

Milestones

Recovery happens in relationships.

CHRISTMAS 2025

**“I try to be as
positive as I can.”**

— Monique

The Gift of Transformation

No longer homeless, Monique comes back to the Mission for our big events — *like the Christmas Feast* — to spread joy and show our guests that a life off the streets is possible!

INSIDE:

The Immanuel and Case Management Connection | 3
The Mission's Christmas Feast | 4
From Homeless to Housed this Christmas! | 6



Santa Barbara
Rescue Mission

sbrm.org

From Homeless to Housed this Christmas!

This year, give the gift of connection, community, and change. Give Case Management!



People think Case Management is just about paperwork. Helping someone fill out forms, apply for housing, or schedule medical appointments.

And yes, those services matter.

But at its heart, Case Management is more. It's deeper. It's a human connection. It's a community. It's showing our hurting neighbors they're not alone.

And at Christmas, that's what we all need.

When someone is walking beside you, encouraging you, and helping you take the next step, everything changes. That's the real gift of Case Management. It's what made the difference for Monique. And it's why so many others are finding their way from homeless to housed right here at the Mission.

Your gift makes this possible.

Just \$31.12 provides one full day of connection, community, and Case Management for someone in crisis. And even one day can put someone on the path to a brand-new life, just in time for the new year.

Please send your gift by Dec. 12 to help in time for Christmas!

From Homeless to Housed!

Yes, Rolf! I want to help people move from homeless to housed! I'm giving a Christmas 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



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



BAYOU
DOWN UNDER



Bayou Update

Thanks to friends like you, the 24th Annual Bayou fundraising event, Bayou Down Under, was a success!

L.B. Chandler shared his story of complete transformation that inspired people to give so generously that we raised over \$780,000!

A big thank you to everyone who attended and donated, and an extra special thanks go to our Women's Auxiliary!

Milestones

is a publication of



**Santa Barbara
Rescue Mission**

535 East Yanonali Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93103

805-966-1316

sbrm.org





A NOTE OF FRIENDSHIP FROM ROLF GEYLING

The Immanuel and Case Management Connection

AS A KID, I always got excited for Christmas gifts under the tree. What little boy or girl doesn't? But as the years have passed, I've realized that the gift of Christmas isn't something that can be fit into any box or contained with even the largest ribbon.

The gift of Christmas is *togetherness*.

Now I would much rather spend time with my family and friends than open any gift on my wish list. I believe that's how God intends for it to be. After all, Christmas in the Christian tradition celebrates Immanuel or "God with us."

Christmas is a reminder that God didn't leave us alone in the mess of this broken world. Instead, he entered the mess with us. He comes alongside us, guiding us, encouraging us, and making sure we know we're not alone.

That's Case Management.

It's about connection.

It's about having someone who really sees you and is still for you. It's about someone getting into the mess with you and guiding you to a way out.

That's why Case Management is such a great gift — *it reflects the very thing that Christmas is all about!*

"Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" — Matthew 1:23 (NLT)

The Gift of Transformation

WHEN MONIQUE WAS facing homelessness in the fall of 2023, even though she wanted help, she had no one to turn to.

"I didn't have friends or family to stay with," she says. "If I hadn't come to the Mission, I would just been on the street or slept in my car."

Monique came to the Mission looking for a safe place to stay right around the time we started offering Case Management services to our homeless guests. Monique signed up and in just six weeks she was moving into her own apartment!

"What helped me the most were the Case Management workers, Jerianne and Kylen," Monique says. "I was able to schedule appointments. They were able to get in contact with City Net and housing. And they helped me internet-wise because I'm really not computer literate."

Case Management Provides The Missing Puzzle Piece

Computer skills weren't Monique's only challenge. She also has mental health issues — bipolar and schizophrenia — and needs regular medical care.

Case Management helped with that, too!

***"I just want to say
thank you. Thank you to
the donors."***

— Monique

"I used Doctors Without Walls and women's clinics," Monique says.

