

Milestones

Recovery happens in relationships.

SUMMER 2025

An Unimaginable Miracle

“My sobriety date is November 7th, 2013. This is the story of my journey to the place that made that date possible.” — J.P.

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Santa Barbara
Rescue Mission

sbrm.org

An Unimaginable Miracle

There's no better way for you to understand the hope and miracles made possible by your support than to hear directly from someone whose life has been forever changed by your generosity. There's no better person to do that than J.P. I'll let him tell you all about it. – Rolf

MY STORY BEGINS right here in Santa Barbara in the small mountain community of Painted Cave.

I don't have any childhood memories of my father. From what I've been told, my dad left when I was around the age of 1 and my mother shortly after, leaving me, my older sister, and older brother with my grandparents.

Desperate for Escape

My grandfather was a heavy alcoholic and would go on the usual one-week vodka benders, often followed by the police taking him to jail. I was ashamed of my homelife, especially while going to school, seeing the perfect families with moms and dads.

When I was in sixth grade, my brother, who is 8 years older, introduced me to weed. I found my escape. By 7th grade, I was uninterested in school. At the end of 8th grade, my mother moved back to Santa Barbara, struggling with addiction to crystal meth and alcohol abuse. By this time, I was a full-blown pothead and enjoyed the occasional drink. The next few years were a blur.

My Dysfunctional Life

The summer before my senior year, after I had turned 18, I came home one night to find my mom spun out of her mind on meth. All my stuff was out in the driveway. Time for me to go.

I ended up renting a playhouse in my friend's backyard that was built for his little sister. This was my senior year. This was my dysfunctional life.

Three Years on the Streets

At 18, I found heroin. Every negative feeling, emotion, thought, and person was immediately drowned out.

Within three months, I was fully addicted. After having a daughter and her mom leaving me, and then meeting my son's mom and being in jail for his birth, I ended up homeless, couch surfing, sleeping in cars and garages, and wandering the streets for three years.

The days were dark.

I wanted everything to be over.

I was empty.

I was lost.

I needed help.

God's House

Help came in the form of the Santa Barbara Rescue Mission. I still don't exactly know how I got there. My conclusion is, it's God's house and He drew me in.

Words can't describe what I accomplished inside myself with my year there. I was challenged and listened to by a staff that genuinely cares. The year I spent there was the best year of my life up until that point.



"The Mission's program is based on success. There is nowhere like it on earth. Just ask the countless addicts and alcoholics that have tried every known remedy and failed prior to going to the Rescue Mission." – J.P.



A NOTE OF FRIENDSHIP FROM ROLF GEYLING

The Chance to Have Fun

THE TRAUMA AND abandonment that J.P. went through as a child breaks my heart. I imagine you feel the same.

But it's not only the loss of love, safety, and stability that is so tragic, but also the loss of innocence and childhood.

He never got the chance to play. He never got the chance to be carefree. He never got the chance to just have fun.

Many of our neighbors who battle addiction and end up homeless have similar experiences. That's one of the reasons that we committed to hosting our 4th of July BBQ. On the 4th of July, our homeless neighbors are pushed off the beach and out of parks for the day.

They literally have nowhere to go. By opening our doors, we show them that we love them and get the chance to begin building relationships with them by allowing them to do the one thing that they never get to do — have some fun.

By giving them the space to have fun, we give them a break from the tragedy of their everyday lives and show them that life can be good.

Then, when they are ready for help, they have a positive experience that can motivate them to come back, receive case management, and join the program that changed J.P.'s life and over 1,000 others!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Geyling'.

Rolf Geyling
President

They literally have nowhere to go.



Since graduating the Mission, an unimaginable, unattainable miracle has taken place. This hopeless, lost, and empty soul has found purpose. I have a strong bond with both my children. They know who their dad is and won't grow up with the instability that I had as a child. I have a license, I pay my bills, I drive a car. I have started a construction company with a friend. I have been blessed with a beautiful wife and we recently had our first baby together — a boy — and a stepdaughter who I call my own.

You Make It All Possible

The Rescue Mission has saved countless lives, including my own. I want to thank all the donors who make it possible. Without you, there would be no Mission. Without the Mission, my kids and countless others would be growing up without parents, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles.

Thank you for your support. — J.P.

You make lasting transformation like J.P.'s possible! Your gift keeps our doors open and shows people like J.P. that God loves them, and they are worthy of living a beautiful life.



J.P. and Norma were married in 2019. Both J.P.'s daughter and son were there, along with Norma's daughter.



J.P. remains deeply connected to the Mission and other graduates. Here, he and his son are with Travis S. with his daughter, and Travis K. and his son. They frequently spend time together, supporting one another and enjoying life.

