

Milestones

Recovery happens in relationships.

FALL 2026

Love Was Waiting.

“The minute I walked in through those doors, I was just showered in love.” — Ali

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Santa Barbara
Rescue Mission

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Love Helped Ali Find a New Life

WHEN ALI WALKED into Bethel House in August 2023, she did not expect love to be the thing that changed her life.

For almost a decade, she had been drinking and using drugs. Her addiction had taken her from family conflict to couch surfing and living in her car. By the time she was 20, her clothes were in her car, her relationships were breaking, and she felt exhausted by the damage her addiction caused.

Then one night, she came home to her grandmother's house after using. Through everything, her grandmother had stayed close to her when others had stepped away. But that morning, Ali saw disappointment on her face. She had broken trust with the one person who still believed in her.

"I was very much alone," Ali says.

That moment became her rock bottom.

Ali had grown up with deep family pain. Her birth mother died when Ali was four. Her siblings were separated. Substance abuse had affected generations of her family. By the time Ali was 11, she had started down the same road.

God was still working.

Ali knew her birth mother had once gone to Bethel House, so when she had a chance to come here, she took it. She entered the program on August 21, 2023. Her sobriety date is August 22.

The care she found here surprised her.

"The minute I walked in through those doors, I was just showered in love," Ali says.

At first, that kind of love felt strange to her. She had learned to protect herself. She didn't know how to receive consistent care, encouragement,

accountability, and kindness.

But day by day, the love of God showed through the staff, her case manager, her sponsor, and the other women in the program.

"They wanted to love me until I could love myself," Ali says.

With support from friends like you, Ali graduated from our 12-month Residential Treatment Program in August 2024. Since then, her life has continued to grow in beautiful ways.

She returned to school fully sober. She earned associate degrees in Administration of Justice and Liberal Arts, Arts and Science. She now continues her education at Santa Barbara City College in alcohol and drug counseling.

She also serves others who are fighting addiction. After graduating, she worked as a case manager and a counselor here in Santa Barbara helping people facing substance abuse, mental health challenges, homelessness, and other hardships. And most recently, Ali was hired full-time in a local radiology department.

Her dream now is to live her life in gratitude and share the message of recovery and faith with others.

"I just want to continue to remember what it was like and pass the solution on to people around me," she says.

Thank you for helping make stories like Ali's possible.

Each \$30.36 you give this fall can change another life like Ali's!



“My life would not be where it is if it wasn't for amazing, God-heart-filled people doing God's work.” — Ali





A NOTE OF FRIENDSHIP FROM ROLF GEYLING

Love Holds Fast When Life Erodes

SOMETIMES PEOPLE ASK what homelessness looks like in Santa Barbara. The candid answer is that it looks different for different people in different situations.

For some, it means sleeping outside on the beach or a bench. For others, it means living in a car, trying to hold onto transportation, appointments, work, and one last measure of stability.

A woman once told me she had faced the difficult choice between keeping her apartment and her car. At first, it surprised me that she'd keep her car. But then she explained it. Without a car, how would she get to work? How would she get to appointments? How would she get to where there was help?

That is what happens when life starts to erode. People face choices most of us have never had to make.

Ali's story shows that erosion too. Addiction, trauma, and homelessness nearly stole her future. But when she came to Bethel House, she found steady love, structure, accountability, and hope.

That is why your compassion matters so much.

Our beds are typically full. The need is great. But because of friends like you, our doors stay open. A person can still come for a meal, a shower, a conversation with a case manager, or a first step toward a changed life.

Meeting needs together,

**Thank you for ensuring we can offer
life-changing love every day.**

***"Greater love has no
one than this, that
someone lay down
his life for his friends."***

— John 15:13 (ESV)



When Home Is a Car

For some of our homeless neighbors, homelessness doesn't always look like sleeping on the beach or under the bridge.

Sometimes it looks like life lived from the front seat of a car.

Last year, Santa Barbara County saw a 35% increase in people living in their cars. That's over 950 people sleeping in their car every night, right here.

That was part of Ali's story. Before she came to Bethel House, she was couch surfing and living in her car. Much of what she owned was packed inside it. She moved from place to place, trying to survive while addiction and pain eroded her life.

For many people, a car can feel like the last stable thing they have left. It can be the way they get to work, make appointments, find help, or keep what little they own close by.

Your support keeps our doors open in welcoming love. A hurting neighbor can still come for a meal, a hot shower, clean clothes, and a conversation with a case manager who can help them take the next right step.

For someone living in a car, that care can become the first sign that their life can be different.



Thanksgiving Begins!

Thanksgiving is still weeks away, but preparations have already begun at the Mission.

Our Thanksgiving Feast is the largest meal we serve all year. Guests are welcomed to sit down, slow down, and enjoy a full holiday meal served with care. The menu includes roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, green beans, gravy, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie.

Many who come to us are hungry, tired, and malnourished, so we make sure seconds are available. No one should leave hungry.

For our guests, a meal like this can feel like a moment of rest, dignity, and home.





A Safe Night Can Start a New Life!

Each \$30.36 you give provides a night of shelter and safety!

When life falls apart, a safe place to sleep can mean everything.

Ali knows that kind of instability. Before she came to Bethel House, she was couch surfing and living out of her car. Addiction and pain had left her exhausted, isolated, and unsure where to turn.

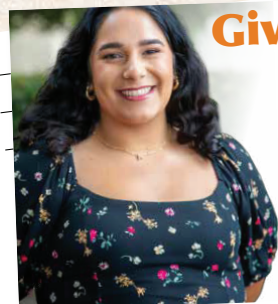
But when she came through the doors of the Mission, she found more than shelter. She found love, structure, accountability, and the first steps toward a new life.

Many men and women in our community need that same first step.

Your gift of \$30.36 provides one night of safe shelter for a homeless neighbor. That means a safe place to sleep, away from fear, exposure, and the dangers of the street. It also means access to meals, showers, clean clothes, case management, and people who care enough to help.

A night of shelter may seem simple. But for someone who has nowhere else to go, it can become the beginning of hope.

Give today to provide a safe night of shelter and help open the door to a new life.



Give Life-Changing Shelter!

Yes, Rolf! I will help men and women have safe shelter. I'm giving:

☐ \$ _____ to help as much as possible



**Santa Barbara
Rescue Mission**



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**



Prayer Requests

Please pray for our homeless neighbors who will come to the Mission this holiday season. Pray each meal, shower, bed, and conversation helps them know they are loved.

Please pray for guests living in their cars, on the streets, or moving from place to place. Pray they find safety, hope, and the next right step.

Please pray for our Case Management team as they connect guests with treatment, housing resources, and support.

Please pray for provision and for health, wisdom, and strength for our staff.

Milestones

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