

Seeking Helping Hands!

The holidays are here and we're preparing to make them bright for needy individuals and families in our community. During this very special time of year, we reach out to the neediest in the greater Long Beach area to spread help and healing through Jesus Christ.



We are seeking the help of volunteers for the following holiday events:

Thanksgiving:

Dinner: Wed., Nov. 23rd
3-6 p.m.

Breakfast: Thurs., Nov. 24th
7-10 a.m.

Christmas:

Stocking Giveaway: Wed.,
Dec. 21st 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Dinner: Fri., Dec 23rd
3-6 p.m.

Breakfast: Sat., Dec. 24th
7-10 a.m.

If you and your family are interested in volunteering and spreading some holiday cheer, contact Denise at (562) 216-7610, volunteer@lbrm.org or visit our volunteer page at www.LBRM.org.

Join us



Thanksgiving & Christmas Meal Supplies Needed

We need your help to get ready for the meals we will serve at Thanksgiving and Christmas. The items listed on the right are needed the most.



Donations can be dropped off at the Mission 7 days a week from 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. at 1335 Pacific

Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813. For more information, please contact the Mission at (562) 591-1292.

Turkeys
Hams
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Canned Yams
Dressing Mix
Canned Vegetables
Canned Cranberry Sauce
Pumpkin Pie
Whipped Topping
Pancake Mix
Syrup
Bacon
Sausage

Help Us Stuff Stockings!

On Wed., Dec. 21, we will host our annual Stocking Giveaway for local children and families. Each year, we need to collect hundreds of toys and gifts to fill these stockings. Here are some ideas of gifts to donate to fill the stockings:

Stockings (to fill)
Candy
Kids' Bibles
Gloves & Hats - All Sizes
Action Figures
Dolls
Stuffed Animals
Baby Toys
Fast Food Gift Certificates

Please drop off stockings and stuffers no later than December 10 at 1335 Pacific Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813 between 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. For more information or to volunteer, please call (562) 591-1292.



Here's my gift to feed, shelter and care for those in need at Christmas and beyond:



- \$15.40 to feed and care for 7 people
- \$26.40 to feed and care for 12 people
- \$50.60 to feed and care for 23 people
- \$_____ to feed and care for as many as possible
- Please send my 2012 Mission Calendar.

- Check enclosed
- Please bill my credit card
- VISA
- MC
- AMEX
- DISC

CREDIT CARD #

EXP. DATE

PHONE #

Donate online at www.LBRM.org,
or call (562) 591-1292.



LONG BEACH RESCUE MISSION
P.O. Box 1969
Long Beach, CA 90801-1969



NAME

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H O L I D A Y I S S U E 2 0 1 1

“I was a stranger...”

“They welcomed me with open arms.”

When you're an alcoholic, bridges get burned. Family members still love you, but they don't want you around...as Julie found out when she tried to move back to California.

Julie drank – a lot. And she hid her drinking...beer and tomato juice with lemon in it. But she wasn't fooling anyone. “When they came close to me, they could smell it.” She's been in and out of rehab “a couple of times,” but it never worked.

But she kept praying to God to help her. “I couldn't stop on

my own, there was no possible way.” God finally helped, but in a way Julie never expected: Her roommate moved out, and Julie couldn't afford the place by herself.

She called her son in California and he sent her a plane ticket. But even then, she couldn't stop drinking. “My son couldn't allow me to be around my grandchildren in that kind of state, so he found Long Beach Rescue Mission.”

“Every day has become more peaceful and more joyful.”

At Lydia House, our home for women and families, we welcomed Julie with open arms. “I didn't feel like a stranger. I felt very welcomed.” So welcome, in fact, that she committed the next year of her life to our New Life Program!

Julie wanted three things: “God's Word back in my life, structure and to be able to stop drinking.” She received all three along with Bible study, counseling and work therapy.

And today, her obsession with

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drinking is gone.

“My children trust me again!”

On her first pass out of the program, Julie went to her granddaughter's birthday party. On

Sunday, she goes to church. She's had a chance to watch her grandson play

baseball. And, her son and his wife are going to let her take the kids to the zoo...by herself, because her son now trusts her.

“My grandchildren see me and they hug me and love me,” says Julie with tears in her eyes. “My children are tickled to death and they can't wait for me to graduate.”

“God stopped me drinking and helped me along His path. I owe Him everything for what He's done!”

Visit Us Online!

Get to know us better, learn about volunteer opportunities, read about the latest news and events and donate securely at www.LBRM.org.



A Personal Word from the President/CEO



“The Greatest Gift...”

That first Christmas, the greatest gift of all was given, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son...”

While Christ was still a babe, the wise men opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Down through the centuries, Christians have continued to honor God’s gift by sharing His love for us with others. Not just at Christmas, but throughout the year, we demonstrate our care and compassion through the giving of gifts.

I want to thank you for being one of those generous people who help the men and women, boys and girls in our community who are hurting, hungry and homeless. Thank you for demonstrating your love and kindness by giving gifts to those you have never even met!

May you and your loved ones be truly blessed as we celebrate His birth.

Serving with you,

Rev. Jim Lewis
President/CEO

“Surrounded by people who care so much about others!”

