



# visalia

rescue mission





We THANK YOU for your prayers and support of the VRM for the past 30 Years!

3. Message from Danny Little, Executive Director
4. Event Calendar
5. News & Updates
- 6-7. Testimony of a Life Changed
6. Men's Program
8. Rescued Treasures
9. Simply Chic Boutique
10. Volunteer Opportunities
11. Lance Van Grouw
12. Honors & Memorials
14. Help Change Lives
15. A Note From the Chairman of the Board

## Visalia Rescue Mission Fall 2011 Issue No. 3

### Publisher

Jessica Van Ginkel  
VRM Community Development Director

### Art & Production

Graphic Designer  
Eric Cribbs - [www.cribbsproject.com](http://www.cribbsproject.com)  
559.308.6277

### Photographer

Forrest Cavale - [www.thirdelementstudios.com](http://www.thirdelementstudios.com)  
559.967.2453

### Contributing Writers

Danny Little, Mark Shelton & VRM Staff

Every effort has been made to ensure the information within this publication is complete and accurate at the time of publication.

Reproduction or reuse of any photos and/or written material contained within this magazine is prohibited without the expressed written consent of Visalia Rescue Mission.

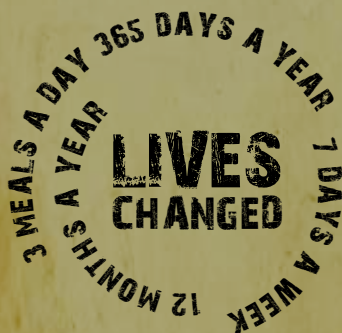
Visalia Rescue Mission is published 4 times a year and distributed throughout Tulare County as well as delivered to our faithful donors.



Visalia Rescue Mission  
500 E Race Ave  
Visalia, CA 93292-3840  
(559) 740-4178

Published by

**ADS Media**  
Custom Publishing & Marketing





# So Many The Help of



Each day I am reminded of the work of many volunteers and employees that enable the Visalia Rescue Mission to function. We have wonderful employees who

are on the front lines of the ministry in northeast Visalia. The staff works diligently to meet the needs of many individuals who come to us for assistance. The needs we encounter daily are varied and we seek to offer HOPE through the immediate and basic services we are able to provide. The heart of those who work with us, whether paid or volunteer, is the desire to serve... and to serve with excellence. We are privileged to serve on daily basis-365 days a year.

**Our staff needs the employment of hundreds of volunteers to make this ministry a reality.**

Volunteers at the VRM have a job and a purpose; they bring outside experiences and expertise to the Mission and help the VRM fulfill our vision and purpose of HOPE and RESTORATION. Whether you BBQ on a Wednesday, teach a class, lead a chapel or play your guitar-our volunteers MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

The Visalia Rescue Mission needs you! It is our hope that you will consider coming to join us in service and in our mission of sharing Jesus Christ with all who come through our doors. It is the talents and gifts of so many that CHANGE LIVES at the VRM. May God bless you as you consider how you could be involved.

In Christ,  
Danny Little



LIKE US!!!



## October:

**15th:** Alltech Company Volunteer Day!

**22nd:** Mill Creek Vets Golf Tournament

**22nd:** Make A  
Difference Day



**23rd:** VRM Sunday at First CRC

**30th:** Symphony Benefit Concert at Grace  
Community Church. 4PM.

## November:

**3rd:** Project Homeless Connect

**6th:** Danny preaching at Visalia  
Nazarene Church

**6th:** Run for HOPE (Fresno Two Cities  
Marathon/Half Marathon)-VRM Team!

**7-9:** Radio-A-Thon with KARM Radio!  
Tune in to 89.7FM!  
• Donate online!



**12th:** SPIRIT 88.9  
Turkey's for T-Shirts!



# vimeo

**Watch Our Videos:**  
<http://vimeo.com/vrm>

## THANKSGIVING DAY COMMUNITY MEAL

- Thanksgiving Day 11AM-2PM
- To volunteer contact Janelle at:  
559-740-4178 or [janelle@visaliarescue.org](mailto:janelle@visaliarescue.org)



## December:

**2nd:** Christmas Tree Auction

**23rd:** Benefit concert  
at the Cellar Door

## CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY MEAL

- Friday 23rd: 11AM-2PM



**CONTACT US to get YOUR orga-  
nization involved! Make  
a difference!**

**Join our e-mail list to  
stay up-to-date on all  
Mission events!**

Email [jessica@visaliarescue.org](mailto:jessica@visaliarescue.org)

# SHOP. DONATE. CHANGE LIVES.





NEWS AND  
UPDATES



## Construction Continues!

- ☺ The VRM's new Chapel and Community Center building is coming along nicely! The gym floor concrete was poured in mid-September!
- ☺ The tile is in and the rest of the concrete floors will be polished in the weeks ahead!
- ☺ Stay on the look-out for our Grand Opening festivities to be announced!

