

# MILESTONES

Recovery happens in relationships. **JUNE 2022**

## The Life You Save Could be Your Grandson's

*"Growing up, I knew that my grandpa worked and volunteered at the Mission,"* Kyler says.

*"I had this idea that it was a homeless shelter and that they did some sort of other type of work, but I didn't really understand until years later."*

Kyler found out how important his grandfather's work was because he ended up in the very recovery program that Dale, his grandfather, helped to implement while he was on staff in the 1990s.

Kyler reflects, *"I ended up getting into the Rescue Mission because I was in and out of these programs with my drug addiction. I went through a variety of different types of programs, secular 12 Step programs and some behavioral bootcamp type programs. But I always seemed to do the initial 30, 60 days and then get out, come back home."*

### The Year Everything Changed

And after a month or two the pull of addiction was too much. Kyler always ended up relapsing. Until one year, he didn't.

*Continued inside...*

*"I'm grateful that I did it because [the program at SBRM] saved my life and it saved my marriage,"* Kyler says.

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# The Life You Save

## Could be Your Grandson's

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*"When I was living on Maui and recently married, I had a relapse. I went into a state facilitated program and was having trouble. It was in that program that I had heard more about the Santa Barbara Rescue Mission and their men's program."*

But then Kyler heard that it was a 12-month program, and he almost refused to go.

*"It was way beyond anything I'd ever done. And it sounded extremely difficult to put aside that amount of time for treatment. So I had this mindset like, okay, I know I need to do something a little bit more drastic and serious to save my marriage, to save myself."*

And so, Kyler packed up and moved back to Santa Barbara to go to the very place his grandfather had retired from. He himself became one of the very people his grandfather was so passionate about helping.

*"I'm very grateful that I did it, because it saved my life and it saved my marriage," Kyler says. "I could say so many good things. I mean the list is really endless. The structure of the program itself is very effective."*

### No One Is Immune to Addiction

Kyler grew up in a Christian home, but peer pressure from the wrong crowd led him to start experimenting with drugs when he was just 16. Being at the Mission helped him reconnect with God while also giving him the structure he needed to work through his addiction so that he could heal in a healthy, sustainable way.

*"You need to transition into different stages, to more freedom, and more responsibility," he says.*

Kyler graduated from the Mission 10 years ago, and he's still thriving. He and his wife live on Kauai, where he is a boat captain. They have two boys with another baby due next month.

*"It was a pretty tough time that my parents went through with me – years of dealing with these issues. But I think coming out of all that, they feel blessed now . . . So yeah, God has been good."*

***"I hope that my story and my testimony can bring hope and peace to those that are going through it now and that my life could be an example for them."***

**— Kyler**



***"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace."*** Ephesians 1:7





## A NOTE OF FRIENDSHIP FROM ROLF GEYLING

# I'd Choose the Mission, Too

WITH THE ADVENT OF SOCIAL MEDIA comes the urge to share the best parts of one's life. If you've seen my Instagram feed lately, you've seen photos of all my kids. I'm incredibly proud of each of them. I pray that none of them, or their children, ever struggle with addiction. But addiction doesn't discriminate. Any family can experience the devastation of it. And if anyone in my family ever does, I know where I would want them to get help.

Right here at the Santa Barbara Rescue Mission—even if I'm not working here anymore.

That's how much I believe in this work.

That's how proud I am to be a part of this ministry.

That's how honored I am to partner with people like you.

Together we are not only transforming the lives of individuals, we're changing and saving entire families. Generations from now, Kyler's great-great-grandkids could be living in hope and freedom because of the Mission. And they are just one family. Imagine how many lives will be impacted by the men and women graduating next month!

Just thinking about it gives me goosebumps. Take a moment to think about the impact you're having. You might get goosebumps, too.

Rolf Geyling  
President

## Have you ever wondered?

### Rolf Answers Your Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** *What's a typical client at the Santa Barbara Rescue Mission like?*

**Answer:** *The Mission doesn't have a typical client. Homelessness and addiction cut across every social demographic, age, culture, race, and background. But almost every person who comes to the Mission has experienced horrific trauma. After hearing just a few stories, it's easier to understand how they ended up in the situation they did. I think if I had lived through what they have, the bottom would have dropped out of my life, too.*

**If you have questions for Rolf, please send them to [newsletter@sbrm.org](mailto:newsletter@sbrm.org).**



# A Mother's Heartbreak and Healing

*Written by Christa, Kyler's mom and Dale's daughter-in-law*

When our beautiful boy Kyler was born, it was by far the greatest gift I had ever received in my life. As young parents who were both working, Mike (as a local firefighter) and I did the best that we knew how to raise our kids and teach them to know Jesus. We encountered the usual bumps in the road, marital struggles, the stress of daily life, but we were not prepared for the bombshell of finding out our son was addicted to drugs.

