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 **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 • Fall 2023


Don't miss...

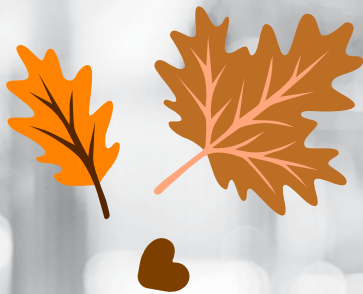
2 Our Thanksgiving Campaign has begun!

3 "I love myself again."

4 Attention Golfers!

A Heart of Thanksgiving

Donna wants to share how your support changed her life! 



Anticipating This New Season with Thanksgiving



A Message from CARLOS BALDOVINOS

It's hard to believe we're here again: over halfway through another year. Here at The Mission at Kern County, preparations for our busy fall season are already underway.

Outside, the weather will soon start to cool. But inside our doors, it's still warm and inviting as **we get ready for the many men, women and children who will come to us during the months leading up to Thanksgiving.** It's one of my favorite times of the year, and it's possible thanks to the generosity of friends like you.

As I think about this time of the year, I'm reminded of the words of Ecclesiastes 3:1: *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."*

Each time someone comes to the Mission for help, their season changes. They leave a time of pain and struggle that

they may not have anticipated and certainly didn't desire – and they **choose** a season of support and recovery. **I truly believe this is God's hand at work through your partnership in this life-giving ministry.**

Now, as we prepare to serve an estimated 50,000 meals in the coming months, I ask you to pray for every struggling man and woman who finds a seat at our tables. Pray that if the time is right for a new season in their life, God will make it known and see it through.

Thank you. I'm thankful for you now, and always.

Carlos Baldovinos
Executive Director

VOLUNTEERING AT THE MISSION OVER THE HOLIDAYS



As the school year begins, we may not be thinking about the holidays, but they are right around the corner. Here are some opportunities for you

to get involved. Volunteering is fun... and life-changing!

High School Seniors: need hours at a nonprofit to complete Government class requirements? We can help. We offer hour tracking and volunteer opportunities.

Families & the Holidays: Every year, the Mission hosts traditional Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve Meals. If you would like to participate in these special meals, you will need to go online and sign up. Space is limited, so sign up today at themissionkc.org/volunteer for:

- Early morning food prep
- Serving
- Clean up (Biggest need)



Join Our
2023 Thanksgiving CAMPAIGN

50,000
Meals Needed this Thanksgiving Season

This Thanksgiving, countless guests will gather at our tables. Many are alone... longing to overcome homelessness and poverty... wishing they could reunite with their families for the holidays.

For just \$2.05, YOU can provide a meal to nourish their bodies and lift their spirits. Your gift surrounds hurting people with loving care that leads to a better life through:



Safe, welcoming shelter



Warm clothing, coats & shoes



Classes & job training



God's life-changing love

Please help our neighbors in need this holiday season! Send your 2023 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today using the enclosed reply card and envelope OR online at themissionkc.org.

Meet Donna – who is thankful for your support!

“I love **myself** again.”



Donna spent nearly her whole life caring for her son. When he was little, she devoted herself to ensuring he had everything he needed. He meant everything to her. So when he grew up and kicked her out of their house and told her she had to change, she was devastated.

“I was working the graveyard shift at work... 12 hours a day, seven days a week for sometimes 35 days straight. **The only way I stayed awake was an addiction to meth and prescription drugs.** I was a functioning addict,” she says.

Then, Donna had knee replacement surgery and went on even more medication. That’s when **her son asked her to leave and stopped speaking with her.**

“That was the hardest part, because my son is my everything to me,” she adds. But over time, she realized he was right.

Being out on the street was Donna’s breaking point. She felt she had no purpose. **When she arrived at The Mission at Kern County, she hadn’t eaten in days.**

Donna initially planned to stay with us for only a short time. But when she joined our Celebrate Recovery program and started to heal through counseling, classes and chapel services, she realized she was where she needed to be.

“Before coming to the Mission, I was lost, broken and hopeless. My life was at a standstill. Now I have everything.”

After graduating our program and moving out of the Mission, Donna got a job helping other men and women along their own addiction recovery journey. She is thrilled to have just celebrated her 8-year sobriety birthday! She loves being able to give back to others, and she loves spending time with her son and his children.

Donna is filled with thanksgiving for God’s redeeming love in her life – and your incredible generosity and support! “The Mission gave me tools that I needed to take with me when I left. Now I’m the best mom and grandma I can be.”



“The Mission gave me strength. They helped bring my son back into my life.”



It's been a long, hot summer, but cooler days are ahead. It's time to start thinking about some fun activities for the Fall.

Attention Golfers!

The Mission Cup is right around the corner, and you won't want to miss out on this year's event! Whether you are a golf pro or a weekend hacker, this "scramble" tournament is for you!

Join us October 23rd at Bakersfield Country Club.

By participating or sponsoring, you will be making a difference through helping us provide hope and care to struggling men, women and children in our community. Scan the QR code to register today!

Last year sold out, so don't wait!!!



For more information, please contact: ahall@themissionkc.org or call (661) 325-0863, ext. 238.

**Save the Date –
Hope for the Holidays Gala**

Featuring music artist Brennley Brown. Artist. Voice Over Actor. Songwriter.

On November 18th, The Mission at Kern County invites you to join us at the Hope for the Holidays Gala at Seven Oaks Country Club. We are excited to announce our special guest, Brennley Brown. Visit our webpage at themissionkc.org to see more



information and to purchase your table today.

For additional information, please visit our event page at themissionkc.org.