To donate to this life-changing project contact:  
Jessica at: 559-740-4178 Ext. 19  
or [jessica@visaliarescue.org](mailto:jessica@visaliarescue.org)

### ON-GOING ITEMS AT VRM!

Food Drives • Clothing Drives  
Community Center  
Chapel Construction  
Volunteer Opportunities • Events  
Donations • Oval Park • Garden  
Distribution Center  
Company Volunteer Days • Wells Fargo  
Target • Alltech • Rotary • Lions Clubs  
Bible Studies and many more organizations  
have held volunteer days for their  
employees at the VRM!  
RECOVERY • LIFE CHANGE • HOPE



# TESTIMONY OF A LIFE CHANGED: VRM RECOVERY PROGRAM

My name is Donnie, I came to the VRM on Jan. 16, 2011. After a twenty year addiction to meth I came to realize God had more for me. By isolating myself from family and friends I was losing control of my life and everything I had worked so hard for, I was spiritually dead. Work has always come easy to me, but as jobs started to disappear due to budget cuts, business closures, and state layoffs I found myself jobless, homeless and for the first time in my life, searching for what God had for me. Since entering the program I have given my life to Christ as my Lord and Savior. While participating in the program, through the classes, I am learning about Jesus' love for me and



how my addiction has affected my life. Now I find myself being involved in Church, surrounding myself with other godly men and building solid relationships. God is teaching me how to love and forgive others as well as myself, helping me to be the authentic man He created me to be.

In His hands, (Phillippians 4:13)  
~ Donnie W.



**Recovery Program  
for Men and Women**  
Our Spiritual Training and Educational Program (S.T.E.P.) was developed to assist those who seek to escape the slavery of addiction and sin. The core program is nine months with additional aftercare services available for up to a year following graduation.

## Men's Program: **Updated!**

- VRM Men's Program has graduated 4 men over the summer.
- All 4 of our graduates have obtained employment.
- All 4 are still currently living on our property in transitional housing.
- We have opened our new transitional living 4-plex
- 4-plex is currently housing 8 graduates of the VRM men's program.
- New "block programming" was implemented. Block programming consists of one two month "half step" entry block, 3 two month spiritual formation & life skills/recovery blocks, and 1 three month transitional block.



I was at the Bob Wiley Detention Center looking at 2 years in prison when I first heard about the House of Hope. I really wasn't interested in another residential recovery program, especially one that was 9 months long...but I had heard positive things about the House of Hope and apparently God and the Judge thought it would be a good place for me. **Never in all my previous attempts at recovery have I experienced the kind of healing that I have received since I entered the House of Hope and turned my life over to Christ and now I feel encouraged to share with others what God has done in my life.**



As I ride my bike to and from work I find that it is the perfect time to talk to and listen to God and I cherish that time with Him. God has been teaching me that my worth is found in Him and I am growing more and more confident in who I am in Christ.

I feel extremely blessed to have this opportunity to ease back into functional living and I'm grateful to the businesses that help make this unique opportunity a possibility.

- Tiffany

I am currently in the work experience phase of the program and I'm excited to be interning at Grace Homes as a "spiritual advisor". Because of my troubled past I always dreamed of working with troubled youth but I never imagined that I would be used as a "spiritual advisor", God does have a sense of humor. It is awesome to be used by God and I feel He is using me to love these girls at the home, listen to them and pray for them...not push religion on them. When one of the girls becomes disruptive, staff will call on me to take a walk with the girl until she calms down...what a privilege!



I had heard about the House of Hope while at Bob Wiley and three days after being released decided I would give it a try. **I feel the program was just what I needed...a place to find God and myself.** I have recently completed Phase 1 of the program and I have started my internship at Ben-e-lect.

