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Carolyn moved clear across the country to get herself and her two children as far away as she could from an abusive husband and father in Georgia. “I love my husband,” she says. “But he’s been abusive mentally, emotionally, verbally and physically, so we decided to move here and start a new life. I wanted some time and distance between us.” Carolyn didn’t choose the Valley by chance...she and her husband met here 20 years ago, and she had friends here who helped her out when she arrived.

As Carolyn puts it, “God blesses me and opens doors and puts the right people in my path.” Finding Hope of the Valley and our Genesis House. “It’s a new place and it’s pretty. We have just what we need. We’re happy and stress free.” Along with the other women, Carolina has different chores around the house...making sure the living space is clean and neat for everyone.

Not having to worry about where the family is going to sleep or find food has enabled Carolina to look for a job that will support them when they leave. When she’s not working at the Mission or job hunting, she is taking classes that are helping her build her résumé and learn about the financial planning skills she’ll need when her family is on its own again. Carolina also receives support from the other women living at Genesis House. “We support each other and pray together,” she says. “It’s beautiful.”

“I want to thank everybody that’s changed our lives. And I thank God that my kids and I aren’t homeless that He gave us this opportunity!”

Here’s my holiday gift to help the Mission family:

☐ $16.40 to help feed and care for 8 people
☐ $26.65 to help feed and care for 13 people
☐ $35.30 to help feed and care for 26 people
☐ $1 to feed and care for as many as possible
☐ A special gift of $250 to sponsor a full table at the Great Thanksgiving Feast

Check enclosed  Bill my credit card

Credit Card #
EXPIRY DATE
PhONe #

Donate online at www.hopeofthevalley.org or call (818) 392-0020.

Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission
P.O. Box 248
Sun Valley, CA 91353-0248

Donation ts are tax-deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.

www.hopeofthevalley.org  (818) 392-0020
A Message from Ken Craft

Hope of the Valley was just selected as an Official Charity Partner of the L.A. Marathon in 2015! It's a great opportunity for those in L.A. County to learn more about our services and programs, and how they can support the Mission. Our President/CEO, Ken Craft, is even running the 26.2 mile loop on Sunday, March 15.

He's sitting alone at a big table...

His face is tired and careworn. His eyes are downcast. It's Thanksgiving, and he's alone.

Now, watch his face as you approach the table. You wish him a “Happy Thanksgiving” and put a heaping plate of turkey with piles of mashed potatoes and dressing smothered in gravy down in front of him.

“We're so glad you could join us today,” you say. “It's great to have you here for Thanksgiving.” He looks up, and smiles...

perhaps for the first time in weeks. Then, so quietly you can hardly hear, he says, “Thank you.”

As a member of our Mission family, you bring smiles to the faces of hundreds of people. You make those who are homeless feel welcome. You fill those who are hungry with more than food.

Each time a meal is served, each time a homeless person sleeps in a warm bed, each time prayers are said in chapel, it's because you're part of a family that cares for those who are lost, hurt and alone. We bless you and thank you for all you do!

Sponsors still needed!

You can still sponsor tables and individual meals for between 1,000 to 2,000 guests this holiday season! $2.05 sponsors a meal; $250 sponsors a table and provides over 120 meals. Send a gift in the enclosed envelope or donate securely online at hopeofthevalley.org. Thank you!

REMEmber! Make your year-end gift before midnight on Dec. 31. Avoid the rush and donate now using the enclosed envelope or securely online at hopeofthevalley.org.

“Tidings of comfort and joy!”

Holiday meals: 7,140
Shelter from the cold: 1,680 nights

There's a day for giving thanks and a day for getting bargains.

Giving Tuesday, December 2, is the day for giving back! In the midst of our busiest season of the year, we're scrambling to provide more than 7,140 meals and nearly 1,680 nights of shelter for countless men, women and children.

Your Giving Tuesday gift will go a long way toward providing the food and care our community's hungry, homeless people need most.

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You can help! Dust off your running shoes and join Ken in running the marathon for Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission. Or sponsor Ken and our team members by visiting lamarathon.com or hopeofthevalley.org. All the proceeds will go to feed, shelter and care for homeless, hungry people at the Mission. For more information, visit hopeofthevalley.org.

**I feel like I’m worth something!”**

Marco was removed from his parent’s home when he was only five. “I grew up in about 20 different group homes,” he says. “Around 10 years old, I started smoking weed. About 12, I started popping pills, ecstasy. Drugs were my way out of my own head.”

By the time he was 18, Marco’s drug use had taken over his life. “I was working a dead-end job, selling drugs just to be able to afford my addiction,” he says. “I lived in my car for six months off and on. Life was just horrible.”

Then Marco befriended a young man whose father is the President of Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission. “He was telling me about his dad’s program, so I came here to have a roof over my head,” Marco says. “I wasn’t into the God stuff, but somebody in the program was like, ‘You tried doing it on your own. Obviously, that didn’t work. Try doing it God’s way while you’re in this program.’”

Marco agreed, and has seen his life transformed through the Mission’s nine-month recovery program. “I devoted my life to God and it has been completely different. There aren’t any drugs that can make me feel as good as I feel today,” he says. “I actually look forward to waking up. I feel like I’m worth something. I have friends who are here just for me, not for my drugs, not for the money.”

Since entering the program, Marco has been praying for a way to go to college to study criminal justice, and he’s seeing his prayers answered through the Mission. “They’re going to hook me up with a computer, with money for school, help me get a car,” he says. “God’s answering my prayers, and it’s just grown my faith more and more.”

Marco credits the Mission with saving his life. “I didn’t even want to live when I first got here,” he says. “My whole perspective has changed. The name of this place is Hope of the Valley, and it has definitely given me hope.”

**May God Bless and Prosper You Abundantly in 2015,**

Ken Craft
President/CEO

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Placing her family in God’s hands

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