2 Years... 40,000 Meals and Hope Restored!

This past August, Hope of the Valley completed and celebrated it’s first two years as a Rescue Mission in the Valley. As the President/CEO I would be remiss if I did not stop and give thanks to some special people and organizations who helped the Mission not only get established, but truly thrive in providing care and resources for the needy.

First and foremost I want to thank God who gives us the strength each day to compassionately care for people that are near and dear to His heart, the hungry and homeless.

I want to thank our hundreds of volunteers who faithfully serve our friends on the streets, especially Laurie, Scott and the kitchen crew who have prepared over 40,000 hot nutritional meals...better than any restaurant cooking!

I want to thank our incredible Board of Directors who provides leadership, resources, wisdom, and hands on involvement in building this organization. You all inspire me!

I want to thank each and every donor who gave finances or gifts in kind. We could not do what we do without your support. I especially want to thank Keyes Motors for their generous support along with Ms. White. You are the wind beneath my wings.

I want to thank Jonathan, our first staff member who works as many hours as I do, relentlessly giving himself to further the cause of compassionate ministry.

As we prepare to move into our new 22,000 sq ft building, a special thanks to each and every person who has prayed for us, given to us or served with us. It’s amazing what can happen when we work together...THANK YOU!

Sincerely,
Ken Craft
President/CEO

Massive Thanksgiving Dinners Scheduled
Locations in Van Nuys and Sun Valley will Host Annual Event

This year the Mission will provide two Great Thanksgiving Banquets. The first one will take place on Wednesday November 23rd at 1pm in Van Nuys and the other will take place on Thanksgiving Day at 1pm at our new facility, in the parking lot, in Sun Valley.

Each person in attendance will enjoy a traditional thanksgiving meal, which will include turkey, gravy, mash potatoes, stuffing, rolls, vegetables, and pie. No one will be turned away and no one will go away hungry.

Due to the limitations of our existing kitchen facilities, Bruce of Bruce’s Catering has offered to cook and deliver all of our Thanksgiving meals. Over 1,000 people will be served between the two meals. THANK YOU BRUCE!

A hungry homeless women enjoys a Thanksgiving Meal at last years banquet.

SHOP or DROP!
Find Great Deals or Drop Off Donations at New Thrift Store

The Mission’s Thrift Store is NOW OPEN! When you donate your gently used clothes and household items, you are helping a person in need receive a second chance. Our new Thrift Store provides clothing to the homeless free of charge, jobs in the community, job training for the homeless, bargain deals for the poor and great finds for Thrift Store shoppers. Plus, all net proceeds fund existing and new programs to care for the homeless.

So, come to 8165 N. San Fernando Rd in Sun Valley (the old Roscoe Hardware Building) and Shop or Drop off your donations! (all donations will receive a tax deductible receipt). If you need a donation pick up, call and schedule your appointment today at 818-392-0020.

Volunteer Spotlight
Passion and Purpose Found in Serving Others

It was a Sunday morning and Mission Director Ken Craft was talking about the Rescue Mission at West Valley Christian Church. Sitting in the audience was Scott Dahlgren. He was moved by the message and decided to offer his skills preparing food in the kitchen at the Rescue Mission. That was nearly two years ago.

“There is no greater feeling than handing a hungry person a plate of food, or giving away a pair of shoes to someone who has none” says Scott. “You can hear about the Grand Canyon, and look at pictures, but until you are there you have never really experienced its power...so it is with serving the hungry and homeless. Until you do it, you will never understand the power in serving and blessing others.”

Scott is one of the lead cooks at the Mission. He has assisted in preparing the over 40,000 hot nutritional meals served at the Mission in our first two years. Thank you Scott!

If you would like to volunteer at the Mission go to hopeofthevalley.org or call 818-392-0020.

Brand new Thrift Store provides clothing and job training for the homeless.

Volunteer Scott Dahlgren prepares a hearty meal for the homeless.
SERIOUS FOOD SHORTAGE

Thanksgiving comes around once a year, but we serve the hungry each and every day. We are currently experiencing a food shortage. Please consider conducting a food drive in your place of worship, school, business, or neighborhood...or simply go shopping and drop off any of the following items that we need....THANK YOU!

**Most Needed Food Items:**
- Rice
- Cream of (anything) Soup
- Canned Vegetables
- Cooking Oil
- Disposable Plates
- Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Salad Dressing
- Canned Beans
- Sugar
- Disposable Forks
- Napkins

**PROFILES OF HOPE**

**Grandson of Original Batman Gets Fresh Start at Mission**

Mission Provides Hope, Housing and Healing for Grandson in Need

John Wilson Jr. is the grandson of the very first batman, Lewis Wilson. Whereas the original Batman may have been saving lives on the big screen, John needed some saving of his own.

John’s family life growing up was not the best. He remembers his parents regularly fighting. At 10 years of age he was sent to boarding school which produced anger and resentment in his heart. He did not return home until he was 18 years old. When he did return home, his parents had parted ways and he ended up living on the streets in a motor home with his father.

The anger in his heart and life on the streets assisted John in making some poor decisions that left him estranged from family and financially broke. At his low point he found Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission. The Mission took him in providing shelter, counseling, meals, showers and most of all hope.

“Before I would hear about bad things and didn’t want that path for my life. Now I have experienced some really bad things. Now I know for sure I want a better life. I am so thankful that the Mission has opened my eyes and taken me under their wings. Now I want to live up to the achievements of my grandfather and make him proud!” says John who is now part of the Mission’s Fresh Start program.

**1st Annual Comedy Night**

Being Homeless is no Laughing Matter so Make Your Laugh Matter!

It is not too late to sign up for our “Comedy with a Cause” dinner and comedy night Saturday October 29, 2011 at 6:30pm at the First Presbyterian Church Granada Hills.

Dinner will be provided by Bruce’s Catering and our special guest comedian is funny man and impressionist Scott Wood. The cost of the dinner fundraiser is $50.00 per person.

For more information and to sign up, please visit our website at www.hopeofthevalley.org

**New Building to Facilitate Vision of Mission**

Former Roscoe Hardware Building Will Now Be Used for Building New Lives

The Mission’s new 22,000+ sq. ft. building will generate revenue for homeless programs (Thrift Store) and provide emergency services to homeless individuals and families (Family Resource Center). The Mission has already obtained the necessary Certificate of Occupancy for the Thrift Store and is now conducting an area analysis for the upcoming Family Resource Center, which will include an industrial kitchen, dining area and sleeping quarters.

The building is conveniently located one block west of the 5 Freeway on the corner of Sunland Blvd and San Fernando Rd. If you are in the area, please stop by or call for a tour provided by our Mission President Ken Craft. In advance, thank you for helping us increase our capacity to care for those in need in the Valley. We are only as strong as those who believe in and support our efforts.

**Stay in touch with the latest news and events from Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission.**

- [www.facebook.com/hopeofthevalley](http://www.facebook.com/hopeofthevalley)
- [www.twitter.com/hopeofthevalley](http://www.twitter.com/hopeofthevalley)

**Every dollar you send cares for people right here in the Valley. Less than $2 provides a hot nutritional meal for those in need. Please help us provide a delicious Thanksgiving meal and hot meals each day of the year.**

**Mailing Address:** P0 Box 248 Sun Valley, CA 91353

**Location:** 7400 Tujunga Ave. North Hollywood, CA 91605

**Phone:** 818.392.0020  **Fax:** 818.558.7999  **Website:** www.hopeofthevalley.org