



December 2011

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The E-news is a monthly publication for the friends and supporters of the Orange County Rescue Mission. If there are any technical problems with the copy you are receiving, please contact us and we will make every effort to assist you. For more information about our ministry, call (714) 247-4300, [e-mail us](#), or [visit our Web site](#).

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Help us Finish the Year Strong!

This year is coming quickly to a close. That means the Orange County Rescue Mission has just two weeks to close the shortfall in our budget. While I'm genuinely grateful for the help friends like you have sent, the needs in our community have grown dramatically. It's simply been difficult to keep up.

That's why I'm so thankful for the opportunity to double the impact of your gift through a generous Challenge Grant we received this month and help us finish the year strong.



Jim Palmer, President

I hope you'll take some time to look over this December edition of the Rescue Mission E-news. God is at work in our community. Read about Manny, an ex-gang member who, for the first time in his life, feels good about who he is and where he's going. And Stacey, whose alcohol dependency resulted in her children being taken away, with your help, is putting her life and her family back together at the Village of Hope.

Your partnership in helping to change lives **will be doubled** to provide life-changing meals that give twice as many homeless and hungry people a second chance.

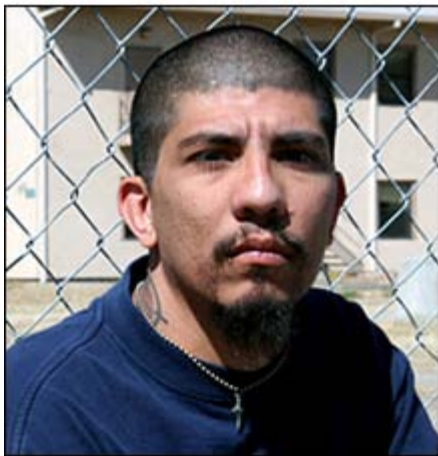
[Will you help today?](#)

FOOD SUPPLIES ARE AT CRITICALLY LOW LEVELS! CLICK HERE TO HELP TODAY...

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Manny: Running to Win

Manny's life has changed dramatically since he came to the Orange County



Rescue Mission this past spring. When he first arrived, he was burdened by shame: his wife left him, he lost his job, his home and finally, the right to be a part of his children's lives. With nothing else to live for, he ended up living on the streets.

His drug problems had started when he was just 12 years old. Living in a broken and troubled home with a violent stepfather, Manny and his siblings learned to fend for themselves. "I joined a gang at 17," Manny recalls. "I did things I wasn't proud of. Proving yourself on the streets is a constant battle. On my 18th birthday, I was shot — five times. I had four operations and spent the next six months in the hospital. I got out and got hooked on meth. It took my whole life." Manny thought once he got married and had kids that he would stop, but he didn't and eventually, his marriage crumbled.

The Mission was Manny's last chance, and he has made the most of it. He says, "Here at the Mission, I'm accountable. I can't be selfish. I know that this is the 2nd, 3rd, 4th chance God has given me, and it moves me. I know God has chosen me and I've given my life to Him. I'm worth something — that's why God spared my life. I have a will to live that I didn't have before. Not just for my kids, but for myself. I want to know I've accomplished something, not wasted my life."

The Mission's life-changing programs, provided by friends like you, have turned Manny's life around. In October, Manny and 17 other men and women from the Mission ran in a half-marathon — the Long Beach Marathon. The experience was more than he'd bargained for. He worked hard, got up early to train before classes and his job at the Mission. He hadn't run since high school and never had he run long distance.

"Running kept me occupied," Manny mused, "and took my mind off a lot of things. The marathon was indescribable and being with the other runners, so encouraging. It built a lot of confidence — I could accomplish something and meet my goal."

If it weren't for the Mission, Manny says he knows he'd be lost — and bound to his past. But today, he's working on an education and building job skills that will open doors for him when he completes the program.

"I'm not ashamed of who I am anymore," he says. "I'm not ashamed of where I came from. They've shown me how to be a father again, how to be a person. They've connected me to God."

