

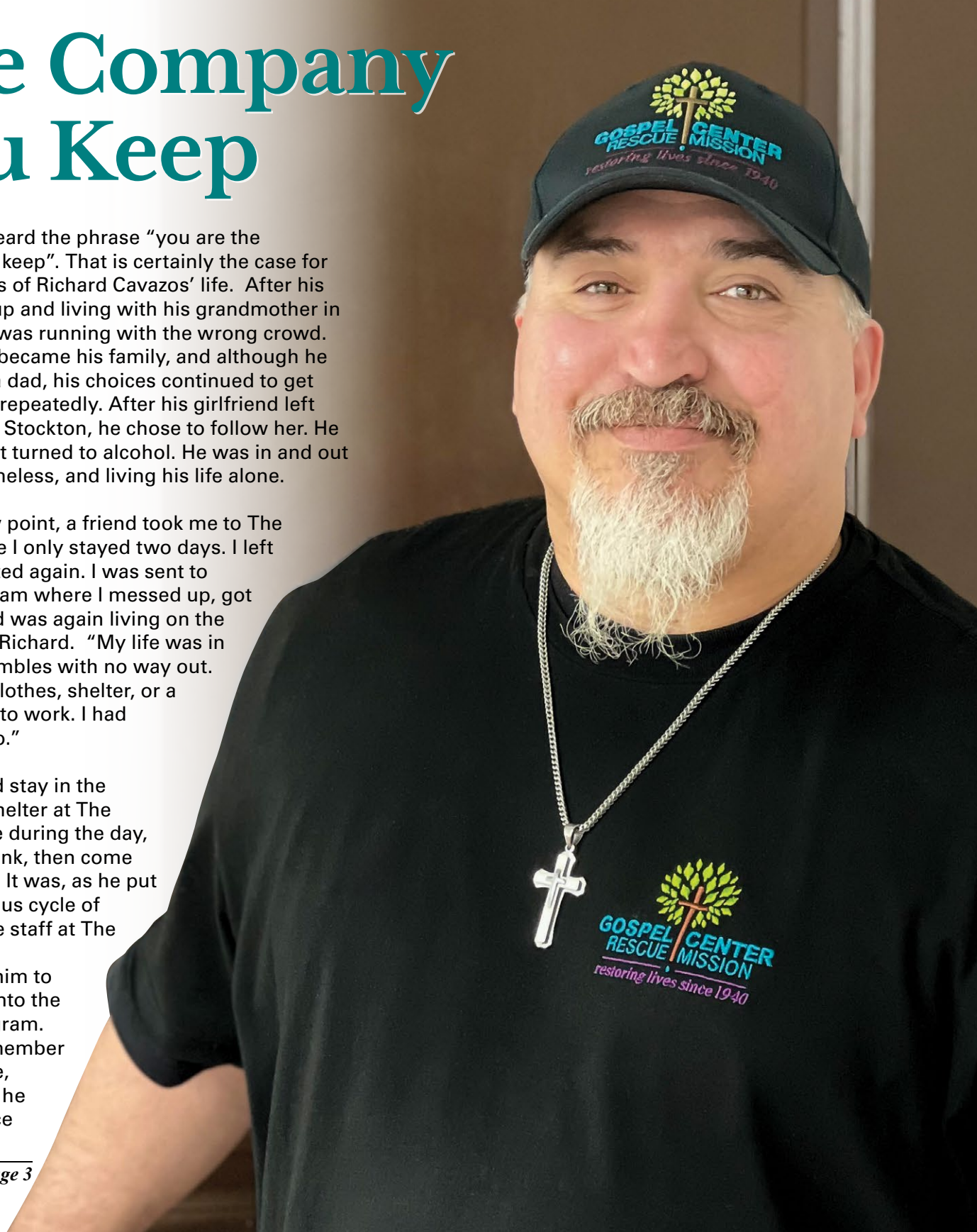
## The Company You Keep

We have all heard the phrase “you are the company you keep”. That is certainly the case for the early years of Richard Cavazos’ life. After his parents split up and living with his grandmother in Riverside, he was running with the wrong crowd. The gang life became his family, and although he had become a dad, his choices continued to get him arrested, repeatedly. After his girlfriend left and moved to Stockton, he chose to follow her. He quit drugs, but turned to alcohol. He was in and out of prison, homeless, and living his life alone.

“At a very low point, a friend took me to The Mission where I only stayed two days. I left and got arrested again. I was sent to another program where I messed up, got kicked out and was again living on the streets,” said Richard. “My life was in complete shambles with no way out. I didn’t have clothes, shelter, or a vehicle to get to work. I had nowhere to go.”

Richard would stay in the Emergency Shelter at The Mission, leave during the day, go out and drink, then come back at night. It was, as he put it, “a continuous cycle of insanity”. The staff at The Mission kept encouraging him to stay and get into the New Life Program. Tom, a staff member said, “It’s time, Richard”, and he took his advice

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### Our Mission

*Gospel Center Rescue Mission, Inc. is a ministry to the people of San Joaquin County where the homeless and addicted in our community are presented the opportunity for spiritual, physical, emotional restoration and equitable inclusion through the love of Jesus Christ.*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



# New Life in Christ Jesus

Spring is a time of renewal and rejuvenation. We see this in nature as the flowers bloom, the leaves turn green, and fruit starts to grow and ripen. We also see this in our New Life Program students here at The Mission. Each of them are growing and blooming in their own way. We are so proud of them for taking the steps forward toward a new life in Christ Jesus.