I have been truly blessed since I started interning at Ben-e-lect, everyone has been so welcoming and nonjudgmental even though they know I am in recovery. I really appreciate the time the staff spends investing in me and every day I look forward to the new things I am going to learn. I always wanted to work in an office setting but never thought I was smart enough but I am learning that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me..."

At first I was really nervous about having to leave the House of Hope for the day to go to work because I felt safe and protected there, but now I am so glad to have this opportunity to learn independence through baby steps. Since my internship started I am gaining new work skills which has given me more confidence in

myself plus I am learning to give myself more credit. I have even learned to ride the bus which I have found is a great time to spend with God in prayer.

**I really think it's awesome how relationships between businesses in the community and the Visalia Rescue Mission have opened doors to helping those of us in recovery ease back into society. I thank God for this program.**

- Megan



# SHOP. DONATE. CHANGE LIVES!

Rescued Treasures Thrift Store



**WEEKLY IN-STORE SALES!**



## LOCATION / HOURS:

2523 S. MOONEY BLVD.

559.733.3180

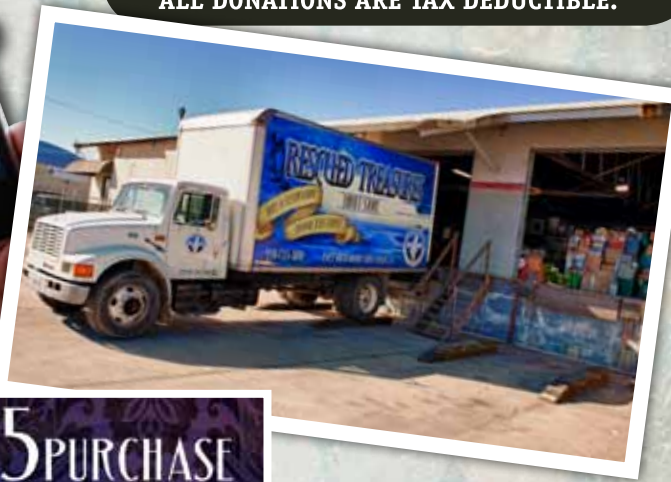
MON. - SAT. 9 - 8 PM

**SPECIALS POSTED WEEKLY!**

Drop off at any of our thrift store locations  
or 500 E. Race St. (Admin Office/Warehouse)

**Also available for  
FREE Donation Pickup  
559-733-3180**

**ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**



**\$3 OFF \$15 PURCHASE**  
**\$5 OFF \$25 PURCHASE**  
**\$10 OFF \$50 PURCHASE**

**DAILY DEALS!  
GIFT CERTIFICATES  
AVAILABLE!**

**Gift Certificates  
Available!!!**

# SHOP. DONATE. CHANGE LIVES!

Simply Chic Boutique

**NOW OPEN ON MAIN STREET!**



**LOCATION / HOURS:**  
100 E. MAIN STREET  
559.735-3184  
MON. - WED. 10 - 5:30 PM  
THURS. - SAT. 10 - 6 PM



AN OFFER FROM THE VISALIA RESCUE MISSION & BEHOLD THE THRIFTY THURSDAY!  
Your purchase today will help change a life; thank you!

**GREAT BRANDS!  
BETTER PRICES!**



*Thrifty Thursdays!*

*Refresh your wardrobe.*

**Shop Local  
& Tax Free!**



**GET YOUR  
REWARDS CARD  
TODAY!**





# Volunteer Opportunities

# visalia

rescue mission

Justin Levine



[www.vrmhope.org](http://www.vrmhope.org)

Stop by our office or fill out  
a volunteer application online!

- **Warehouse:** Sorting Donations
- **Distribution Center:** Handout Food Boxes and Clothing
- **Kitchen:** Prepare And Serve Community Meals
- **Thrift Store:** Restocking Merchandise, Cashier
- **Simply Chic Boutique:** Restock, Cashier, Meet and Greet Customers
- **Feed the Hungry Garden:** Weed, Donate Supplies, Prune, Plant, Pick, Decorate...

Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Janelle, for  
a tour of the Mission and more information on a  
variety of volunteer opportunities and needs!



