



Stories of Light and Transformation
From the Las Vegas Rescue Mission

SUMMER EDITION

“I Was on a Path to Destruction”

Your kindness helped rescue Aziz from a life of drugs and depression

Aziz talks about his father with mixed emotions.

“My dad was a man of God,” he says. “He was my greatest teacher. He had a great work ethic. And he gave me the greatest tools — my two hands — and he taught me how to use them.” Aziz would become an expert plumber, roofer and welder.

Moments later, Aziz’s voice takes on an edge.

“My dad was strict, and he was an alcoholic,” he says. “When he was drinking, he was a different man. I saw him go from Dr. Jekyll to Mr. Hyde.”

“I’ve found people who care, like a family.”

As a child, Aziz didn’t know how to process these conflicting emotions. His mother wasn’t much help. A heroin addict, she abandoned the family when Aziz was six.

Aziz reconnected with his mom when he was 26. It was painful to see her still in the throes of addiction, but as an adult, Aziz was able to feel more empathy. “She apologized for leaving when I was so young,” he says. “I saw that she truly loved me, and that she was just fighting her own battles.”

A few years later, three tragedies struck Aziz, all close together. His parents died in 2010, not far apart. A year



Because of you, Aziz has turned his life around, and he’s grateful.

later, his son died. “I never got past that,” Aziz says.

“Then I just steered down the wrong path, to a place that I didn’t want to be . . . on a path to destruction.”

He spun into deep depression. He became a meth addict. He started cutting himself. Nothing would numb his emotional pain.

One day, sitting in a pool of his own blood, “I just

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A Note From the CEO

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

— 2 Cor. 5:17

What comes to mind when you hear the words “Las Vegas Rescue Mission”?

A homeless shelter? A place that feeds the hungry? A recovery program? A safe haven for abuse victims? A counseling center? A life-skills training facility? A refuge where lost souls can find God?

If those are the things you think we are, the answers are yes, yes, yes, yes, yes and yes. We are *all* of those things, and more.

Struggling neighbors come to the Mission seeking help in one or more of those areas — and occasionally even *all* of them.

I’m proud that our Mission is equipped to meet all kinds of needs ... and I am humbled that it’s made possible only because of your compassion and generosity.

Rescue happens because of you.

Please don’t ever forget that. I know I won’t. That’s why I’m eternally grateful for you.

Sincerely,

Heather Engle

Heather Engle
CEO



Lee is grateful for supporters like you.

I Beat COVID-19

Lee is thriving today, thanks to you

When Lee became the Las Vegas Rescue Mission’s first guest to contract COVID-19 last spring, he was more worried about making a bad first impression than he was about his health.


“I wasn’t worried about dying,” says Lee, 51, whose worst symptom was a nasty cough. “But I was worried about what the others would think. And we knew so little about it at the time.”

Lee came to the Mission because he was dealing with depression and homelessness. He felt physically fine when he arrived in late February 2020, but developed a bad cough after a few days. He went to a doctor, who conducted a COVID test, just in case . . . and three days later, Lee learned he had tested positive.

He was quarantined for 10 days, and then tested negative. But he still had what he calls “emotional issues” to work through, and he was unemployed. And though he’d been sober for years, he had a background of substance abuse, and he didn’t want to relapse.

The Mission helped him with all of those things. Lee says he doesn’t know where he’d be right now without the Mission, “and that scares the heck out of me. They gave me that lift-up.” They also gave him a full-time job, working in security.

He now lives independently, and is grateful for the Mission’s help.

Lee is also thankful to YOU for your life-changing support! 



Volunteers Needed!

There’s always a need for volunteers, during the summer or at any time of year. If you would like to get involved, please visit lvrescuemission.volunteerhub.com

A Place of Comfort

Because of your compassion, a new widow found comfort and peace

It had been a while since Rhonda last visited the Las Vegas Rescue Mission — some four decades, in fact.

The last time she was here, Rhonda was just 5 years old. Her dad was out of work and they had lost their apartment.

Rhonda doesn't remember much from that visit, except that the folks at the Mission were kind.

Forty years later, that hasn't changed at all. Rhonda is back at the Mission now, this time as a recent widow. Her husband, who had been battling health problems for a while, died last spring.

