

forgotten to

Found



Phoenix
Rescue Mission™

2023 ANNUAL REPORT





DON'T FORGET ABOUT ME

BRIAN PETERSON

This year, we invited muralist Brian Peterson to create a visual at our Changing Lives Center for Women and Children and Transforming Lives Center for Men that embodied the heart behind the Mission. Inspired by the theme “Don’t forget about me”, they depict the relentless love of the Father toward His children.

Ultimately, they represent the prodigal son and the mother and child in each of us; it’s the story of rescue and our hearts coming home. As the artist shared, **“I pray these murals minister to the hearts of men and women coming off the streets and stepping into this ministry and the love of God.”**

“A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.”

PSALM 68:5 (NIV)



KEN BRISSA, CEO

Don't forget about me. These words echoed in both spoken and unspoken ways for the men, women and children we welcomed this year.

The work of the Mission is simple, yet profound. Love people as they are. Usher them out of the darkness and into the light of restoration. Remind them that they are seen. And create a place to encounter the never-ending, always-pursuing mercy of a Father who is patiently waiting.

Throughout these pages, you will meet men and women who often felt overlooked by the world. Forgotten. But because of your compassion, they found so much more than just a place to recover. They found *Connection, Community, Safety, and a Lifeline.*

I pray you are reminded of this Divine love, which is always redeeming what was once lost. Thank you for the significant role you play in God's restorative work at the Mission.



MARY KOSTIVAS, BOARD CHAIR

In Philippians 3:7-9, Paul compares everything as loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ and being found in him. He considers all else “rubbish”.

I'm moved with gratitude as I think of the men and women we serve who have gained a place of true belonging here. They overcame their struggles and celebrated so many life-altering moments with us – graduations, reunifications and sobriety. This ministry of reconciliation we are a part of each day is a beautiful testament and vision of the Kingdom.

It is a blessing to offer this kind of everlasting hope with you.

forgotten to *Found*

Andrew found

Connection



“He who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit.”

JOHN 15:5 (NKJV)

It was the middle of winter in January. Andrew found himself on a park bench, miserable, drunk, and totally out of options. Next to him was a suitcase packed with items he hastily threw together when his family placed a protective order on him after a drunken argument. “I was hopeless,” he recalled sadly. “I had burned all my bridges.”

Andrew was a self-described “raging alcoholic” – the kind that would even drink rubbing alcohol to pacify his addiction. “It was just bad,” he shared with regret. He had tried a 30-day rehab and was able to get sober, but still didn’t have the tools to handle life and prevent succumbing to his alcoholism again. His family was “done with him”, and everything that was secure in his life collapsed. After losing his job and getting a DUI, he had nothing left.

Homeless and alone in that park, Andrew made a last plea call for help to his sister in Florida. She reminded him of a news segment she saw about Phoenix Rescue Mission and urged him to call. That

moment changed the trajectory of Andrew’s life, as he felt “something guiding him here.”

Andrew now realizes that “something” was the Lord’s mercy, and after more than 15 months in our recovery program at the Transforming Lives Center, his story of shame and brokenness has been redeemed. “All the things that were lost have been added back into my life,” he described with a newfound joy. Andrew now has healed relationships with his family and begun work with other men at the Mission. Most importantly, he discovered the one thing he needed for all of this to be possible.

“There was definitely something missing from my life ... and that was connection with God. That’s what I have gotten here.”

“There was definitely something missing from my life ... and that was connection with God.”

ANDREW

 **1,369** people served through our residential program

 **102** long-term recovery program completions

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Nathalie found

Community



“The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed.”

PROVERBS 11:25 (MSG)

For Nathalie, her desire to give back flows from a heart of gratitude. She and her four children have been serving at our Community Outreach Events for seven years. She first found the Mission when she herself was in need. It was the holiday season, and she was pregnant and barely making ends meet. She didn't have the means to get her children gifts for Christmas.

