

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 2024

Don't miss...

3 "I see myself as capable for the first time."

4 Give a meal. Spark a miracle!

4 Volunteers needed!

THANK YOU FOR
GIVING LATISHA

a life-changing

GIFT THIS

Christmas!



*Grateful for the year
past, and the year
ahead*

As I think back over the past year, the word that comes to mind is *gratitude*. There is truly so much for which to be grateful. **Our new day center opened last October and is now serving hundreds of people every day.** Part of this new center are two offices dedicated to health care partners offering mental health and case management. It's exciting to be able to offer these much-needed services!

Other sources of my gratitude are the many volunteers who make our work possible. We've come a long way over the past 4 years. After a difficult few years during the COVID-19 pandemic, **I'm thrilled to see our volunteer numbers back to pre-COVID levels.** Both old friends and new faces are again eager and excited to serve our guests – making a meal, teaching a class or working with our women and children. The Mission at Kern County epitomizes the saying “it takes a village.” Our volunteers are evidence of the power of community and shared effort.

Even more exciting things are planned for 2025... so stay tuned for details. The new year will hold opportunities to serve even more people in our community, even better. With your continued support, people like Latisha (whose story is on page 3) will find the miracle of hot meals, safe shelter and Christ-centered care at the Mission this holiday season... and all year round.

Thank you for entrusting us to continue to serve the most vulnerable in our community. This year, next year and always... my gratitude starts and ends with you!



Carlos Baldovinos

Carlos Baldovinos
Executive Director

12 DAYS OF GIVING BACK



The Bible tells us it's more blessed to give than to receive, and what better time to experience the joy of giving than the Christmas season! It's also a wonderful time to teach children the importance of giving, or to partner with a friend or family member to give back.

Read on to explore **12 Days of Giving Back** and get inspired to share the miracle of Christmas this year:

| | | |
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| DAY 1 Donate Food | DAY 2 Donate Clothes | DAY 3 Donate Toys |
| DAY 4 Write a Christmas Card | DAY 5 Create a Care Package | DAY 6 Help Serve Meals |
| DAY 7 Help Sort Donations | DAY 8 Donate to Women & Children's Program | DAY 9 Attend Chapel at the Mission |
| DAY 10 Fundraise at Your Church or School | DAY 11 Pray for Families at the Mission | DAY 12 Spread the Word |

To learn more about ways you can share the joy of Christmas with Mission guests, give us a call at **(661) 325-0863** or visit us online at **themissionkc.org**!

A Note from Our Board Chair

“The Mission at Kern County is at the forefront of operating meaningful, sustainable programs to help the less fortunate in our community stand on their own two feet. As a Board Member, I have personally witnessed countless testimonies of Mission program participants who transformed their lives from a place of desperation and despair, to a place of hope and purpose. With Christ-centered programs, strategic initiatives, and a vast network of community partners The Mission has a model of success to break the cycle of homelessness and addiction that I have simply never seen before. That is why I am so proud and humbled to serve on this amazing Board of Directors.”



Ken Beurmann
Board Chair
Chief Executive Officer
TERRIO Physical Therapy &
Fitness, Inc.

“I see myself as

CAPABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME.”



Latisha was exhausted. She was a mom who worked the graveyard shift as a nursing assistant. Her job was in a hospital intensive care unit, so death and disease were part of her daily life. This, combined with her other responsibilities, was a lot to balance.

“I had so much going on: work, kids, bills and parents,” she says. “It was a lot of stress.”

Additionally, Latisha had a long commute to work and almost fell asleep while driving several times. She needed a way to stay awake while driving to work, so she tried every energy drink she could find – but nothing worked. Then, **a friend suggested she try methamphetamine to stay awake.** She also heard the drug would help her lose weight – which was appealing since Latisha had always struggled with her appearance and self-esteem.

“When I tried the drug, I felt like I had so much energy – but eventually, it made my life so much work. **I developed an addiction and had an emotional breakdown that kept me from working.** I stopped taking care of myself completely.”

By the time Latisha came to The Mission at Kern County, she was homeless and in danger of losing custody of her children.

With the support of our staff, Latisha’s children were able to join her at our Recovery Home for Women & Children – where they found a chance to build a better life together. Latisha also overcame her addiction and re-established her relationship with God. Now, she has confidence in herself and hope for her future. “The Mission saved my life. It taught me love, togetherness and how to form trusting bonds,” she says.

**“I went from no hope
TO HAVING THE CONFIDENCE
I CAN SUCCEED.”**

This Christmas, Latisha is experiencing all the joy this season has to offer – because YOU believed in the power of a fresh start and the promise of God’s unending love. “I’m still learning and growing every day, but I see myself as beautiful and capable for the first time.”



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

*Join us for a holiday
community meal celebration*

You and your family are invited to join
us this season as volunteers!

Thursday, November 28 – Thanksgiving Meal

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Meal

Volunteer Opportunities

- Kitchen Prep
- Serving
- Table Hosts
- Food Servers
- Prayer Team
- Greeters
- Clean-up Crew
- Hot Cocoa Station
- Shoe Box Distribution

There are 3 easy ways to register:

🖥️ Visit themissionkc.org/volunteer

☎️ Call (661) 325-0863, ext. 219

Scan the QR code



Give a meal. Spark a miracle!

It's hard to find a reason to celebrate Christmas when you're homeless or hungry. **YOU can give JOY and spark a miracle** with a gift to lead someone to join our long-term recovery program and experience a new life! It all starts by providing a meal for \$3.03... because where you see a meal, they see a miracle.



**\$3.03
for 1 hot meal**



**CAN SPARK
A MIRACLE**



**That leads
to new life!**

Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!



CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

We know you pray for us, and we're grateful.

Let us do the same for you this holiday season!

Email your prayer requests to info@themissionkc.org
and a member of our team will pray on your behalf.

Thank you, golfers!

Thank you to all those who participated in our 2024 Mission Cup Golf Tournament. We hope to see everyone back in 2025!

