

# BELIEVER



The Mission  
AT KERN COUNTY  
do you believe

Restoring lives in your community since 1952... do you believe

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSION AT KERN COUNTY • Holiday 2021

Don't miss...

**2** Celebrating rebirth  
this Christmas.

**3** "Now I know  
God loves me."

**4** Giving  
Tuesday

Thanks to you...

*Whitney*

has been given a  
life-changing gift  
this Christmas.



# “Now I know **GOD LOVES ME.**”

**W**hitney grew up in a world of addiction and neglect. “My mom was drunk all the time so, when I was a teenager, I would run away from home and drink to numb my anger and sadness.”

For 10 years, alcohol controlled Whitney’s life. She never held a job. Never put down roots. And, eventually, wound up homeless, living on the streets. “I was lost and broken.”

Then she had a child, and it was her love for her son that drove her to reach out to The Mission for help. “He was my first priority. I needed to take care of him and, to do that, I needed to take care of myself.”

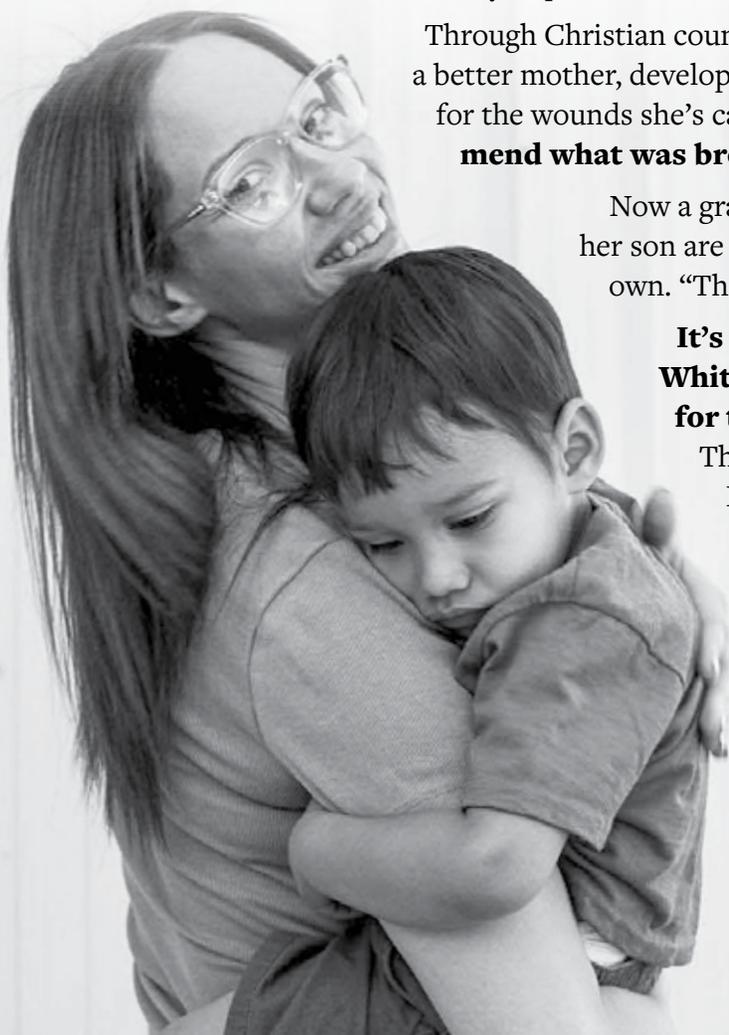
They came to our Recovery Home for Women & Children, where Whitney entered the Christian Life Training Discipleship Program. Through Bible studies and chapel services, Whitney discovered the unconditional love of God. “Before, I thought I had to be perfect. But now I know God loves me just as I am,

with all my imperfections. That love was all I needed.”

Through Christian counseling and life skills classes, Whitney has learned to be a better mother, developed healthy coping skills and found emotional healing for the wounds she’s carried all her life. **“They gave me the tools to help mend what was broken.”**

Now a graduate of the program, Whitney has a job and she and her son are staying here while she saves money for a home of their own. “The Mission has given me hope and a future I never had.”

**It’s going to be a Christmas filled with joy for Whitney and her son – and she is so grateful to you for this wonderful gift of a new life.** “Before I came to The Mission, I was broken. But now I have confidence, I believe in myself and I serve a God who makes the impossible possible. It’s a beautiful thing.”



—  —  
**“The Mission  
helped heal my hurt  
and pain.”**  
—  —

## Celebrating Christmas with JOY for All People

In Luke 2:10, the angel says,  
"Behold, I bring you good tidings  
of great joy, which shall be to all  
people."