Joey Curran has been volunteering at the Mission for nearly three years. The kitchen is the place she spends all her time because she not only gets to work with Mission staff,



but with the women in our program.

“I like that I am surrounded by people who care so much about others

that they give their lives to serve,” says Joey. “I am honored to be able to work alongside such remarkable people and to see the work God is doing in this community.”

Alumni Update

This is the story of a life that was touched through the support of friends like you.

Charles came to the Mission when he ran out of work. It took some time, but eventually, Charles joined his twin brother Paul in our New Life Program and found a new life in Christ!

“I had anger problems and I didn’t want to know that. Chaplain Robert showed me in the Bible where it says, ‘quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger.’” That verse had a profound

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Joey volunteers because she wants to give back and the knowledge that “a perfect life was given for me, and I would like to honor that as much as I can.”

When she’s not working in the Mission’s kitchen, Joey is pursuing her passion for wound care, getting her nursing license so she can help others even more.

To join Joey and the other dedicated volunteers who make our work possible, contact our Volunteer Program Supervisor, Denise Carrillo, at volunteer@lbrm.org, or call (562) 216-7610.

Reserved for you:

2012
Mission Calendar

Without the gifts, volunteer time and prayers of friends like you, this ministry to our community’s neediest people would not exist.

As a token of our gratitude for all you do, please accept this beautiful 2012 calendar as our way of saying “Thank you!”



To receive your FREE 2012 calendar, please check the special box on your reply card and mail it today.

“The Very Best Christmas...”

What is the very best gift you can give someone who is hungry or homeless?

Here at the Mission, there are as many ways to help as there are people in need.

Volunteer. Serve a meal. Lend a hand at the Thrift Store. Organize a drive to collect food and toiletries. Help out at one of our special events. Call Denise at (562) 216-7610 for more information.

Donate. Our shelter needs men’s and women’s personal care items and medical supplies. The kitchen needs

breakfast foods, coffee and staples including sugar and margarine. Drop items off from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the **Samaritan House, 3135 Pacific Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813.**

Give a gift. Use the enclosed envelope to send a gift to provide meals and more. Donate by check, credit card or online at **LBRM.org**.

Pray. Pray for this ministry and the men, women and children who come here during their time of greatest need.

Thank you for helping make this the very best Christmas!

The Streets and Prison...

“They Don’t Fix the Problem”

If Ian spent seven years of his life “messing around with random drugs,” that would have made him 14 when he started...not old enough to drive, but just the right age to get hooked on ecstasy, coke, meth, psychedelics and finally, heroin.

From the time he was 17 until he was 21, he spent “almost every day” on a mission to get his next “fix.” Today, when he looks at the wreckage he left behind him, he’s the first to admit **he did “a lot of stupid things” just to get high.**

He went to jail. But as soon as he was out, he began using again.

His dad tried to get him into other rehab programs, but Ian just “blew him off.” “I wasn’t ready to stop.”

For a while, he lived with his mom. Then, he moved in with his sister in San Clemente, and that’s where Ian hit “rock bottom.” “It was like a flop house,” he remembers. “I was sleeping on a mattress on the floor and I woke up one morning sick and had to go to court, and it dawned on me that **I had no life – I might as well be dead.**”

Ian’s dad tried again. He found the New Life Program at Long Beach Rescue Mission. Ian agreed to give it a try and checked in that same night.

The New Life Program offered Ian the education AND spiritual training he needed to overcome the addictions that had kept him in bondage. During his yearlong stay at the Mission, Ian also began to build a lasting relationship with Jesus Christ.

But Ian believes it’s really the people here at the Mission who make the program. “It’s the other brothers in the program and even the guests at the Mission,” he says. “Being around

them is what changes you.”

“The work of God goes on here,” says Ian. “It’s a real pleasure to see people take on such drastic changes... it really strengthens your faith.”

Ian says the “friends” he would do drugs with in South Orange County would be shocked to see him today.

“This program is for people who need and want help. It’s so much better for somebody that has an addiction who needs a new life to get help here rather than just be brushed off and go back out on the streets or to prison.

That doesn’t fix the problem.”

“Every day you wake up here is like getting another chance.”



Make Your Dollars Go Farther



You can help us help the homeless by shopping at the LBRM Thrift Store for gently used clothing, furniture, appliances, housewares, bikes, toys, etc. at deeply discounted prices.

All sales proceeds benefit the Mission’s programs and the thrift store provides work therapy for men and women in our New Life Program. This allows them to build a stronger work ethic and teaches them important job skills.

The LBRM Thrift Store is located at **1313 Pine Avenue**. Store hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

All donations are tax-deductible and can be dropped off during store hours. For large item pick-ups, please call **(562) 591-1292, ext. 199**.

Alumni Update

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impact. Once Charles was willing to face his anger issues, he was able to deal with and overcome them.

He spent 2 years and 3 months at the Mission. “I was ready to leave after a year, but the Lord kept me there for an extra year. It was really humbling.”

Now, he is living on his own in an apartment with his brother, working for Yoplait Yogurt. Thanks to supporters like you, men like Charles are able to make a fresh start and begin new lives.