

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 2023

Don't miss...

2 Celebrating the HOPE
of Christmas

3 "The Mission
saved my life."

4 Shoe Box Christmas
Meal Gifts

Thanks to you...

**ASHLEY HAS
HOPE THIS
*Christmas!***



Celebrating the HOPE of Christmas

How comforting it is to know that our Lord, Jesus Christ, has shared in our humanity. He knows our struggles and the struggles of our homeless neighbors too!

On the eve of his birth, Jesus and his earthly parents Joseph and Mary experienced being turned away and told there was “no room at the inn.” It reminds me that Christ understands the pain and fear of our guests who also have nowhere else to turn.

Here at The Mission at Kern County, we will always do everything in our ability to welcome and support a hurting person who comes to our doors. Even so, many of our guests have faced years of homelessness... poverty... and other challenges that have left them feeling unloved and unwelcome.

During the holidays, caring friends like you help remind them they are not forgotten. Your gifts to provide hot meals, safe shelter and recovery are meaningful expressions to them of the Lord’s kindness and care in their life.

This Christmas, I invite you to extend Christ’s love and grace to our neighbors – like Ashley (who’s story is on the next page). Your generosity will surround them with hope this holiday season! Thank you, and may God bless you now and into the New Year.



Carlos Baldovinos
Executive Director



Share Hope AND A Christmas Meal...

It’s hard to have hope when you’re struggling with hunger or homelessness. **YOU can make this Christmas a time of celebration for our neighbors in need with your gift to help them today!**



\$2.05
for 1 hot meal



\$15.69
for 1 night of
safe shelter

**CAN GIVE
SOMEONE**



Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!



Hope for the Holidays Gala

**At Seven Oaks Country Club, November 18
Featuring Brenley Brown**

The Mission at Kern County will be celebrating 71 years of providing hope and restoration in Kern County. We will be raising funds to help care for men, women and children struggling with homelessness and addictions. We are excited to host music artist Brenley Brown at this year’s event.

If you are interested in purchasing a table, please call **(661) 325-0863, ext. 235** or visit **themissionkc.org**.



“THE MISSION **SAVED** MY LIFE.”

When Ashley was young, she was diagnosed with a learning disability and it took a heavy toll on her self-esteem. “Other kids made fun of me and I grew up feeling like I was never enough.”

Eventually, Ashley fell in love with a man who introduced her to drugs and she quickly discovered that they numbed her pain. “I liked not having to feel anything,” she says.

Over the years, her addiction escalated and Ashley wound up losing her home, custody of her daughter and, finally, her mental health. “I went from having everything to having no one, homeless, suffering from paranoia. I lost myself.”

Then, one day, Ashley’s maternal love broke through her despair and confusion, and drove her to seek help for the sake of her daughter. “She needed me, so I wanted a new life, hope and a future,” she says. **“I needed to know who God was.”**

Ashley found Him here at the Mission through our Christian Life Training Discipleship Program. “Now, He’s my Savior, my Father and my best friend.”

Her newfound faith, Christian counseling and addiction recovery classes have helped Ashley heal from her emotional wounds and learn to live her life in a new way. Now, her daughter is living with her at our Recovery Home for Women & Children, and they’re growing closer every day. “The Mission equipped me to be a better mother and helped build our relationship.”

Through life skills classes and vocational training, Ashley is also learning all she needs to live a successful, independent life. When the time comes, she’ll find a job and a home where she can raise her daughter in the love of the Lord. “I don’t know what the future holds for us, but I know it’s going to be something great.”

Ashley has hope this Christmas - and she wants to thank YOU for supporting her journey toward a new life. “The Mission saved my life and gave me back my daughter.”

“MY DAUGHTER
HAS HER MOM
BACK.”





Holiday Community Meal Celebration

THANKSGIVING:

Thursday, November 23

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNITY MEAL:

Friday, December 22

Volunteer Opportunities

- Coat Distribution (Thanksgiving)
- Shoebox Distribution (Christmas Eve)
- Hot Cocoa Station
- Table Hosts
- Food Servers
- Prayer Team
- Greeters

If you would like to sign up to help serve others this holiday season, contact our Volunteer Coordinator:

📞 (661) 325-0863, ext. 219

✉️ jcarroll@themissionkc.org

SHOEBOX CHRISTMAS MEAL GIFTS

We will be collecting both wrapped and unwrapped shoeboxes (in good condition) through December 15. Below are some suggestions to help us fill the boxes:



ADULTS



- Combs
- Chapstick
- Washcloths
- Tissues

- Band-Aids
- Socks
- Lifesavers (or other candy)

- Crackers
- Other small items
- Beanie/gloves

CHILDREN (ages 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14)

- Small toys
- Coloring books
- Crayons
- Toothbrush

- Toothpaste
- School supplies
- Friendship bracelet
- Sunglasses

- Baseball cards
- Lollipops
- Small puzzle



Pray for the individual receiving your gift.

If you wrap your own box, cover the box and lid separately. You can also enclose a personal note of encouragement.

Donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at 821 E. 21st Street "Donation Center."

Thank you to all our 2023 Mission Cup Golf Tournament Sponsors! We sold out in August with 36 registered teams. All teams received Travis Mathew merch right from our Travis Mathew bus vendor! Don't miss out on next year's tournament, happening October 2024. Teams will sell out fast! Visit us at themissionkc.org for more information, or call us at (661) 325-0863.

