



THE BEACON

Stories of Light and Transformation from the Las Vegas Rescue Mission | **SUMMER EDITION**

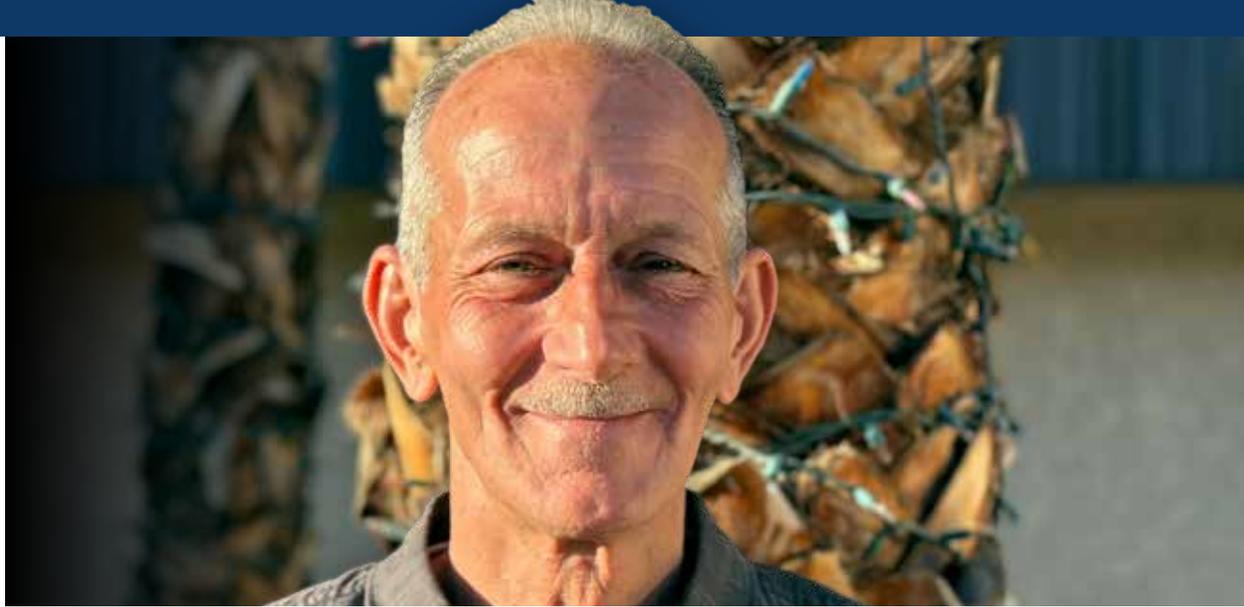
Walk a Mile To Rescue a Neighbor



Our 12th annual Walk a Mile in My Shoes event will be held Saturday, October 7, 2023. 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.

Learn more at vegasrescue.org/events



Your compassion lit the way for Thomas and his son.

“Follow That Light”

How you helped a single dad and his boy find a safe haven.

This is a story of a son, the sun and the Son.

Just days before last Christmas, Thomas and his 11-year-old boy, Kalynn, were surprised by a knock at their door. A marshal, the bearer of bad news, was on the porch. They were being evicted, and they had 24 hours to leave.

They were stunned. They were scared. “It was terrible,” Thomas says.

Thomas took his son outside, pointed at the sun and said, “You see that? That’s God. We have to follow that light.”

That light led them to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission, where Thomas and Kalynn found safety, security and solace ... all in the name of the Son.

“We just put our hope and faith in God,” Thomas says. “And it was God’s grace that

blessed us to come to the Mission.”

A series of bad breaks had left this single dad and his boy in dire straits. Kalynn’s mom died a couple years ago after years of struggling with drug abuse. Then Thomas lost his job in early 2022.

Tight finances forced them into tighter — and cheaper — living quarters. They rented a bedroom from a homeowner for most of last year ... until that December knock on the door and the eviction notice.

Thomas later learned that their landlord, the homeowner, was not making his mortgage payments. So everyone in the house, including

the homeowner and other renters, was evicted.

“We had nowhere to go,” says Thomas.

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A Note From the CEO

Summertime, and the livin' is easy ...

It's an ironic opening line to one of the most popular songs in American history. The livin' is not at all easy in the world of "Porgy & Bess," the opera which features the song.