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Double the Need, Double Your Impact

A generous Challenge Grant will DOUBLE the impact of your gift.

It's probably no surprise to you, but Orange County has the 2nd highest housing wage level in the U.S. That means we have the least affordable housing for lower income-families in the nation! And in the last year, we've seen the fallout from the turbulent economy at the Orange County Rescue Mission. In 2011, we received TWICE as many calls for housing help as we got in 2010 — families in crisis, turning to the Mission as their last hope.

We're close to maximum capacity everywhere and our waiting list is growing. The great news is: We've received a generous Challenge Grant opportunity which means **every gift you send will have DOUBLE the impact** — up to \$100,000. What a way to welcome the new year!

Too many families are living on the edge in these challenging economic times. A job loss or major illness can drive families that are barely hanging on over the edge into ruin. But your partnership with the Mission will give hundreds of people each year the opportunity to turn their lives around and start fresh. Then they can become self-sufficient, providing for themselves and their families.

Help us make the most of this generous Challenge Grant. [Give today and DOUBLE your impact.](#) Each \$1.48 you send today will DOUBLE the impact to serve TWICE as many hot, nutritious meals to hungry and homeless men,



women and children.

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Thanksgiving Day at the Village



Thanks to your generous support and the cooperation of church and community volunteers, we were able to provide an "all-the-trimmings" feast on Thanksgiving day. A total of 160 volunteers helped with crafts tables, live music, a puppet show, a sing-a-long, serving, greeting, and security.

Convergence Church of Tustin provided the decorations while TerraNova Church of Lake Forest prepared the entire meal (as well as a delicious pumpkin pancake breakfast) for approximately 450 people. After the meal, free family portraits were provided courtesy of Royce Rumsey, founder of Smiles Across the Miles.

A nutritious meal can be the first step toward a whole-life transformation for the hungry and homeless. Thank you so very much to all those who participated in making that first step available to so many.

God bless you!

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Volunteer Spotlight: Barbara Morton

Dr. Barbara Morton, a retired professor of Concordia University serves as a leader at the Concordia University Tutoring Center at the Village of Hope every Thursday afternoon. Each Monday through Thursday afternoon during the school year, students from Concordia help the children at the Village of Hope with completing their homework and practicing their skills. In addition, last summer Dr. Morton led a four week Learning Camp for the children. This summer, Concordia faculty and students will add a one-week science camp with the children engaged in hands-on science activities.

Dr. Morton was introduced to the Rescue Mission by a fellow Concordia professor, Patty O'Connor, who began the Concordia Tutoring Center. Dr. Morton, in turn, has been recruiting volunteers from other departments at Concordia and working to add new programs linking Concordia and the Village of Hope. "I'm trying to be a catalyst," Dr. Morton says. "Volunteering is something that any department can do, regardless of their area."



Dr. Barbara Morton

Dr. Morton loves her job and the children she helps in the process. She feels especially happy when a child catches onto something that he did not previously understand, or proudly shows her a feat that she could not do before. She's delighted to simply see them smile. "That's a big one," she says.

The most difficult part of volunteering at the Village of Hope, says Dr. Morton, is learning about the backgrounds of children who have been through hardships. "They've had challenges in their lives. They still have challenges in their lives." That's why she finds volunteering so important. She has something to offer these children in need.

"We're blessed to be a blessing to others. God has given each one of us different, varied, and exciting gifts, and there's a place at the Village of Hope where each of these gifts can be used."

Concordia has entered the Village of Hope tutoring program and summer camp programs into a service learning contest. Help Concordia win \$3,000 for these programs by casting your vote at the [True Hero website](#).

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Stacey: A New Foundation



Stacey came to the Mission in January after battling with alcoholism and depression for all of her adult life. She was adopted and her mother was physically, emotionally and spiritually abusive. "I got to a place where I said: If that's what your God is like, I don't want anything to do with Him," she says. "I left home as soon as I could get out."

