

# Milestones

Recovery happens in relationships.

EASTER 2025

## Seeing is Believing

“God’s presence is in this place . . .  
and that’s what makes the Mission so special.” — Jenn

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Santa Barbara  
Rescue Mission

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

# Seeing is Believing

“Thank you for your part in my recovery.

*I will always remember you for your kindness.*” — Jenn

**F**OR YEARS, Jenn lived like she was two people. One Jenn promised herself she wouldn't use drugs or drink ever again. The other Jenn picked up a bottle and ended up in jail. Back and forth she went, her life tearing apart.

*“I just knew that I had to make a choice. I couldn't be two people anymore,”* Jenn remembers.

## The Plan

Determined to white knuckle her way into sobriety, Jenn made a plan. When she was released from jail, she'd live on the streets and do outpatient rehab.

*“Brilliant idea, right?”* Jenn says.

At the time, an employee who worked for the Sheriff's Treatment Program, encouraged Jenn to apply for Bethel House's 12-month Residential Treatment Program. She did and was accepted.

*“To be honest with you, I never thought it would work. After all, I was not worth anything, or at least that's what I thought,”* remembers Jenn.

But in the program, Jenn saw other women – women who had chaotic and traumatic upbringings like hers – healing. She watched them step into new life and wondered if it were possible for her, too.

## Giving it 100%

*“I remember in my Genesis counseling sessions, Allison, the instructor told me that prison and the streets would always be there. She said, ‘If this doesn't work out, you can always go back. It'll be there. But what if you gave it 100% and tried just to see what would happen?’”*

Jenn went back to her room, opened her Bible, prayed and decided she was going to trust God and give it her all. That was over 10 years ago. She's been sober and walking with Jesus ever since!

*“I was 13 when I started [using drugs], and I believe I was 31, almost 32 when I finally stopped,”* she says.

## Jenn's New Life

Last year Jenn's older brother looked at her, turned to her mom and said, *“It's like Jennifer was never even a drug addict. She's like, totally healed.”*



Jenn and her roommate, Susan, who also graduated from the Mission, encourage, support, and challenge each other daily.



## A NOTE OF FRIENDSHIP FROM ROLF GEYLING

### They'll Know

**R**ECENTLY, one of Jenn's hospice patients looked at her, his eyes lit up, and he asked her a question.

**He said, "You're a believer, aren't you?"**

Jenn said that she was.

He said, *"I knew you were. As soon as you laughed, as soon as you smiled, I saw the joy of the Lord coming out of your heart."*

Her experience reminds me of the song, "They'll Know We Are Christians"

written by Fr. Peter Scholtes. The most well-known line is: "And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love."

That's the way that I believe we are all invited to live. To love so fiercely that people can't help but see the goodness of God pouring out of us.

And don't miss the "us" there.

While we can each share God's love individually — and we should — when we also do it collectively, together, that's when love becomes an unstoppable force that is impossible to ignore.

Happy Easter,

Rolf Geyling  
President



## Have You Ever Wondered?

### Rolf Answers Your Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** *With all of the changes to federal funding programs, what's the expected impact to the Mission's services?*

**Answer:** *SBRM is 100% funded by individuals, businesses, churches*

*and foundations. So there's no direct impact anticipated. However, as SBRM is part of an important agency network, it's possible these partner agencies will be impacted, resulting in a concerning decrease in services for individuals who are struggling.*

**Now more than ever, your prayers and support make the difference. We'll keep you posted as things develop, and we know more.**

No longer torn between being two people, Jenn is living the life she was created to live. She's full of light and joy and spends her days sharing God's love and giving back to the community as a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) for hospice.

*"I felt like I was just such a taker, and I didn't contribute anything to the world, to my family. So being a CNA and caring for the elderly or the sick, the dying now is a really good way for me to give back,"* Jenn says.

Jenn knows she wouldn't be the person she is today if it wasn't for the support of partners like you.

*"Thank you for your part in my recovery. I will always remember you for your kindness,"* Jenn says.

**Each \$93.15 you give this Easter will help someone else see the new life is possible . . . and begin living in it!**



*"It's the best feeling in the world to know that I'm worth something . . . It's better than any drug I ever took." – Jenn*

# Top Ten Truths that Change Lives

A few years ago, individuals experiencing homelessness were asked, *"What do you need to believe in order for your life to change?"*

Here's the list they came up with:

1. Having a relationship with God can change everything.
2. I am loved.
3. Homelessness is my situation — it is not my identity.
4. Being homeless does not mean I am worthless.
5. I am not entitled to all the handouts in this community because nobody owes me anything. They may not even help me.
6. Homelessness can be the step to a new beginning.
7. I can go beyond my past and move toward the future, but it will take baby steps.
8. Authority and guidelines protect me.
9. Humility is brave.
10. The same effort that it takes to be homeless or in addictions is the same effort that it will take to lead me to stability.

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## See and Serve

Our Easter Feast is coming up on April 17 and we could use some extra hands to serve the homeless guests who come to us.

It's the perfect time to come and see for yourself the difference your support is making!