During the Christmas season,  
we hear a lot about joy. It has me  
thinking about how joy is something  
all people can have in their hearts.  
This time of year, our greatest joy is  
celebrating the birth of our Savior  
and the eternal life we have been  
freely given.

That joy is what fills our hearts  
Christmas morning... and, hopefully,  
every day of the year. It's the same  
joy I see on the faces of the children,  
women and men that have come  
to The Mission at Kern County and  
experienced God's life-changing love  
up close and personal. The joy YOU  
help them experience through your  
heartfelt prayers and support.

This Christmas, as you reflect on  
the "reason for the season," I hope  
you will remember our neighbors  
in Bakersfield who are hurting.  
As Whitney's story shows, your  
generosity offers help. Healing. And  
a chance to be held in the arms of a  
loving God.

I am continually humbled by the  
faithfulness of friends like you who  
joyfully bless others. Thank you, and  
may God fill your heart with peace  
and love.



Carlos Baldovinos  
Executive Director

## A delicious Christmas meal for our homeless neighbors...

### ... STARTS WITH YOU!

As you prepare to celebrate the joy  
of Christmas, please remember our  
hurting neighbors. It's been another  
really tough year for so many in our  
community – and the very best gift  
you can give them is the help they  
need right now!

Just \$2.05 provides a meal and care for  
one person.

That meal is often the first step  
toward a new life through God's love.



**\$2.05**  
for 1 hot meal



**\$15.69**  
for 1 night of  
safe shelter

**CAN GIVE  
SOMEONE**

**Healing  
Hope  
And a Second  
Chance!**

### Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!

**SEE HOW YOU HELPED CHANGE WHITNEY'S LIFE!**

*"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and  
be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."*

-Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV)

*Wishing you and your loved ones a  
Merry Christmas!*

During this joyous holiday season, our prayer is that God will richly bless  
you just as you have blessed your hurting neighbors. Your incredible  
generosity has opened the door for healing and transformation by  
providing 200,000 meals and 94,500 nights of safe shelter this year.

May His face shine upon you and bring you peace, comfort and joy...  
today and all throughout the new year. Thank you, and Merry Christmas!

# Give 2X the *Help* on GIVING TUESDAY

*Tuesday, November 30*

**Giving Tuesday** is the perfect time to give back... especially because of our **\$25,000 Matching Challenge!** During this special day of giving, your dollars will double to provide life-changing essentials and services. That's 2x the meals... 2x the shelter... and 2x the recovery services that help people right here in Kern County.

This is a time for neighbors to help neighbors - especially those who are still struggling to overcome hardships and rebuild their lives on solid ground.

## Why Wait? Celebrate GIVING TUESDAY Now!

- ✓ Add your special Giving Tuesday gift on the reply card and send it today.
- 📧 Give online at [themissionkc.org](http://themissionkc.org).

## 3 Easy Ways YOU Can Help this Christmas!

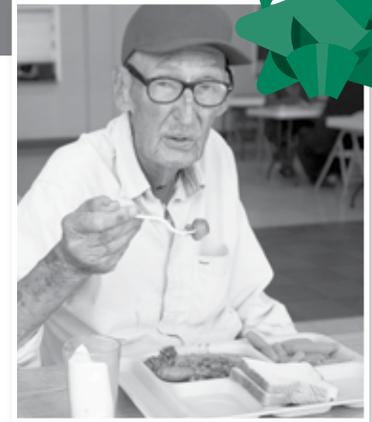
### FEED HUNGRY FOLKS



Want to nourish your neighbors? Donate these foods to help prepare thousands of meals this holiday season. Please deliver them to

**816 East 21st St in Bakersfield.**

turkeys & hams \* boxes of stuffing \* bags of potatoes \* canned fruits and vegetables  
coffee, creamer & sugar



### MEET BASIC NEEDS



Looking to cover the basics? These essential items keep Mission guests safe and comfortable during their time in our care.

Please drop off donations at **816 East 21st St in Bakersfield, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

garbage bags \* paper towels & toilet paper \* laundry detergent  
soap \* deodorant \* washcloths and towels

### GIVE GIFT CARDS



No time to shop? Donating gift cards for these merchants helps purchase holiday gifts as well as year-round necessities. Please mail or deliver them to **The Mission at Kern County, 821 E. 21st Street, Bakersfield, CA 93305.**

Albertsons \* vons \* Grocery Outlet Plus \* Winco

**THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS CHRISTMAS A TIME OF JOY!**