So, at 18, with no money and nowhere to go, Stacey was homeless. She couch-hopped for a while and went to shelters. "I actually met my husband at a homeless shelter," she says. "We got married, got jobs and had three children. But the stress of life and the trauma of my past led me to alcohol. I was an addict."

When Stacey's children were taken away from her, she finally reached a place where she wanted to get sober. Her sponsor told her about Village of Hope and she said: "This is where I need to be. I always grew up knowing about what the Bible said. But only here did I find the truth of resting in Jesus," says Stacey.

Stacey's goal is to put her life back together: to build a solid marriage with her husband (he comes to the Mission every week for marriage counseling), and to get her children back. Even now, when she spends time with them, she says, "I flood them with love. All of the love that I wanted as a child." Your partnership helps women like Stacey face their past and build solid relationships on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ, so that alcohol and drugs lose power in their lives.

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On Saturday, December 10, the Tustin Auto Center loaded the gifts collected through their Magic at the Mission toy drive into a fleet of Humvees and headed for the Orange County Rescue Mission. There, 150 children of the Village of Hope and other outlying Rescue Mission facilities would be the eager beneficiaries of the generosity of those who gave to make this event a success.



The evidence of "success," in this case, could be seen on the faces of the parents who selected gifts for their children (something that otherwise would not have taken place)... or in the laughter that could be heard across the courtyard emanating from the carnival games... or in the contentment that parents get when they know that their children are cared for. After the gift-wrapping, it was time for a Sweet Lou's Barbeque lunch, followed by free family portraits by Help Photography.



Many thanks to the Tustin Auto Center, Sweet Lou's Barbeque, Help Photography and all who either donated or volunteered to bring joy into the lives of the Least, the Last and the Lost.

God bless you!

The Sunwest Bank Success Center: What Students are Saying...

Sunwest Bank Success Center, the vocational training center at the Village of Hope, has a proven track record of putting VOH students on the road back to gainful employment. Here are few quotes from some of our students who have been through our center:

Michelle Granado

"The Success Center has given me the tools and the help I need in my job search. It has provided accountability, motivation and confidence for when I am interviewing and talking to employers."

Anna Lewis

"The Sunwest Bank Success Center has provided me with guidance as I work towards going to college. It has impacted my life by helping me see that I can achieve my goals and that, even though it may be difficult & confusing, I will succeed."

Crystal Lombera

"The Success Center has allowed me to gain my first job. I have more computer skills now than I have had in the past. As of one week ago, I have completed my first level of Microsoft 2010 and I am working on completing so much more in order to better my opportunities in finding a career."

Jason Hill

"I cannot overstate how profoundly the OCRM Success Center has helped me not just find work, but keep a job. The Success Center is the most amazing work source program I have personally encountered; its programs are wonderful tools in helping one achieve success in their job search."



The Real Homeless

- Orange County, California is the third largest county in the state, with a population of 3,166,461.
- If Orange County were a country, its gross metro product in 2008 would rank 45th in the world.
- Orange County is the 15th top producing economy in the nation.

Yet, with all these riches, our neighbors are hurting.

The Real Homeless will tell their stories and shatter the myths, perceptions, and prejudices surrounding homelessness. Please join us in this conversation.

[Learn more...](#)



James has looked for a job for the last 10 months

Foundation of the Month: Kaiser Hospital Foundation

Sporadically scattered puddles and creeks really don't command attention. Yet when a multitude of harmonious pools combine into a moving, roaring ocean, the earth is inspired to admire its presence. In the arena of healthcare there is a movement of individuals joining to give of themselves toward the progress of the fundamental right of health and wellness among all social and economic groups. The depth of their collaboration is rippling through our communities bringing necessary aid to those in need.



Kaiser Foundation Hospitals have been encouraging tidal shifts in community health for sixty-five years while working closely with community health centers, public hospitals, and health departments, supporting their efforts to provide care for the uninsured and underserved with infrastructure, volunteer medical personnel, training, grants, and equipment. Kaiser's instrumental presence in Southern California is exhibited in their partnership with The Hurtt Family Medical Clinic and Medical Mobile services outreach programs.