**Visit [sbrm.org/volunteer](http://sbrm.org/volunteer) to sign up or email us at [volunteer@sbrm.org](mailto:volunteer@sbrm.org)**

# The Joy of Mentoring

*"I think of myself as their cheerleader."*

Carolyn started mentoring women at Bethel House, where Jenn graduated, in 2012. She had just joined the Women's Auxiliary, and one of the other members encouraged her to consider being a mentor.

*"She said all I needed to do was commit to spending an hour per week with a woman in recovery, pray for her, be a good role model, and, basically, be her cheerleader throughout her time in the program. I told her that I knew nothing about addicts, but I might at least give it a try. I had such an awesome experience with my first mentee, that I really believed that this is what God had called me to do,"* Carolyn says.

As of today, Carolyn has mentored 29 women, and she absolutely loves it.

*"They are such a blessing in my life,"* she says. *"It brings me so much joy to be able to pray for them and to be one of their cheerleaders in their recovery; to see them get clean and feel good about themselves (as many of them have been led to believe that they will never amount to anything and are unlovable), mend relationships with their families and children, become employed so that they can be proud to*



Carolyn, here with her mentee, Kristina, has been mentoring at the Mission for 13 years and loves seeing women's lives change right before her eyes.

*support themselves, and, in most cases, give God all the glory for their new sober lives."*

Not every woman Carolyn has worked with has completed the program, but the vast majority — 21 of them — have. She makes it a point to stay connected to as many of them as want it.

*"I will continue to be there for them long after their program is over because, once a cheerleader, always a cheerleader,"* she says.

**For information about becoming a mentor, visit [sbrm.org/volunteer](http://sbrm.org/volunteer) or email [volunteer@sbrm.org](mailto:volunteer@sbrm.org).**

## Case Management Expansion Update

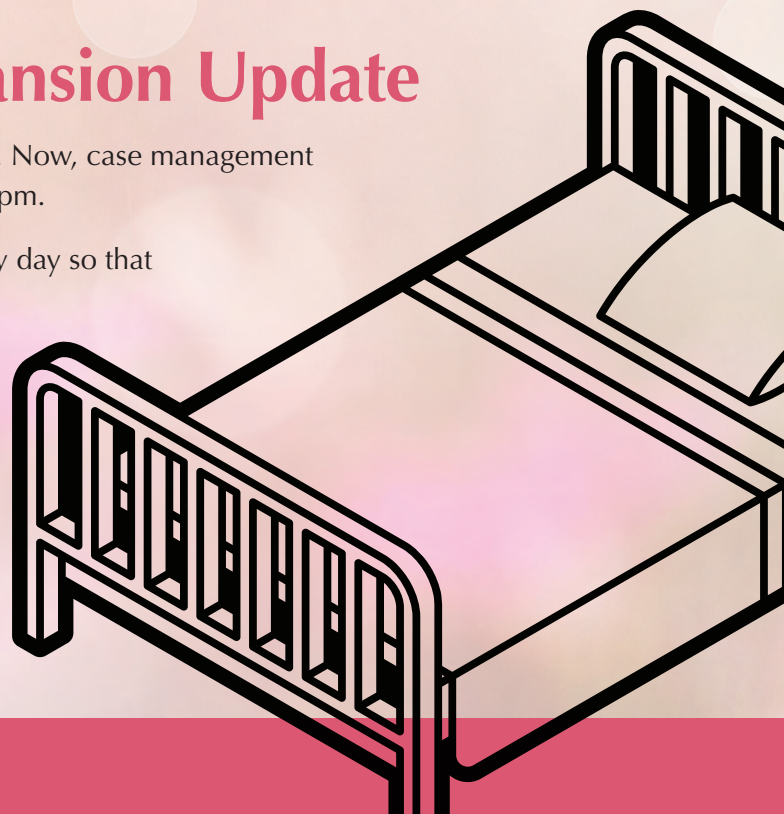
On January 8, our expanded day services went into effect. Now, case management is available for all homeless guests Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm.

Additionally, the chapel is now open from 8am-3pm every day so that people have a safe place to stay during the day.

### We currently have:

- 88 beds for men
- 40 beds for women
- 10 transitional beds for those waiting for treatment

Right now, demand for our beds is high. But because of the day services we now provide, we can facilitate better case management for our guests.





# Offer New Life this Easter!

Your Easter gift of any amount can transform a life like Jenn's!

Jenn knows where she'd be if it weren't for friends like you.

*"If I hadn't come to the Mission, I'd either be in prison or dead," she says.*

Instead, she's alive, walking with Jesus, giving back to the community, and living independently. Your gifts and support made that happen, and this Easter you can make that kind of new life possible for someone else!

**Each \$93.15 you give provides a day of food, shelter, and treatment for someone in desperate need.**

Easter is the perfect time to show people that God's love has no limits and that in Him, anyone can be transformed. Any amount you give will make a difference!

**Your gift will help meet urgent needs, share God's love, and help someone like Jenn begin living a new life!**

## Become a Partner in Hope!

Every dollar you give to the Mission helps to transform lives, but when you become a Partner in Hope and give monthly, you'll make the biggest impact all year long.

With a gift of \$25 a month in 2025, you can put someone on the path to new life!

**It's easy to sign up now at: [sbrm.org/partner](http://sbrm.org/partner)**

### Offer 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)  
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## Milestones

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