Shay was in love. But love didn’t turn out how she expected, and instead involved abuse, heartache, pain and darkness. She decided to start over.

“I wasn’t afraid of being on my own with my two kids and no help at all,” she says. “But we didn’t have anything – no food and no resources.”

Shay called 211, a resource for housing, food, clothing and other assistance for those in need. They referred the family to the Mission’s Genesis House. Shay immediately transferred her older son to a nearby school, found daycare for her younger son and started “moving forward.”

She began taking classes to get her GED, which will eventually enable her to get her Associate’s degree. She also transferred her Certified Nursing Assistant license to California so she can begin looking for work.

“I try to get up every day, worship and do what I have to do,” she says. “I haven’t given up, because if you get too comfortable, then life is going to pass you by. Being at the Mission has been a great learning experience on the way towards independence!”

Shay is also taking massage therapy classes to have another avenue of possible employment. She is not afraid to make changes where they are necessary.

“I’ve seen such a change in my family since we came here,” Shay says. “My son was bullied and taunted at his old school. Here, he’s happy to get up, meet his friends at the bus stop and go to school to learn.”

Although they had to relocate, Shay and her family have no regrets. “We had to move thousands of miles to feel loved. But that’s okay – I’ve got my family and I would never trade that for the world.”
A Message from Ken Craft

Beyond the Threshold

In the Apostle Peter’s letter to persecuted Believers in what is now modern day Turkey, he talks about a “hope that never dies,” a hope that will be with people even if they have “sorrow and all kinds of tests.” Peter encourages them to endure, knowing they will enjoy the salvation God promises!

This hope that Peter spoke of nearly 2,000 years ago is the same hope we offer those like Shay and Sam, who come to Hope of the Valley. Finding hope takes longer for some than for others.

It’s hard to be hope-filled when you’re sleeping on the streets, or hungry every day, or trapped by an addiction to drugs or alcohol.

So, first comes help – meals, a bed, counseling and classes. Only then, thanks to the generosity and support of partners like you, can lives that are hopeless become hope-filled!

Thank you for all you do!

Ken Craft
President/CEO

Easter Celebration

On Good Friday, April 3, hundreds of homeless men, women and children will join the Mission for an amazing holiday celebration, including a delicious ham dinner with all the fixings. Your support will provide these meals, plus the additional 13,806 meals we will provide this Easter season.

You can help by volunteering your time, or by donating one or more of these items:

- Ham
- Canned vegetables
- Stuffing
- Mashed potatoes
- Eggs
- Milk
- Orange juice/fruit juice
- Coffee
- Creamer

Donations can be dropped off at 8165 San Fernando Road, Mon-Fri from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sat. from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sun. from noon to 5 p.m. For more information on volunteering, please call Laurie Craft at (818) 392-0020 x 107 or e-mail laurie@hopeofthevalley.org.

LA Marathon Official Charity

Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission has been designated an official charity for the LA Marathon.

When you sign up for the marathon through Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission, we will cover your registration and provide a training program to prepare you for the race. As a member of the HVRM Run for Hope team, you will also receive a shoulder bag, DriFit team jersey, visor, water bottle and a personal fundraising page.

Mission President Ken Craft will also be running in the marathon to raise money for the Mission.

For more information, email James Craft at james.craft@hopeofthevalley.org.

Serving up 9,971 heaping plates of hope!

You’ve probably seen people with these signs: “Will work for food.” “Hungry Vet.” “Homeless. Please help.”

But there’s one sign you probably haven’t seen that says, “I need hope. Will you help?”

Because hope truly is the most basic need of people who are hungry, homeless and hurting.

Hope begins with meals, and we need your help to serve 9,971 of them in the next 30 days. Hope grows with shelter, classes and counseling. Hope takes on different forms, but it begins with YOU.

Whether you use the enclosed slip, or give online at www.hopeofthevalley.org, your gift of $2.05 will provide a hot meal and hope that tomorrow will be a better day.

Just imagine how much a gift of $25 or $50 or even $100 has the potential to do! Please make a special Easter gift today to feed and bring hope to the lives of as many people as possible.
“Clean and sober!”