In only three years Kaiser's regional and local providers have generously granted a total of \$119,000 toward Hurtt Family Health Clinic programs. These gifts have perpetuated the provision of preventative, primary care, dental, and vision services to the homeless, impoverished populations and uninsured through our fixed Hurtt Family Health Clinic site location at the Village of Hope and mobile medical programs. The Mission's Village of Hope doors are wide open to individuals and families from Santa Ana, Tustin and Irvine seeking essential healthcare from our clinic. Additionally, the Hurtt mobile clinic visits 7 sites across Orange County providing acute health care services at locations where the homeless and extremely low income persons are known to gather such as soup kitchens, food distribution sites, and shelters. In 2010 alone, the Hurtt Family Health Clinic provided a total of over 1,573 mental health assessments and 10,760 medical exams and procedures; 88% were under 100% of the Federal Poverty Level. The Clinic also provided 13,905 incidents of prescription and medication assistance and \$4,914 of free prescribed meds during this time.

As valued partners such as Kaiser Foundation Hospitals and The Hurtt Family Clinic continue to join together in efforts toward total community health, a joint undertaking will continue to make an even more undeniable impact in our world. In unifying missions of progressive care we continue to expand our realm of compelling influence. Our entire team at the Mission and the Hurtt Clinic wish to express our sincere thanks to Kaiser Permanente for their role as an outstanding partner in our mission to reach the Least, the Last, and the Lost.

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What You Can Do To Help

Organize Food Drives

Community food drives are the backbone of our food collection efforts. To help you get started, [Food Drive Kits](#) are available to assist you in planning, coordination and publicity. These kits are available from our website or we can mail them to you. Either way, they will be of tremendous benefit in our effort to collect the 7 tons of food that we distribute each month.



Volunteer

Becoming a Mission volunteer is easier than ever. Simply [visit our website](#) and click on VOLUNTEER to see what opportunities are available. Then, fill out our online application and liability waiver. In no time, you'll be using your gifts and talents to benefit others right in your community.

Tell Others

One of the most powerful ways we can help the homeless is by telling others about how and why you are involved in helping the Orange County Rescue Mission. If they catch a glimpse of your vision (and passion!) for helping the homeless, they will want to get involved, too.

Pray

No matter how busy we are or what resources we have, there's something all believers can do, and that's pray. Pray for homeless and hungry men, women and children in our community. That they would not lose hope. That somehow, they would find their way to the Mission. And that we would have the resources we need to help them, whether they need a food box or housing for a year.



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Looking to 2012 *(a message from Jim Palmer, President)*

The current economic environment has been turbulent for the Orange County Rescue Mission, but we're weathering it as best as we can. Requests for the services we offer,

whether it's a meal or medical care or our long-term program, have gone up 21% over last year. And calls from those who are looking for affordable housing have doubled.

Friends like you are helping to meet the desperate needs of men, women and children in our community. And we're reaching out in partnership with many organizations to end homelessness in Orange County. In 2011, we acquired a mobile pediatric unit that goes out to schools and to motels where more than 500 homeless children live with their families. And we've expanded our job training center which has helped more than 20 of our current residents find meaningful work.



Jim Palmer, President

In the coming year, we need partners who will stand with us and help us take advantage of the opportunities we have to change the lives of the homeless in our community. Working together, we'll weather this storm.

For the Least, the Last and the Lost,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Palmer".

Jim Palmer, President

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Adopt-A-Room at the Village of Hope



Community groups, churches, families, individuals, and businesses — here's a great way to help homeless families stay together while they rebuild their lives and become self-supportive:

[Adopt a room](#) at the Village of Hope! [The Village of Hope](#) is an innovative, faith-based, transitional facility that will keep homeless dads, moms, and kids together, while giving parents 12 to 24 months to work on job training and life skills. To make this dream a reality, we have completed the transformation of two existing military dormitories into 128 rooms for

homeless families. In order to provide these rooms for families, **we need your help!** Your group will be part of creating modern-day miracles in the lives of hurting families in Orange County.