Kathy Looper

California  
Fitness Academy  
[www.LiveCFAlike.com](http://www.LiveCFAlike.com)

## CHARITY BOOTCAMPS

California Fitness Academy will be hosting "Charity Bootcamps" through the Fall and Winter Season to help raise money, food and clothes for The Visalia Rescue Mission. The first event was on September 3rd and "CFA" helped raise over \$250 for the VRM. The idea behind a "Charity Bootcamp" is to bring people together to enjoy a great workout while helping out someone in need. Each individual will come workout at CFA and bring the specific donation that is being asked for that day. We will have cash donations, canned food drives, and coat/shoe drives.

### Tentative Schedule for these Charity Bootcamps:

- October 15th: 9:00 am — Bring minimum 5 canned foods
- October 29th: 9:00 am — minimum \$10 donation
- November 27th: 9:00 am — bring a coat or a pair of shoes
- December 10th: 9:00 am — Bring a toy



When I started helping with the workouts for the women's program, at the VRM, I had no idea how much I would be blessed. Volunteering at the Visalia Rescue Mission blesses me and I feel that I am being of service to others and it gives me an opportunity share my testimony and what God has done in my life.

The girls at the Mission are eager to change their life and hopeful that life can be better. If I can share in that hope, by giving them some fitness tools, then I feel like I am being of service to them and to God.

Every time I am with the girls teaching a workout session, I am constantly reminded of all the things I take for granted. I find myself remembering what really matters in life and how quickly it is to become entangled in life's circumstances. I find myself being grateful and humbled all at the same time.

- Kathy Looper





# Lance Van Grouw

On August 7th, 2011 Lance Van Grouw was in an accident while slip n' sliding with his friends. He was airlifted to the Community Regional Medical Center in Fresno, CA and couldn't feel anything below his collar bone. He is partially paralyzed from his chest down and is now on the road to recovery! His doctors and Physical Therapists are hopeful, but at this point there is no way of knowing how much healing Lance's body will do. All we can do is hope and pray that The Great Physician will allow him a full recovery. We put all of our trust in the Lord and will not cease praying for Lance!

Wristbands were designed and ordered shortly after Lance's accident as a way for the community to support Lance during this time of trial. Lance designed the bands in Cal Poly SLO green and gold with a very meaningful verse found in Romans 5: 1-5 in which it states that we are able to rejoice in our sufferings because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, HOPE! Two statements that the family has often referred to

are, "move outside of our box" and "God does not waste anything". So, in moving outside the box, we do not yet understand God's plan for Lance but we do know God would not want us to waste the amazing and humbling support, concern and love shown to Lance and family. The proceeds from the wristbands will go to the Visalia Rescue Mission. The Rescue Mission is an extension of God's love to many who do not have the family and friends to support them in times of crisis and is a vital ministry in our community. Lance has seen this first hand as a volunteer at the Rescue Mission.

*The bracelets are available at Central Valley Christian High School and VIP Pizza in Exeter. They can also be ordered through the mail by sending a check made payable to Visalia Rescue Mission c/o VIP Pizza 180 E. Pine St, Exeter, CA 93221.*

# Honors & Memorials

## IN MEMORY OF:

### **Karen Lambin**

Wanda Goossen

### **R.W. (Bob) Renner**

Mike & Sharon Shannon  
Bill & Carolyn Green

### **Aurelio Salas**

Tony Gomes  
Dean & Karen Simpson

### **Larry Peterson**

Paul & Kap Miller

### **Ken & Charlene Jones**

Laura Sumruld

### **William P. Nash Jr.**

David & Betty Miller  
Lorie Cairns

### **Barbara Henderson**

Joshua Skunca  
Nancy Mills  
Gerald & Beverly Slayton  
Margaret Stolz

### **Jim La Mar**

Kathryn Fleming

### **Karen Day Bailey**

Kathryn Fleming

### **Joseph V. Leal**

Joseph & Lucille Leal

### **Roy Ellis Tolbert**

Jim & Geneva Philpot

### **Leonhard Thiessen**

Mary Ann Pauls

### **Frank Silva**

Isabel Silva

### **Mildred Piepgrass**

Jimmy & Linda Allen

## IN HONOR OF:

### **Lance Van Grouw**

Dykstra Dairy



# Give a Gift of HOPE!

## *Opportunities to Give*

Now you have the opportunity to continue your legacy of compassionate care in perpetuity by making a Legacy of Hope planned gift. Why do we call it a legacy? Giving beyond your lifetime sends a strong message to your loved ones and peers; As well as to future generations of homeless men, women and children served by the VRM. That's quite a legacy! Leave a Legacy of Hope:

### **Memorials and Honorary Gifts**

A great way to memorialize or honor someone you love. Make a gift in his or her name to the Visalia Rescue Mission.

