend on a relationship with Jesus, especially as they prepare to move beyond The Mission. Pray for their moms as they go through and complete the New Life Program! Please pray that God will provide opportunities for you to participate in their lives through volunteering at Gospel Center, or by supporting their programs.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." ~ Matthew 19:14.

Merry Christmas!

### **2022 Upcoming Graduation Dates**

**Sunday, January 16, 2pm**

Keynote Speaker  
City of Stockton Mayor Kevin Lincoln  
*First Baptist Church of Stockton*

**Sunday, March 13, 2pm**

Keynote Speaker  
SJC Sheriff Patrick Withrow  
*Immanuel Christian Reformed Church in Ripon*

**Sunday, May 15, 2pm**

Keynote Speaker  
Sister Abby Newton, St. Joseph's Medical Center  
*Quail Lakes Baptist Church*

## **Consider a charitable IRA Rollover**

As we come to the end of the year and think about giving, a charitable IRA rollover is an easy way to make a gift to the Gospel Center Rescue Mission. Directly transfer up to \$100,000 from your IRA, and pay no income tax on the distribution, while making a charitable donation to fund homeless solutions. Key points:

- You must be 70 ½ or older.
- The transfer must go directly from your IRA to Gospel Center Rescue Mission.
- Use this option to make your year-end gift.

Please check with your tax or financial advisor to see if this type of gift is right for you.