"I know they'll always be there for me."

The loss of her husband — and his income — forced Rhonda and their 21-year-old son, Hatcher, to leave their home because they couldn't afford the rent. Since Rhonda had no family in the area, she and Hatcher came to the Mission for help.

Hatcher, who had taken a couple years off of school to stay home and take care of his ailing father, soon moved into a facility for older teens and 20-somethings, where he's learning life skills to live independently.

Rhonda is at the Mission's Shelter of Hope women's facility, getting both shelter and hope. The Mission is



Thanks to you, Rhonda has found hope and comfort at the Mission.

helping her prepare for the future, including applying for disability benefits due to her own health issues.

"I know I'm going to be able to get a job and get an apartment because of the Mission's help," Rhonda says. "The people here have been wonderful. Everybody has time to listen, and that means a lot to me."

She says that once she feels ready to go back out on her own sometime this year, she knows she can turn to the Mission for help.

"If something ever were to happen, I could ask for their guidance," she says. "I know they'll always be there for me. That's comforting."

That's what you do for people like Rhonda — you give comfort and assurance that we'll always be here to help. Thank you! †

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"Down the Wrong Path"

got up and asked for help," he says. He was treated at a hospital, where a chaplain suggested he try the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. But Aziz was a reluctant skeptic.

He thought he was too far gone, and he figured nobody would even care about him. "What did these people know about helping someone like me?" he thought.

It didn't take him long to realize he was wrong. Because with their help — and your support — he started turning things around.

Aziz says the Mission helped him find new life.

"I'd probably be dead without the Mission," he says. "But here, I've found people who care, like a family. I'm walking taller, and I'm happier and more joyful."

"Today, I know I'm not alone, and I know I'm not here by chance. God brought me here, and with his love and grace, he led me to a better life, a better light."

That's what you do with your compassionate support. You help lost, hurting souls like Aziz turn things around and find life and light. Thank you! †



Nearly 100 Days of 100 Degrees

A year ago, we were not only dealing with the devastating fallout of a pandemic, but also the deadly effects of one of the hottest summers on record in Las Vegas.

In 2020, we had 97 days of 100 degrees or more — just three days short of the record of 100 days, set in 1947. Our highest temperature was 114 — just three degrees short of a Vegas record — reached on Aug. 18 and Sept. 6.

We're not expecting this summer to be any better. As a matter of fact, we plan for record heat waves every year, assuming the worst. It's dangerous outdoors in a Vegas summer, and not everyone in our

community has the option of going inside on a scorching day.

Our homeless neighbors have no escape from the upcoming summer heat.

So this summer, those neighbors need you to come to their rescue, perhaps more than ever. When you fill out the response form at the bottom of this page, please send a generous gift so we can distribute the thousands of water bottles needed every day — and so we can keep our air conditioners running to give our homeless neighbors respite from the deadly heat.

Your gift today might just save a life. Thank you! †



Save the Date to Walk a Mile

Our 10th Annual Walk a Mile in My Shoes event will be held **Saturday, October 9, 2021**. This event raises awareness and funds to help neighbors in need — those who come to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission for help.

Come join other members of the community in taking "steps" to draw attention to our neighbors who are unsheltered. All funds raised during the event go toward providing food, shelter and addiction recovery services to those who need it most. Thank you!

Details at vegasrescue.org/walk/



▼ ▼ PLEASE CUT OFF THE REPLY FORM BELOW, AND RETURN WITH YOUR GIFT. THANK YOU. ▼ ▼

I WANT TO TRANSFORM LIVES THIS SUMMER



480 West Bonanza Rd. • Las Vegas, NV 89106-3227

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Yes! I want to help my neighbors in need this summer. Enclosed is my gift of:

- ☐ \$17.36 to provide 8 meals and other assistance.
- ☐ \$28.21 to provide 13 meals and other assistance.
- ☐ \$56.42 to provide 26 meals and other assistance.
- ☐ \$_____ to provide as much as possible.

☐ I'd like to give monthly. My first gift of \$_____ is enclosed.

Please make your check payable to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. To give online, visit vegasrescue.org

Thank you!