It's All About Relationships

Lasting recovery happens in community. That's why the Mission's treatment program is based on the power of relationship, both with God and others.

"The relationships I built there will last a lifetime. I was set up for a smooth and successful transition back into the community," J.P. says.

And those relationships don't end at graduation. J.P., like many of our other graduates, has stayed close to the men he went through the program with and has spent the last 12 years mentoring others, giving them a supportive community that they never had before.

"Today I give back to the community from which I took so much," J.P. says. "I have sponsored dozens of men in the program. I continue to stay involved in AA also, sponsoring as many people as I can."

Even if you don't have a background of addiction, you can be a great mentor! We're always looking for people to walk alongside our residents to serve as a Christian role model and encourage them through regular connection and ongoing relationships.

If you're interested, contact our volunteer coordinator at volunteers@sbrm.org.

Celebrate the Difference You're Making!

You're Invited to Graduation!

We'd love for you to join us as we celebrate the miraculous transformations of our next class of graduates! You'll hear incredible stories of transformation — like J.P.'s — and get to celebrate the new lives these men and women are stepping into.

There's plenty of room, so no need to RSVP.

Saturday, July 12, 5:00 PM

Calvary Chapel of Santa Barbara
(Right across the street from the Mission)
1 North Calle Cesar Chavez, Suite #21
Santa Barbara, CA 93103

**Contact Rebecca at 805-966-1316 or
rweber@sbrm.org with questions.**



The 4th of July BBQ & Raffle

4th of July is a celebration of life and liberty — it's a holiday for everyone in our country. But, as most of our community celebrates, our homeless neighbors are left out.

No one is inviting them to BBQs or parties. They don't get hamburgers, hotdogs, or watermelon. Worse yet, they are pushed out of the only places they can go — the beach and parks.

Several years ago, we saw what was happening and created the 4th of July BBQ at the Mission. Now, 17 years later, it's one of the highlights of the summer! Luis, our kitchen manager, works with men in our treatment program to cook up a delicious feast and our Women's Auxiliary hosts a raffle so that our homeless guests get the chance to pick from an array of practical prizes, including backpacks, bike locks, and gifts cards.

We also bring in several carnival games — the dunk tank is always a favorite!

Please pray for all the guests who will join us. Pray that they will get a chance to have fun, and as they do, they'll experience God's goodness and begin to think about getting help to change their lives.



BE A PART OF AN
UNIMAGINABLE MIRACLE!

Transform a Life Today!

Each \$93.15 you give provides one person with a full day of care in the treatment program that changed J.P.'s life. Every \$1 makes a difference!



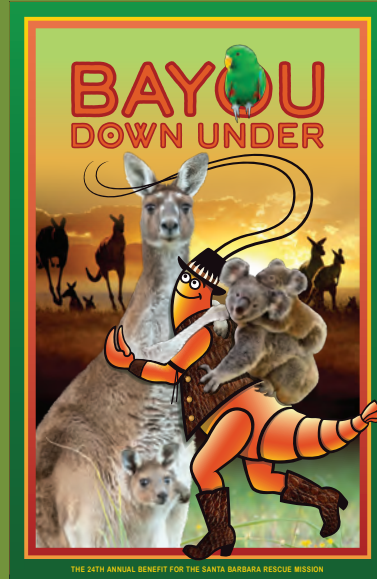
J.P. is one of over 1,000 graduates of the Mission's recovery program. And some people would say that sharing such a huge number of successes makes it seem like there is no more work to be done.

If you've taken a trip to the beach lately, you know the opposite is true. There are still a lot of people who need help. For many of them, it's life or death. Now or never.

We want to offer them the help they so desperately need — Christ-centered, life-transforming help they can't get anywhere else.

But we can only do that with the support of friends like you. Will you give a gift today to help save and change another life?

Each \$93.15 you give provides a full day of care — meals, shelter, and support in our proven treatment program. Because giving often drops in the summer, anything you can give will really help!



SAVE THE DATE: Bayou Down Under

Saturday, October 4 | 2 pm

We are excited to invite you to join us for Santa Barbara Rescue Mission's 24th annual benefit, Bayou Down Under!

For information, please contact Rebecca at 805-966-1316 or rweber@sbrm.org or visit sbrm.org/bayou25

Transform a Life Today!

Yes, Rolf! I will help transform a life this summer!
I'm giving a 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
Santa Barbara Rescue Mission 535 East Yanonali St. | Santa Barbara, CA 93103-3254 | 805-966-1316 | sbrm.org

We know that lives can

be transformed because we've seen it over
1,000 times. Will you help transform
one more today?

You can also give securely
online at sbrm.org/hope



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is a publication of



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