Nathalie's social worker told her about our program and after she reached out, she was welcomed into the Phoenix Rescue Mission family. “They gave me Thanksgiving food and toys I didn't have the money to buy; it really blessed my kids for the holidays,” she recalled with gratitude.

This was years ago. Now, Nathalie volunteers three times a week – sometimes more. As a primary Spanish speaker who is well-known in the community, her language and relationships are a significant asset as she greets our guests, gives out food, and helps with clothing.

Her joy and appreciation are evident to all she engages with.

Through the Mission, she has been taking English classes to improve her language skills and is also getting her GED so she can better provide for her family. She explains that she has found a home at the Mission where she can freely give and receive.

Nathalie's life proves that blessing comes full circle. “That is why I want to give a little back because I see the smile on my kids' faces. I'm so blessed when I come here. And I can bless others as they have helped me. And that feels good in my heart.”

**“I can bless others
as they have
helped me.”**

NATHALIE



16,558

households
received food
assistance



79,880

food boxes
distributed

forgotten to *Found*

Corrine found

Safety



"For you are my hiding place... you surround me with songs of victory."

PSALM 32:7 (NLT)

Corrine didn't plan to be addicted to fentanyl when she got pregnant. Her life had followed a pattern of getting sober, relapse, repeat, as she described. Her relationship with her mother was deeply abusive; she found herself seeking worth in relationships that offered nothing but pain. Tragically, she became addicted to drugs through a relationship and found herself sleeping on and off the streets for six years. After having two children, Corrine was running out of options and ended up back in a toxic living situation with her mom.

After her kids were taken from her, life started to unravel quickly. "I just fell on my face. I started using every day," she shared with regret. When she found out she was pregnant with her third child, she knew something drastic had to happen. Corrine went into a detox facility that took pregnant women and then was referred to the Changing Lives Center (CLC). She arrived nearly defeated yet determined to

finally exit this cycle of destruction. "I was very sick when I got here. The withdrawal was so bad. I could barely do anything. But for the first time in my life, I felt safe."

"But for the first time in my life, I felt safe."

CORRINE, CLC

This safety created space for Corrine to heal and understand the underlying issues surrounding her dependency. She committed to staying clean her entire pregnancy, giving birth to a healthy baby boy. Instead of dread, her days now begin with hope. Through this process, Corrine has been reunified with her other children and is now working as a Street Outreach Case Manager Assistant at the Mission.

"I've never experienced the peace that I feel now. I owe my life to the CLC."



\$17.05

average starting wage for workforce development clients



23%

increase in workforce development program enrollments

forgotten to

Found

Jacob found a

Lifeline



“From beginning to end, he’s there, towering far above everything, everyone...”

COLOSSIANS 1:19 (MSG)

Jacob was intently reading a book at a bus station off Dunlap Avenue in Phoenix in a Seahawks jersey, unaware that his life was about to take a dramatic turn.

Ben parked the Street Outreach van and prayed to himself as he walked up. As a case manager with the Mission, Ben was used to approaching men and women who appeared to be experiencing homelessness to offer them a lifeline off the streets. With Jacob, he couldn’t quite tell. “Honestly, I felt a bit apprehensive because it can be awkward if you assume someone needs help and they don’t.”

Ben followed the Spirit’s leading, and Jacob opened up to him, sharing that he had been living on the streets for two months battling an intense meth addiction. He invited Jacob to the men’s campus for screening and put him up in a hotel until he could start his intake. “I’d come by to pray with him and bring him food from our food bank. I hoped he’d still be there when I came. And he was. He told me, “This is so God. God showed up in an amazing way for me.” He was just so excited,” Ben described.

“That’s what I love about street outreach — all of these divine appointments. People on the streets are so accessible. This tends to be where God does His work, at our rock bottom.” Two days later Jacob began his journey of recovery at the Mission, where he found a hope greater than the world had ever offered.

And that book Jacob was reading? It was the Bible. Specifically, the Message version of Colossians 1:19. God was stirring Jacob’s heart long before his encounter with Ben, reminding him of an everlasting love that spans all of our stories – from beginning to end.