The story is filled with characters living in poverty, with disabilities and addictions, troubles and heartaches.

Sounds a lot like many of the folks who come through our doors.

I'm so grateful for friends like you who help hold those doors open, who welcome struggling neighbors with open arms, offering help, hope and healing.

Which brings me back around to more lyrics from "Summertime":

One of these mornings you're gonna rise up singing

You're gonna spread your wings and take to the sky

That's our prayer for all who enter here — that the love of God will give them reason to rise up and sing, and to soar on wings.

Thank you for your support!

Heather Engle
CEO



We're so excited about the new clinic on campus!

Life-Changing Help

New on-site clinic is a big boost for our guests.

The Las Vegas Rescue Mission recently held a ribbon-cutting to celebrate the opening of an on-site medical clinic, a vital and valuable service to our guests ... and yet one more way to demonstrate care for the whole person.

The Neighborhood Clinic, a new 501(c)(3) nonprofit in southern Nevada, provides compassionate on-site medical care and services. The clinic, in a renovated facility on our campus, includes three exam rooms, a lab and on-site medical staff, including a nurse practitioner.

Nicki Antill, chief operating officer at the Mission, spoke for all of us when describing the benefits of an on-site clinic.

"For the majority of our clients who arrive at our gate, the closest they have come to medical services, in some cases for years, is a visit to the emergency room," she told Nevada Business magazine. "To be able to provide them with medical services, basic health care on campus, could be life-changing!

"It will allow us to address both their immediate and ongoing needs without having to send them off campus, by bus, to see a medical professional, which can often be a threat to their recovery, especially when they are just beginning the program." †

A Desire To Serve

Ray volunteers as a way of paying it forward.

When Ray volunteers on the kitchen serving line at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission, he sees himself in the men he serves. Because he's been there.

Ray was homeless for four years in Texas before moving to the area to live with his father, whose health was declining and who needed care. But Ray needed it too.

"I was ready to get off the streets," he says.

Ray considered checking into the Mission himself, but decided to stay with his father. Still, he was drawn to the Mission. So he decided to volunteer.

"My desire to serve was inspired by seeing people that were just like me," he says.

"I get to demonstrate my walk with Jesus to the residents at the Mission."

Ray never expected to be in this position. He was a civil engineer with a six-figure income, when his world started falling apart.

His wife left with their young children. Four days later, Hurricane Harvey hit, causing extensive flooding damage to their Texas home. Two months later, he was diagnosed with kidney cancer; doctors removed 25% of it. Then he lost his job. And then he lost hope.

Ray ended up living in his car and on the streets, addicted to whatever came his way. "Meth, crack, marijuana, alcohol, sex," he says.

"Follow That Light"

continued from cover

"I didn't know what to do." So the father and the son looked to the sun, and the Son, for a sign ...

First in Line

"I'd never been homeless before," Thomas says.

Thomas searched online and found the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. They said they had an opening; Thomas was relieved.

It's no coincidence that our logo features a lighthouse, shining on our community as a welcoming beacon of help and hope.

Thomas was told to be at the Mission entrance by 2:30 that afternoon. He and Kalynn were there by 12:30. "First in line," Thomas says.

As they began to settle in, Thomas started to relax. He



Ray can relate to many of our guests' stories because he's been there himself.

But since moving to Vegas, helping his father and volunteering at the Mission, he's turned his life around. He's in Celebrate Recovery at a local church, and he's taking steps toward becoming a pastor.

"I'm a new man," he says. "It's all about Jesus. I get to demonstrate my walk with Jesus to the residents at the Mission."

Thank you for demonstrating your walk with your support. If you, like Ray, are interested in volunteering with us, learn more at vegasrescue.org/volunteer. †

knew they were in a safe place, and in good hands.

"Outside the gates looking in, you could never tell what's inside here ... until you come in," he says. "The people here are awesome. I feel like family."

