



# THE GIFT OF BEAUTY

Salon owner Tim Telles helps the homeless at a salon he brought to life at the Village of Hope shelter in Tustin, CA.



Tribeca Salon owner Tim Telles styles a client in his salon in Aliso Viejo, top; the new Village of Hope in Tustin where Tim volunteers and needs more stylists willing to help. Opposite page: Tribeca Salon stylist Jason West at work.

**A** great cut or color can boost self esteem and lift spirits. That's why Tim Telles, owner of Tribeca Salon in Aliso Viejo, CA, feels it's his calling to offer his services to those who need it most—the homeless. For more than eight months, Tim has been the force behind opening the salon at the new Village of Hope, a place where homeless and poor families can transform their lives while staying together. In addition to the salon, the facility, which can accommodate 200 residents, has a child development center, vocational training classrooms, a health clinic that provides medical, dental and optical services, a full culinary kitchen donated by The Cheesecake Factory, a gym and a library. *M* magazine spoke to Tim, a hairdresser for 35 years, about his participation in this special project.

#### **How did you get involved with the Village of Hope?**

One of my clients was in last summer and she was telling me that the Orange County Rescue Mission was converting an old army base, the former Tustin Marine Corps Air Station, into a state-of-the-art housing facility for homeless families. She explained that the residents staying there would not only be given food and shelter but also taught vocational and life skills to become self-sufficient. Then she said, "I think they are putting a salon in there." That spoke to me because it's my ministry to help people by cutting their hair and making them feel good. When my daughters were smaller, we would go to Mexicali with our church to do mission work and I would cut hair. I went to the Village of Hope to see the salon and it had two sinks, four countertops and nothing else. So I got on the phone and started calling manufacturers for help.

#### **What happened?**

I did not get the response I had hoped for in terms of the furniture. I realize

that the economy is bad so maybe that had something to do with it. I was talking to another one of my clients and she asked me how much money I needed. She called me the next day and said, "Order those chairs!" Through her generosity, we had four styling chairs, two shampoo chairs and were up and rolling. Manufacturers, distributors, including Maly's, and stylists have donated shampoo, haircolor, towels and capes. Now, I go out to salons and let people know that we still need supplies. Stylists can clean out their lockers and donate anything they don't use.

#### **What are your plans for the salon?**

The space is light and bright and I'd like to keep working to make it look like a real salon. I want people to feel good the minute they walk in. I have been coming in once a month and my goal is to have the salon open three days a week. To do this, we need more stylists to volunteer. It's so easy for them—they can go to [www.ocrescuemission.org](http://www.ocrescuemission.org) and click the volunteer button. They can volunteer for any amount of time. Once stylists let the Village of Hope know when they want to come in and how much time they need for a cut or color, the appointments will be booked for them. Also, the residents are drug and alcohol-free; they are just normal people like you or me.

#### **Tell us about some of the people you've met there.**

They are so thankful for the hair services we provide. Some have not had a cut or color in a long time. I had a client who lost everything to alcohol and a young girl with a baby who had no support. These people could be your next-door neighbors; they just had some rougher circumstances. It's awesome when they need a pick-me-up or a new style for a job interview. They are so appreciative and it's not a big thing for me and my staff. But for someone who is getting their life back on track, it means so much.

"Hearing about the plans for the salon at Village of Hope spoke to me. It's my ministry to help people by cutting their hair and making them feel good."

