

# Milestones

Recovery happens in relationships.

EASTER 2024

## Changed Isn't a Big Enough Word

*"If you feel safe, anything is possible."*

— Travis

**B**EFORE COMING TO the Mission, Travis assumed if he ever managed to get off drugs, it would be by sheer will power.

*"I thought I was going to be able to do damage control in recovery. I thought I could white knuckle it,"* he remembers.

And so, with nothing but the clothes on his back, desperate for a break and a chance to white knuckle it into sobriety, Travis came to the Mission and asked if he could apply for our recovery program.

*"In the program, I realized that in recovery, not only do you change, but it's so drastic, there's not even adequate words to describe how vast the change is."*

Travis graduated in 2019, and since then his life has gotten better and better.

*Continued inside*

### INSIDE:

The Importance of Showing Up | 3

Transitional Shelter Pilot Program Update | 4

Come and See | 5



Santa Barbara  
Rescue Mission

sbrm.org

# Changed Isn't a Big Enough Word

Continued from cover

*"I lived in sober living for two years and worked at Target for almost a year and a half," he says. "Then, after I got my driver's license back, in 2020, I decided to change my career path to go back into construction."*

The new job meant Travis would make more so he didn't have to try to find another job or rely on working overtime. That meant he had more time to spend with his family, which was a good thing because his daughter wanted to spend time with him.

*"I started seeing my daughter on the weekends and then moved out and got an apartment so that I was able to go pick her up on Friday and then have her for the whole weekend. I volunteer with the PTA at my daughter's school and also help referee at her karate events."*

## Giving Back

His new life felt so good, Travis wanted to share it with as many people as possible.

*"After the two-year mark of leaving the Mission, I started sponsoring guys at the Mission. It was a really awesome thing to be a part of other people's spiritual awakenings and just to be of service to the place that was able to help me out a lot."*

Travis knows he probably wouldn't even be alive if weren't for friends like you.

## Because You Showed Up for Him, He can Show Up for Others!

*"My sobriety date is May 20th, 2018. I've attended every graduation since I got out of the program — I haven't missed one!"*

Travis comes to every graduation because having people like you show up for him changed his life so dramatically, he wants to do everything he can to help other people experience new life, too.

*"It's still hard to believe that I made it, but if it wasn't for donors like you and your relationship with God, I wouldn't have a relationship with God. I appreciate everything you've done for me. With this new chance that I've been given, I'm going to make the most of it and make you proud."*

Five years in, he's doing a great job of it, don't you think?

**A gift of \$93.15 provides one day of recovery. Any amount you give this Easter helps put someone else on the path to a whole new life!**



Some in the audience at Travis' graduation in 2019 said that he delivered one of the most moving speeches they've ever heard!

# Milestones



A NOTE OF FRIENDSHIP FROM ROLF GEYLING

## The Importance of Showing Up

ONE OF THE THINGS I love about Travis is that since he first came to the Mission six years ago, he hasn't missed a graduation. He's up to 15 now!

Graduates aren't even required to attend their own graduation ceremonies, let alone all the ones after. Yet Travis loves showing up for people. He loves doing it because people did it for him and that's what helped transform his life.

From my own grief and struggles, I know that having people show up and just being present with you, whatever your circumstance may be, is one of the most powerful demonstrations of love that there is.

At its core, I think that's what Easter is about, too.

God didn't leave us to battle the sin and darkness of this world alone. He came down into the dirt with us.

He showed up. And He still does, every day, because He is risen!

What love! What grace! What a God!

Happy Easter,

Rolf Geyling  
President

## Have You Ever Wondered? Rolf Answers Your Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** *Why is the name of the newsletter "Milestones"?*

**Answer:** *The newsletter name was chosen because of the importance of milestones in both life and recovery. We believe in celebrating milestones — both the big and the small — because they give us a place to look back*

*from and help us celebrate forward movement. In recovery, as well as life, it's not about perfection, it's about progress. By naming and celebrating milestones, we honor and recognize that.*

*And so, while we're never able to tell someone's entire story in our feature article, we can name some*

*of the milestones in their life (see how many you can find in Travis' story). It's a way to celebrate how far they've come, where they are now, and where God may be taking them in the future.*

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

# Transitional Shelter Pilot Program Update

## 10 People Moved Through Already!

If we could only pick one thing we want you to know about our new Transitional Pilot Program, it's that it's been busy. Really busy.

