I was born into a family of addicts... If the Mission weren’t here, I’d be strung out and homeless.

I might not even be alive.
"Let there be joy!"

Caroling angels. Christmas pageants. Celebrations around the world.

Christmas is truly a miraculous time.

It's a time to share love. A time to raise hopes. A time to be joyful!

And that's exactly what makes it a very difficult time for the men, women and children who make their home with us here at the Mission.

Many are apart from their families, separated from spouses and children. Most would tell you they have very little to celebrate.

It is your gifts that make Christmas the very best day possible for them.

Special meals. Decorations. Small gifts. And above all, a celebration of that very first Christmas… a reminder for them – and for all of us – that miracles do happen and prayers are answered!

This then is my Christmas wish for all who join us here at the Mission during the holidays, and for you and those who are near and dear: Let there be joy!

—

That’s our goal this holiday season.
Each meal you sponsor today is so much more than a plate of food.

It’s a chance for you to help change a life.
To end hunger. To end homelessness.

Make your gift online at hopeofthevalley.org.
Or use the enclosed reply card and envelope.

Thank you for sharing your blessings and your bounty!

—

READY TO DASH!
Thursday, November 24 is our big Thanksgiving 5K on the CBS Studios lot. Make sure you sign up before it’s too late! All proceeds benefit the thousands of families, seniors and community members who desperately need help this Thanksgiving.

hopeofthevalley.org  (818) 392-0020
chloe.winters@hopeofthevalley.org
“My father was a heroin addict and my mother was a meth addict,” Nick says. “That was my life growing up.”

Nick began drinking and smoking marijuana in grade school and, by the time he was 14, he was using Vicodin. “I thought it healed my pain, but it got to a point where I couldn’t take enough pills to feel better,” he says. “Then I found heroin and my life spiraled out of control. I was 17.”

Nick lost jobs and stole from his family and friends to support his habit. “I ended up losing everything and wound up homeless.”

One night, while he was lying in a field, Nick had a moment of clarity. “I had no money, I was detoxing, and I was alone. Nobody wanted anything to do with me and reality set in. I thought, ‘Look at everything I’ve done.’”

Nick entered a rehab, where he got saved and clean but, eventually, he fell away from the Lord and relapsed. It was then he came to our John E. White House of Hope, where he has regained his sobriety and rebuilt his relationship with the Lord. “I’m standing on Scripture,” he says. “I believe I will persevere only by His grace.”

Nick’s relationship with his family has also been restored, and he’s built strong connections with the other men in the program. “We build each other up and hold each other accountable,” he says.

Nick has since graduated and now runs our House of Hope. He credits the Mission with changing the course of his life. “I’m grateful to the Mission for having grace, for being a place of second chances, and for helping me feel confident in myself.”
The perfect gift? Look no further!

For homeless people in our community, Christmas is a season of lonely days and cold nights. Your Christmas Gift means food, shelter and the basic services that provide hope for happier days and nights ahead.

It’s easy:
1. Choose a gift.
2. Add it to your reply card.

Or visit our Christmas Gift Catalog online at hopeofthevalley.org/GiftCatalog.

Meals – $25
A hot, nourishing meal at the Mission may be their only meal of the day.

Toys for children – $35
For homeless families, giving their children toys on Christmas seems like a distant dream. Our annual Christmas Is For Kids toy giveaway makes this dream a reality, and puts huge smiles on kids’ faces.

Safe shelter – $50
Even in the Los Angeles area, many people suffer through cold nights without any kind of shelter or even a blanket. Give a man, woman or child safe shelter, warm blankets and the chance to finally rest.

Healing in our recovery programs – $100
True change requires more than food and shelter. Our men’s John E. White House of Hope and women’s Genesis House give people the resources they need to transform their lives.

These Christmas gifts are representative of the needs of people served by Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission. Donations may be used to support the area of ministry where the need is greatest.