### **Gifts of Life Insurance**

Making the Visalia Rescue Mission a beneficiary to part or all of your life insurance policy is a simple way to make a significant gift. You may receive a tax deduction for the cash surrender value, reducing your tax liability in the year of the gift.



## MEMORIAL GIFT CARD

*Thank you for your gift that will help so many in need of food and shelter. When you send your memorial or in honor gift to the Mission, you will receive a tax-deductible receipt. A card will be mailed promptly to the In-honor of family or the friend being honored, telling them of the gift.*

*Please mail your memorial and in honor gifts to:*

**Visalia Rescue Mission • P.O. Box 109 • Visalia, CA 93279**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Charge my Visa/Master Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_ CIV \_\_\_\_\_

Send Acknowledgment to: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



# HELP CHANGE LIVES!



**LIKE THE VRM ON FACEBOOK!  
STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH OUR  
EVENTS, NEEDS, VOLUNTEER  
OPPORTUNITIES AND PRAISE  
REPORTS!**

**DONATE to the VRM when you sell  
your used items on EBay! A portion  
of the proceeds can come directly to  
the Mission!**



Make a donation to the Rescue Mission when purchasing event tickets for the Fox Theatre. To donate, request that a \$1.00 donation be added to tickets on your order. That's it!



**Portion of  
proceeds  
benefit  
VRM.**



***With one swipe of your card 3% of your total purchase  
at SaveMart and FoodMaxx goes to the Visalia Rescue  
Mission! Call to get yours today!***

## HOW YOU CAN HELP: VRM WISH LIST

• CLOTHES HAMPERS

• HAND & BATH TOWELS

• TWIN MATTRESS

• WHITE TWIN BED SHEETS

• PILLOWS

• BLANKETS

• DISH TOWELS

• CD PLAYER FOR CHAPEL

• VACUUM CLEANERS

• CANNED VEGETABLES

• CANNED MEAT

• SOUPS • POTS & PANS

• PANCAKE MIX & SYRUP

• FLOUR & SUGAR

• PEANUT BUTTER

• FORKLIFT - BALER

• VANS & VEHICLES

• HOT CEREALS

• VITAMINS

• WASHER, DRYER

• CANNED FRUIT

• CEILING FANS

• REFRIGERATORS

GoodSearch



## Wow... 30 years of serving...

The Visalia Rescue Mission, which started 30 years ago with just a handful of people, now serves thousands throughout the year with a dedicated staff and volunteers. We just celebrated the legacy of the Mission at our banquet where Will Graham so appropriately challenged those in attendance to step up and support the Mission for the first time or to continue to support with time and resources as so many have faithfully done for all these years.

At the banquet we had an opportunity to praise God for using us to serve him. It seems like a cliché to that we are blessed to serve.... But we really are. Our God is so big and miracles happen everyday at the Mission that to be part of this ministry is truly a blessing. For those involved you know what I mean.....

Blessings....

Mark Shelton  
Chairman of the Board

*If you are not involved in some way at the Mission I welcome you to partner with us... We have much more to do... so join us... for the next 30 years !!*



# THANK YOU FOR 30 GREAT YEARS!



**Because You Care...**

...we're able to serve more and more.

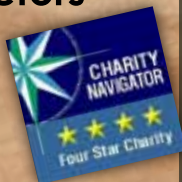


## Board of Directors

Mark Shelton  
Wayne Ingram

John Anderson  
Linda LaFleur  
Randy Vogt  
Mike Allen  
Trish Burr  
John Koster  
Murray Minnema  
Mark Vanciel  
Scott Bosler  
Marc Schuil  
Jacque Baxley  
Brad Reenders

**Danny Little -Executive Director**



## As of Sept. 2011:

### Meals Served

123,116

### Bed Nights

25,058

### Program Graduates

21

### Chapel Attendance

18,983

### Food Boxes Given

1,427