The devastating rollercoaster ride following that discovery would last years, cost us dearly, and render our hearts shattered and broken. There were so many nights that Mike and I would lay in bed holding hands, crying, and praying for relief. Praying for our son's life.

Over time, we sent Kyler to seven different attempts at rehab. Each time we were devastated with the relapse.

The Santa Barbara Rescue Mission was the turning point. It gave Kyler the needed tools, the counseling and mentorships, and the extended time to get well. Of course, we know that the secret-sauce to their program is the love of God.

Seeing Kyler healthy, thriving, trusting God in his own life and leading his own family in Christ is the gift that keeps giving! I want that for others! I want to see every family that needs the kind of help and hope that we experienced get it. That's why I joined the Women's Auxiliary and find as many ways as possible to support the Mission.





# Four Generations (and Counting) of Transformation!



Dale worked in the communications and development department at the Mission in the 1990s before retiring and transitioning to mentoring men in the recovery program.

*"While I was there, I worked with the team when the key elements of the 12-month Residential Treatment Program were developed," Dale says. "I actually saw that program go into effect."*

That program is the very same program that saved the life of Kyler, Dale's grandson, and helped to secure a family legacy of hope and healing through Jesus Christ.

*"We've been donors for many, many years," Roberta, Dale's wife says. "We have been really impressed with everything that's taking place there in the recovery and the way that you reach out to the community and serve the homeless people. And just feel it's a great place to put our money that we donate into ministry and into benevolent causes."*

Dale and Roberta are also legacy donors and know that their support will continue to transform lives and families long after they have passed away.

**To find out more about planned giving and legacy donations, contact Rebecca Weber at [rweber@sbrm.org](mailto:rweber@sbrm.org) or 805-966-1316 ext. 105.**



Imagine where all this summer's graduates will be in 10 years!

## Celebrate the Next Generation of Graduates!

The pandemic brought a lot of challenges, but one of the blessings is that livestreaming events became easier. Now we don't have to limit the number of people who join us for graduation! Will you join us?

**Saturday, July 30th, 5:00pm**

Visit our website for more information about the graduation at [sbrm.org](http://sbrm.org).





The ripple effect you start today could still be going decades and generations from now!

## Start Another Ripple Effect!

It can be hard to imagine that even the decisions we make today can have a long-lasting impact for generations. But they can.

**Every time you give to the Mission, you start a new ripple effect.**

There's no way to know how far it will go. There's no way to know how many lives will be impacted. There's no way to know the path you'll pave for generations.

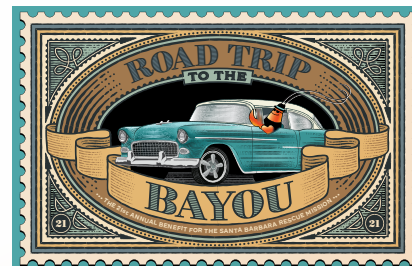
But God knows.

And you can know that you will make a difference.

**Each \$70 you give provides a full day of proven, Christ-centered recovery for one person. The healing they experience will not only impact them, but all the lives that they touch. That means the ripple effect you start today could still be going decades and generations from now!**



*“When you want to pick and choose a place to make a donation, I would first of all, pick the Rescue Mission. We were donors before Kyler ever went into the Mission. But when he came out of the program and has done so well, I am thrilled that I had been able to participate in the donor program.” — Roberta, Kyler’s Grandmother*



**SAVE THE DATE:**

**Saturday, October 1**

**Two O’Clock  
in the Afternoon**

We are excited to invite you to join us for the Santa Barbara Rescue Mission’s 21st annual benefit, Roadtrip to the Bayou!

The afternoon will include:

- Santa Barbara’s most popular Silent Auction with gifts and getaways
- Tunes by The Idiomatiques
- Rest Stop Dinner presented by Lorraine Lim Catering

For information, please contact Rebecca at 805-966-1316 ext. 105 or [rweber@sbrm.org](mailto:rweber@sbrm.org) or visit [www.sbrm.org/bayou](http://www.sbrm.org/bayou)

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