Giving men and women the opportunity to be in long-term, transitional housing and receive focused support has been a game-changer.

*"Since we've had case management and working one-on-one with guests, a lot of people in our emergency shelter have also been wanting the services,"* Jeri, our Homeless Guest Services Director, says.

*"The amount of people who are reaching out and asking for help is a lot more than we were expecting, which is good."*

And it's already working!

*"I think we've housed seven people since we opened the transitional shelter,"* Jeri says. *"That's been really exciting."*

Three of them were from the transitional program alone. The others were previous guests we were still working with.

The program is a partnership with other programs and agencies in our area. In addition to having already helped people move into permanent housing, we've also helped several move into our 12-month Residential Recovery Program, which Travis graduated from, and a few move into programs outside of the Mission.



Kylen, one of our managers, is focused on helping guests like Priscilla thrive for the long-term. Here they are working on getting Medicare benefits set up.

With all this growth, we need to hire a new case manager!

*"Please pray for for a good case manager who fits in well with the team,"* Jeri says.

It's amazing how far this program has come in such a short time! We're excited to see how God continues to use it to transform more lives and help more people move off the streets and into recovery programs and permanent housing!



The guests in the Pilot Program have their own space, separate from our homeless guest services area. This allows them to feel more stable and supported. Each week, a variety of local service providers come in to help with all the practical things that could be keeping someone from getting housing. Having everything in one place makes it accessible and allows people to get into housing and recovery programs much more quickly!



Art therapy, which allows people to explore their emotions creatively, is incredibly healing for a lot of people.

# Come and See!

## Join Us for One of Our Monthly Tours

The Santa Barbara Rescue Mission isn't our ministry, it's yours. We'd love to show you around so you can see for yourself what your gifts and support are making possible. Will you join us for a tour?

Every first Wednesday of the month at 11:00 a.m. we host a 60-minute tour of our main campus. You'll get to see:

- The men's facilities
- The Learning Center
- The homeless guest services area
- The chapel
- Our dining room
- The Transitional Shelter Pilot Program areas
- And more!

**Let us know when you're coming, and we'll be sure to save a space for you! Please contact Rebecca Weber at [rweber@sbrm.org](mailto:rweber@sbrm.org) to sign up!**



Rolf giving a tour of our campus. Please join us for the next one!





## You Make the Easter Feast Possible!

We're so thankful that friends like you make it possible for us to host holiday meals like our upcoming Easter Feast!

Meals are often the first thing that brings someone to the Mission, and every meal served gives us the opportunity to share God's love and build relationships with men and women so that we can help them see that new life really is possible!

We're praying that a lot of people will be impacted this year. Will you pray, too? The feast is taking place on March 28. If you'd like to help provide meals, go to: [sbrm.org/hope](http://sbrm.org/hope).

*What you give today could change a life forever!*

# Give Someone the Chance to Live a New Life this Easter!

It's heartbreaking, but true.

Right now, there are men and women shooting up on the beach and sleeping on the streets of our community, just like Travis was.

They'll keep doing it until they die unless someone shows up for them and shows them a different way.

That's what you can do today by giving an Easter gift.

Each \$93.15 you give provides a day of food, shelter, and recovery for someone in our community who is in desperate need.

**Any amount you give will make a difference by helping to meet needs, sharing God's love, and helping people like Travis begin living new lives!**

**Travis is an example of the lasting impact your gift can have! Every dollar you give makes a difference. You can also give instantly online at: [sbrm.org/hope](http://sbrm.org/hope)**

## Give New Life this Easter!

Yes, Rolf! I want to help someone get off the streets and experience lasting transformation! I'm giving an Easter gift of:  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

From: *A Caring Neighbor*



If you would like to charge your gift by credit card, please use reverse side or give via our secure website at [sbrm.org/hope](http://sbrm.org/hope)  
Santa Barbara Rescue Mission 535 East Yanonali St. | Santa Barbara, CA 93103-3254 | 805-966-1316 | [sbrm.org](http://sbrm.org)

Santa Barbara Rescue Mission

# Milestones

is a publication of



## Santa Barbara Rescue Mission

535 East Yanonali Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93103  
805-966-1316

[sbrm.org](http://sbrm.org)



A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.