

BELIEVER



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

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSION AT KERN COUNTY • Easter 2024

Don't miss...

2 The Promises of Easter

3 "I have the most amazing life."

4 How Creating a Will Shows You Care

Matthew is celebrating Easter with JOY – because of you!



Thank you for showing him that new life is possible.

Easter²⁰²⁴
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN





A Message from CARLOS BALDOVINOS

THE PROMISES OF EASTER

Have you ever seen the realization cross someone's face the first time they understand the gravity of Christ's death and resurrection? It's one of my favorite things about Easter at The Mission at Kern County. It's a privilege to be a small part of their story, as our guests celebrate the promises of joy and hope this season brings.

You too are a part of our guests' stories, as you share God's love with them by providing nutritious meals, safe shelter and other services to change their lives.

Your faithful prayers and generosity help hurting men, women and children in our community find a home through our doors. They also find HOPE – hope for their future, and hope in the promises we celebrate at Easter.

Thank you for showing our hurting neighbors in need that you care about them – in their present circumstances, for their future and for eternity. You show them they are loved. You help restore their dignity, and ignite in them a desire to change their circumstances.

Together with God's faithfulness, you help turn stories of pain into promises of new life in Christ.

Thank you... happy Easter... and God bless!

Carlos Baldovinos
Executive Director



Volunteer with us for our Easter Community Meal on Good Friday, March 29th! Register online on our volunteer page at themissionkc.org or call **(661) 325-0863, ext. 219.** We hope to see you there!



SHARE JOY THIS EASTER

Help meet the needs of our hurting neighbors!

With Easter coming early this year, we need your help to welcome every man, woman and child who comes to our doors! YOU can help meet their needs and fill hearts with joy...



24,000 meals – just \$3.03 each!



11,000 nights of shelter



Christ-centered care & healing in our life-change programs!

Easter²⁰²⁴
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

- ✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.
- 🌟 Give online anytime at themissionkc.org.

“I HAVE THE MOST AMAZING LIFE.”



Matthew's high-risk lifestyle of drug use had caught up with him. He was facing the possibility of a lengthy prison sentence – and he was willing to consider any alternatives available to avoid it. Fortunately, a program through The Mission at Kern County was one of those alternatives.

“My biggest challenge before coming to the Mission was being able to lead a normal life... to be sober and a functioning member of society,” he explains.

Matthew had struggled with addiction since he was 15, when he got involved with the wrong crowd. He dropped out of school and was homeless for a time – sleeping at friends' houses or wandering the streets. But now that he was facing legal trouble, he realized he had to change... and the Mission may be his last hope. Still, he wasn't sure about our faith focus. God had never been a part of his life, and the idea of going into a Christian environment made him uncomfortable.

“I didn't want anything to do with God at first, but the Mission let me move at my own pace. It was very comforting. Then, one day I really prayed for the first time, and it was like a light switch flipped. That's when everything changed.”

Today, Matthew is a proud graduate of our recovery program. He is happily married with three daughters. He earned his GED while at the Mission and got his driver's license. Now, he has a successful career. “My life now is all about family – my wife and kids – work, and serving at church. I play guitar on the worship team.”

Thank you for sharing God's love with Matthew this Easter. His life has been renewed through the joy and hope of the Gospel! “I'm thankful to the Mission because they gave me the tools I needed to have the most amazing life that I have now.”

“COMING TO THE MISSION IS BASICALLY WHERE I FOUND HOPE.”



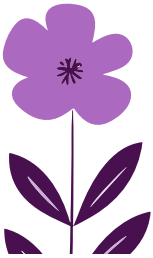
How Creating a Will Shows You Care



Have you ever thought about legacy planning as an act of love? It's a loving deed that:

- **Serves your family.** Creating a will ensures your financial house is in order, your final wishes are clear, and your family is saved stress and expense.
- **Shares what matters.** Your will allows you to communicate with your loved ones about your cherished beliefs and values.
- **Spreads the love.** What better gift to give than one that changes lives? That's the impact you have when you leave a gift in your will to The Mission at Kern County. Your loving generosity embodies these words from Mother Teresa: "Love has no meaning if it isn't shared. Love has to be put into action."

If you are interested in creating a will that will leave a legacy for generations to come, please contact us, or go to our legacy planning website at: themissionkc.legacywill.org.



God's Promise of Joy

"If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love... These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." - John 15:10-11



Our 4th annual Spring Fling is just around the corner! This fundraising dinner event will be on Saturday, April 27 at The Grove at Shadow Creek venue. This will be a night to come together and celebrate the work done at The Mission at Kern County. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available! Mark your calendars and get ready to learn about the difference our community is making in the lives that need it the most.



Check out our upcoming events on our events page at themissionkc.org.