Please [e-mail Donna Naccachian](#) or call (714) 247-4323 for more info. You can also check our Web site for [volunteer opportunities...](#)

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Support OCRM at Ralphs



Ralphs Community Contributions Program



Sign up for Ralphs Community Contributions Program and earn money for the Orange County Rescue Mission while you shop. Just [click here](#), designate the Orange County Rescue Mission as the beneficiary and use your Ralphs Rewards card at checkout when you shop. A percentage of all your purchases will be donated to assist us in bringing hope to the Least, the Last and the Lost of Orange County.

TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE!! If just 60 people sign up and use their Ralphs Rewards card, and the average quarterly shopping percentage brings in a modest \$3.15 each, then those 60 people could make \$756.00 a year **JUST BY DOING OUR OWN GROCERY SHOPPING!** Of course, the more you purchase, the more you earn for OCRM.

[Click here](#) to sign up online. You may also sign up by printing [this document](#) and taking it into any Ralphs store.

Thank you!


Our Pledge to You

The Orange County Rescue Mission is committed to helping you assist the poor in the most cost-effective way possible. That's why we take extra care to use every penny efficiently. As part of that effort, we are governed by an independent Board of Directors. We are also a member in good standing of the [Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability](#) (ECFA). Upon your request, we will send you an audited financial statement prepared by an independent certified public accountant.



At the Orange County Rescue Mission, **a full 81 cents of every dollar** given goes directly to help the homeless. If gifts received are above a specific need, they will be used for Mission programs where the need is greatest. Your support is greatly appreciated. With your help, the Orange County Rescue Mission works to make our community a better place for everyone to live.

Our Immediate Needs

DONATIONS	VOLUNTEER NEEDS	VEHICLES
<p>Donate Financially</p> <p>Christmas Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laundry detergent • Bleach • Fabric softener • Children's socks and underwear • Plus-size women's clothing • Men's briefs (sizes M-XXL) • Men's white t-shirts (sizes M-XXL) • Diapers (sizes 4,5,6) • Baby wipes and diaper cream • Feminine hygiene products • Gas cards <p>Urgent Food Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soups • Canned fruits and vegetables • Real juices and healthy snacks • Packages of dry beans, rice, pasta • Macaroni and cheese • Peanut butter and jelly • Boxed cereal • Canned meat: tuna, chicken, etc. 	<p>Village of Hope</p> <p>Many exciting opportunities! Please call our Volunteer Manager at (714) 247-4326.</p> <p>Organize a Food Drive!</p> <p>Food is a constant need throughout the year, especially during the holidays when our resources are stretched to the limit. Get all the resources you need to organize your own food drive.</p> <p>Double R Ranch</p> <p>Join us at one of our monthly Volunteer Workdays. You will be blessed as you bless others.</p> <p>Hairstylists</p> <p>Ask your hairstylist to volunteer at the VOH Salon today!</p>	<p>Donate a Vehicle</p> <p>Good for the homeless, good for you. Learn more...</p>  <p>Call (888) 366-0007</p> <hr/> <p>Donation Drop-offs: M-S, 8:00-5:00 One Hope Drive, Tustin, CA 92782 (800) 663-3074</p> <hr/> <p>Why Should You Give? Find out more...</p>

I Would Like More Information About...

- [General donations](#)
- [Donating a vehicle](#)
- [Corporate relations](#)
- [Touring your facilities](#)
- [Organizing a food drive](#)
- [Volunteer opportunities](#)
- [Public speaking engagements](#)
- [Gifts in kind \(non-monetary gifts\)](#)
- [Church & service club partnerships](#)
- [Your programs to help the homeless](#)
- [Charitable trusts, property & estates](#)
- [What it means to be a Christian](#)