A very large part of the growth is the support and relationships they glean from the staff and the many people who engage with The Mission through volunteerism, spiritual guidance and financial support. Sponsoring a student goes beyond the New Life Program donation. Each student writes their sponsor every month, updating them on their progress and life changing goals. You, as a sponsor can also write your student back if you wish. This shows the student that someone from the outside world cares about them and wants to see them succeed. It motivates our students who are trying to put their lives back together again. It

blesses the students more than you may realize.

This Spring, would you consider giving a scholarship to a New Life Program student? A \$5,000 scholarship provides our students with parenting classes, recovery programs, counseling, and provides the students with an overall better experience during their 6 months in program, as it encourages them toward their graduation and beyond and increases their chances of success.

Thank you for all that you have done to support our students here at The Mission. And thank you in advance for blessing our students with a scholarship this Spring. To sponsor a student, please contact our Director of Scholarships, Melissa Torres, at (209) 320-2313 or mtorres@gcrms.org.

We love and appreciate you!!!

God Bless,

*David Midura*

David Midura, CEO  
GCRM

\$ 20

FOR 24 MONTHS

11 LIVES CHANGED

**Partner with us to raise  
\$240,000 to celebrate  
85 years of saving lives**

Be one of 500 partners to commit \$20 or more each month for two years! If you are currently giving to The Mission, consider an additional \$20 per month for this two-year plan. Together, we can raise close to a quarter of a million dollars. The impact would be life-changing for so many people. Please use the enclosed envelope to indicate your level of giving or donate directly online at [www.gcrms.org](http://www.gcrms.org).



## AROUND CAMPUS



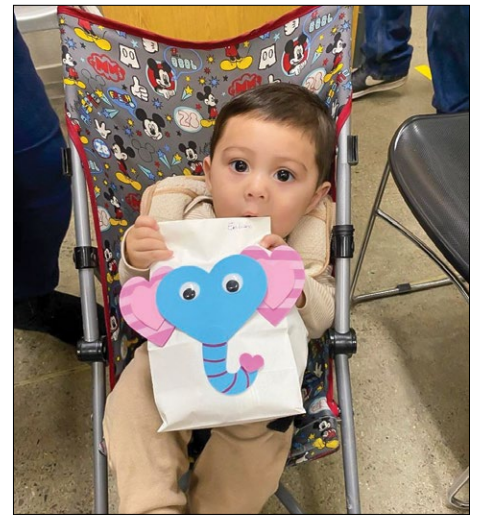
### Construction Update

*More Progress on the New Life Program Multi-Purpose Center. Steel beams are being delivered to the site, marking major steps in construction! Plumbers, fire sprinklers and trusses. So much happening everyday!*



### Spreading Lots of Love!

*Boardmember Sharon Benninger and her friends spent the day with our Women's New Life Program students, setting up and organizing a bingo game that included fun prizes! And the kids were blessed with goodie bags thanks to Boardmember Jan Watts and women from Circle of Love! Thank you all so much.*



*Continued from cover*

and entered the program. Detox was awful, but he slowly began to get his strength back, along with being able to think clearly.

"I always knew God was in my life, because it is a miracle I am alive, and after being at The Mission, I began to realize that He truly was living inside of me! I began the first phase of the New Life Program. I had a couple of relapses, but the staff encouraged me and helped me get through the rough times. They keep me accountable."

Richard continued, "The Mission has done so much for me. I have a job. They gave me a chance and helped me change my life. I completed Phase 2, and I got my CDL truck driving license, although I know God needs me here right now! This is my solid foundation – a place where I am plugged in and continue on a very long journey."

His old life is in the past and now he is here to begin his future. He found hope and feels like a

renewed man. "I attend church, my meetings, and I work at The Mission."

In closing Richard said, "Previously, my life was a waste, but now I have God." The company he kept so many years ago set him on a weary path – and now, the company he keeps surrounds him with love, accountability, encouragement and friendship. God is good.

## Easter Sunrise Service

(open to the public)

Easter Sunday

April 20, 2025 at 6:00am

Gospel Center Campus  
Under the Sunshine Patio  
Breakfast to follow

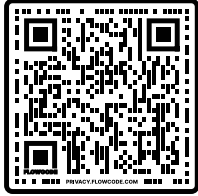




restoring lives since 1940

**CELEBRATING 85 YEARS**

445 S. San Joaquin Street  
Stockton, CA 95203



CAMPUS MEMORY VERSE

*“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.”*  
Philippians 4:4-5



### Ripon: Where it All Began

*Ripon is where it all started! Members from Ripon churches started the Gospel Center Rescue Mission. Some staff and students marched in the parade, along with the newly wrapped Clean Slate Paint Van, and our GCRM Bus!*



### Leadership Stockton

*Members from Leadership Stockton spent time at The Mission volunteering in the clothing room, attending chapel and enjoyed a tour of the campus. Thank you for your on-going involvement in our community.*



### BIG NEWS! Church Street Coffee Interviewed

*Stocktonia, a local news outlet, stopped by the Church Street Coffee 'roasting room' to interview staff – as well as do a little coffee tasting! Be on the lookout for the whole story in our future publications!*