Having people walk alongside her to navigate the whole system was one of the best gifts Monique received. But even more powerful than help with paperwork and appointments was not feeling alone.

"I couldn't have done it by myself," she says.

That's the biggest thing your support of the Mission offers our homeless neighbors — a community.





One of the best ways to help people build community is eating together. That's why we host a Christmas Feast every year.

Spreading Christmas Joy

Even though Monique had moved into her apartment by Christmas, she came back to celebrate and encourage our homeless guests. She wasn't going to miss the opportunity.

"We were just eating and enjoying one another, and we really appreciated a very delicious, healthy meal," she says.

Monique doesn't just come back for Christmas, she regularly volunteers throughout the year. Not only at the Mission, but throughout the community and at her church.

"I try to give back. I volunteer a lot, like beach cleanups, neighborhood cleanups," Monique says.

Everywhere she goes, she's a beacon of joy and positivity, showing people that no matter what their situation might be, there is still hope for new life.

Because of YOU!

"Tell the donors thank you, that their contributions help us a lot. They help us to thrive and keep going each day," Monique says.

This Christmas, help someone else go from homeless to housed with each \$31.12 you give!



Felipe (on the right) says the Mission gave him the connections he needed to heal, especially his bond with mentor Maeton.

Transformation Doesn't Stop at Graduation

At the Mission we will always do everything we can to help people like Monique escape the streets and move into stable housing. But that's only part of our mission.

Our bigger purpose is to help every one of our guests to experience lasting transformation.

Thanks to you, hundreds have. Felipe is a great example.

Felipe spent 32 years trapped in alcohol addiction. He lost it all and ended up in a jail cell. That's when he learned about the Mission's 12-month Residential Treatment Program. He graduated on June 10, 2010 and has been walking in a new life ever since.

"Since leaving the Mission, my life has changed in extraordinary ways.

I now work at a store where people are often amazed by my joyful and consistent customer service. I've managed to pay off all my debts. I've reconnected with both of my daughters and spend time with them regularly. I earned a Paralegal Certificate from Allan Hancock College and am currently pursuing a degree in Viticulture and Enology. Perhaps most joyfully, I got married to a wonderful Christian woman in August.

The Rescue Mission didn't just help me get sober — it gave me a new life.

To the donors and supporters of Santa Barbara Rescue Mission — thank you. Your support made my transformation possible. You helped save my life, and I'm doing my best to pay it forward every day," Felipe says.

The Mission's Christmas Feast

The only thing worse than being hungry and homeless at Christmas is being alone. That's why the Mission hosts a special Christmas Feast every year and invites all our homeless neighbors to join us for a hot nourishing meal and a time of connection.

This year's celebration is on December 18, and thanks to generous friends like you, we'll serve at least 300 meals. We also build community with a variety of holiday activities, including:

- Building gingerbread houses
- Gift giveaways
- And decorating for Christmas!

Even though Monique has her own home to spend the holidays in, she plans to join us for the feast to be an example to others that you can move from homeless to housed!

"I like to come to the feast and fellowship and spread resources like how I got placed," Monique says.

Our kitchen staff is already planning the menu. It's going to be amazing!



Make Christmas Extra-Special

Donate Christmas Giveaway Items!

Because so many men and women come to us with nothing but the clothes on their backs, our Women's Auxiliary hosts a special giveaway during our Christmas Feast. Our goal is always to make sure that every guest receives at least one brand new item. To make sure there are enough gifts for everyone this year, we could use your help.

We especially need:

- Shoes (all types and sizes, especially work boots)
- Sweatshirts
- Sweatpants
- Hats
- Winter coats
- Backpacks

You can either make a financial gift so that the Women's Auxiliary can purchase items or drop off brand new items at the Mission before December 12.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Weber at 805-966-1316 or rweber@sbrm.org.



**Santa Barbara
Rescue Mission**