“It makes you aware that God is completely sovereign. He sees people’s needs and He meets them, very practically,” Ben said with a smile. “That’s my favorite part.”

“God showed up in an amazing way for me.”

JACOB



22%

increase in rescues/
program placements



18,208

Hope Totes
distributed



Hope

is found at the Mission

2023 STATS

In 2023, the love of Christ searched our city streets and led thousands through our doors and into the refuge of His welcoming arms. Because of your compassionate partnership, forgotten men, women and children experienced the healing hope of the Gospel through our programs. This year, you inspired the following impact:



RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

342 average daily recovery program census

20 children reunited with their mothers



HOMELESS STREET OUTREACH

830 people rescued from the streets

3,076 people who received case management



FOOD ASSISTANCE

12% increase in households served

45 mobile pantries and community events

33,215

engagements to build relationship



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

141 jobs obtained through workforce development program

601 new program enrollments



VOLUNTEERS

890 new volunteers

19,024 hours served

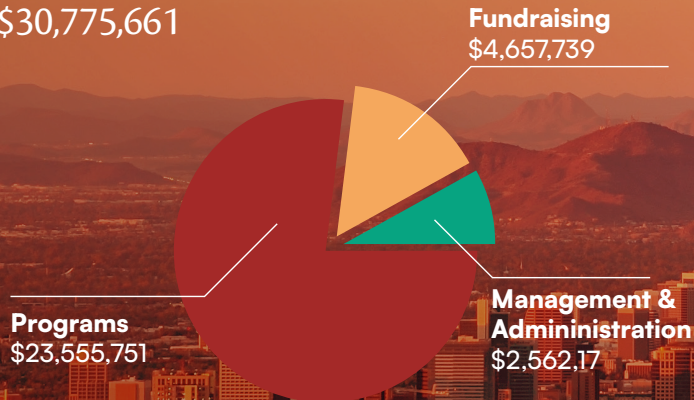
Financials



76.5% of budget going to programs

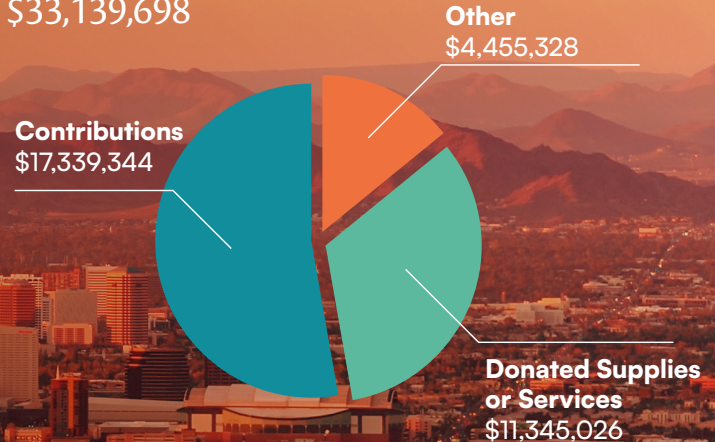
TOTAL EXPENSES

\$30,775,661



SUPPORT/REVENUE

\$33,139,698



Total Net Assets \$42,302,778 | Surplus \$2,364,037



Phoenix Rescue Mission is funded almost entirely by individuals, businesses, foundations and other organizations. We strive to maximize and steward the impact of the gifts entrusted to us by God and our ministry partners. Because of this, we are proud that 76.5% of each dollar raised goes directly toward program and services.



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Thank You

Your support and engagement helped us meet our Valley's forgotten right where they were and guide them toward a vibrant, more hopeful future. Because of you, so many of these men and women now have a new standing: from **forgotten to found**.

Murals by: **Brian Peterson**

OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

Pray

Petition for transformation of our clients and for those we have yet to reach across the Valley.

Sustain Our Work

Help bring renewed hope through giving financially.

Volunteer

Serve your community through a variety of opportunities.

Spread The Word

Be an advocate for the Mission in your sphere of influence.



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