Sam began using Xanax, a drug that treats anxiety and panic disorder, in high school. After graduation, he moved up to northern California and was introduced to heavier drugs – morphine, oxycontin, heroin, and meth.

“I was jumping up and down the coast of California, looking for a place where I could make my opiate addiction work,” he says. “I would hit rock bottom, lose a job, and have no money for rent. Then I would just go somewhere else and do the same thing over again.”

When Sam found himself living with his drug dealer, he had finally had enough. “I just said, ‘I have to leave. I have to go to rehab.’”

Sam enrolled in a rehab program in Tarzana, but needed a place to stay the night before, so he stopped by Hope of the Valley. When he completed rehab, he returned to the Mission’s House of Hope and entered our Life Recovery Program. “I already knew everybody from staying here just one night, so it was a very warm welcome back,” Sam says.

Though he is an introvert, it wasn’t long before Sam felt right at home. “I got into the program and started feeling like I was a part of something,” he says. “I felt so comfortable to let everything out. I’ve done a lot of soul searching and appreciate all of the teaching and therapy.”

Sam eventually graduated and has been clean and sober for a year now. “Just a year ago, I was putting dope in my arm and now I’m not even drinking!” he says.

Sam now lives at the Bridge House, the Mission’s transitional living home, doing odd jobs while he looks for permanent work, and helping out at the Mission whenever possible. “When I came here, I hoped to take in all of the good the Mission had to offer, and then give back as much as possible,” he says. “I am so grateful that this place exists. Everybody that works here played a part in my recovery. I couldn’t have done it anywhere else.”

LAHSA (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority) has selected Hope of the Valley as one of 13 agencies to run a special winter shelter for homeless individuals in the Greater Los Angeles area. Located in Pacoima and Skid Row, the shelter will run from December 1 to March 14. A total of 132 beds are being provided through the shelters.

Thank you Grainger Corporation!
The Grainger Corporation blessed the Mission with a gift of $32,000 which has been used to purchase a much-needed truck that will be used to pick up donations for our programs and Thrift Store. To schedule a pickup, visit our website at www.hopeofthevalley.org and click on “Donate” and then “Thrift Store.”

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Thank you for making 2014 a year of help, hope & healing!

These figures only hint at the great life-saving, life-changing work you’ve made possible during the past year.

It is all possible because dedicated groups and individuals, churches, schools, companies, synagogues and families donate money, clothing and more than 26,000 hours of their time to make life better for neighbors in need. THANK YOU!

“The largest Thanksgiving meal in the Valley.” This is the only way to describe our 2014 Thanksgiving banquet at the Mission. More than 1,100 guests enjoyed live entertainment along with turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls and pumpkin pie. Our thanks to all the volunteers and donors who made this great event possible!

42 men began their road to recovery in our nine-month recovery program at the John E. White House of Hope. When they graduate, many will return to the community to serve, reunite with their families and continue their newfound productive, purposeful lives.

Over 20,440 nights of safe shelter were provided for men, women and children who might have otherwise been sleeping in cars or on the streets of The San Fernando Valley.

Hope of the Valley held a gala dinner and auction fundraiser at the world-famous New York Street at CBS studios. Entertainment was provided by the Burbank High School Octet. Special thanks to Michael Klausman and CBS Studios, and to all those who supported and attended this great event.

Nearly 86,800 nutritious meals were served to hungry men, women and children.

Building is underway for the Mission’s new Recuperative Care Shelter, the first and only facility in the Valley where homeless men and women discharged from the hospital can rest and receive help to recover. Scheduled to open in July 2015, this very specialized shelter will provide nurse assessments, daily visits, medication assistance, wound care and transportation to and from appointments.

Get connected  Become a fan Follow us  Visit us online: www.hopeofthevalley.org

Please use my special Easter gift to feed and care for people in need.

☐ $20.50 to feed and care for 10 people
☐ $51.25 to feed and care for 25 people
☐ $75.85 to feed and care for 37 people
☐ $_________ to feed and care for as many as possible

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

E-MAIL

Check enclosed  Bill my credit card

CREDIT CARD #

EXP. 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

EAS15

Please return this completed form with your donation. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.