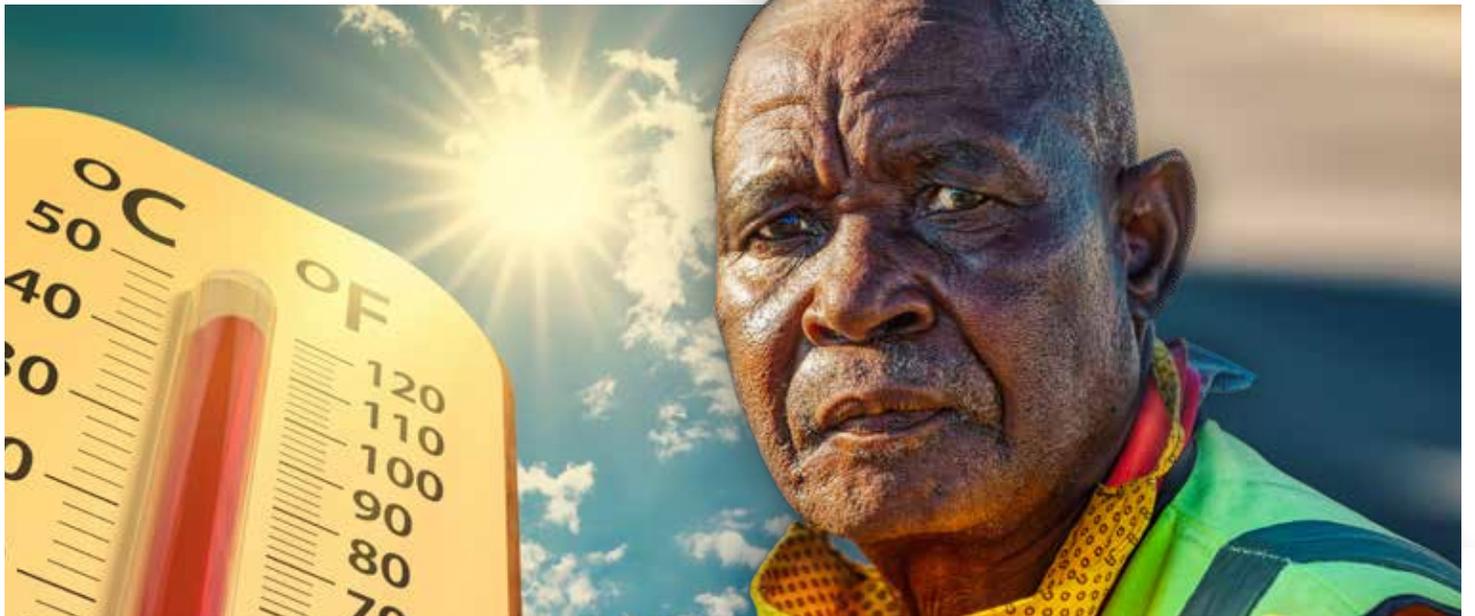
Thomas says Kalynn has weathered the changes well, even keeping up his grades in school: "Through all the obstacles and setbacks, he's really been a champion."

Today, Thomas is working to find employment and to live independently again. He says the Mission staff is encouraging him and helping with the job search.

"We're just doing our best to keep striving forward," he says. "All I can do is believe and hope and trust."

And keep walking toward the light.

Thank you for helping single dads like Thomas and his son! †



Help Neighbors Beat the Heat

It got so hot in Las Vegas last summer, you could see it from outer space!

The city was caught in a heat dome last June, an atmospheric condition that superheats air near the ground. We experienced record-breaking heat, with temperatures in triple digits.

On June 10, 2022, we hit a daily high of 109 degrees ... so hot that the heat was picked up by sensors in space. A map generated from a NASA space station revealed extreme heat, shown in bright red on the map, emanating from our city and illustrating the “urban heat island” effect, a deadly situation for people caught outside.

The last few years in Vegas have seen record

temperatures, including a record high of 117 degrees in July 2022. Over the last 15 years, there has been an average of more than 40 heat-related deaths annually in Las Vegas.

Our homeless neighbors sometimes have no escape from those brutal conditions. This summer is likely to be much the same, if not worse. That’s why your support is so critical at this time.

Please send a generous gift today 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! 🙏

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

I WANT TO TRANSFORM LIVES THIS SUMMER



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

**SCAN HERE to
give online or visit
vegasrescue.org**



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

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

- \$19.92 to provide 8 meals and care.
- \$32.37 to provide 13 meals and care.
- \$64.74 to provide 26 meals and care.
- \$_____ to provide as much care as possible.
- I'd like to give monthly.
My first *Visionary Club* gift of \$_____ is enclosed.

*Please make your check payable to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission. **Thank you!***