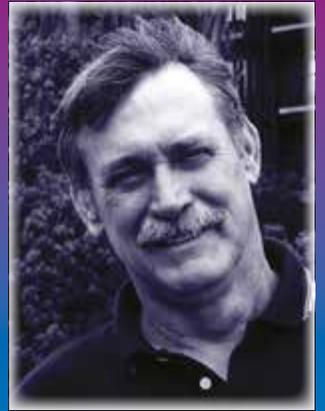


Voices OF Hope

AUGUST 2017

Robert said,
"I believe God
protected me
during my years
in prison, and
that God saved
me through
the compassion
of Central City
Lutheran
Mission."



Dear Friend,

We are so grateful for your support across the years. Your donations have allowed LSS to open doors for men, women and children who have concluded their lives no longer matter to anybody; not even to themselves.

Robert* grew up in a middle class family, with plans for college and marriage. When his girlfriend died in an auto accident, he fell apart. He dropped out of USC, spent six months wandering, finally moving back in with his parents. He found work in a warehouse, rose to a management position, and through a huge promotion, was transferred to Indiana. By then he was married, but his wife refused to move.

Robert worked there for 13 years. But the combination of a large salary, living alone, and drinking alcohol in excess caused him to lose his job, his savings and everything he owned. He got sober in AA, but was not able to get back on his feet.

Back in California he began a relationship with a mother of five children. They both lost their jobs, and two days prior to being evicted, Robert drove to a bank, demanded money from the teller, and walked out the door. The police arrived and arrested him quickly.

After three years in a correctional facility, Robert was paroled with \$200 in his pocket along with his CDC prison ID. He had no plan, and no clue what the next step should be. After two nights in a motel, he showed up at Central City Lutheran Mission in San Bernardino.

When Robert walked through the mission's door, he had lost any sense of value, or that he had something to offer society. Unless marginalized persons re-discover the value God gave them, their only strategy will be to beg, con people out of a few dollars, and spend the remainder of their lives making the same bad decisions, and going to prison over and over again.

CCLM provides a safe landing for persons who have been released from incarceration. They saw more in Robert than he did, and put him in a program where he could slowly regain a sense of value and dignity.

He received two meals daily, a roof over his head, and in return he worked inside the mission as a way of paying back. This work strategy helped Robert become more aware of his gifts, as well as his responsibility to others.

Robert swept the floors, and then cleaned the toilets. The more effectively he worked, the more responsibility he was given. He monitored the minutes allowed each resident in the shower, then was assigned to helping people get proper identification and insurance application forms. Eventually he became the first house parent at CCLM. He worked with the residents during the day, and then slept among them at night.

Robert said, "I believe God protected me during my years in prison, and that God saved me through the compassion of Central City Lutheran Mission."

Will you make a gift that helps CCLM continue redeeming people like Robert? Your contributions allow our caseworkers to deal personally with each resident, giving them the chance to start over in life.

Robert no longer lives at the mission. He now has his own apartment. Every day he works as a CCLM case manager, listening to stories just like his own. Because of what you contributed on his behalf, he is passing along hope to others.

Ron Drews, President/CEO

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California



P.S. Attached is your LSS reply slip. Please check the box for the amount of your gift. No gift is too small, but please be as generous as possible. Return the reply slip in the enclosed envelope Thanks so much.

Is your name Picasso? Well, can you sketch images? Do you have some time for LSS?

We are looking for a volunteer to draw images that will be included in the material we use to tell our story to Southern California. A picture is really worth a 1,000 words and, for that reason, we need an artist who can help make that happen.

If that person is you, please email 3 samples of your work to Info@lsssc.org.

* To maintain confidentiality, identifying story details, names and pictures are changed

Thank you for your gift!

Yes! I want to support more opportunity for active listening

Make checks payable to **LSS**. Gifts are deductible from taxable income to the full extent allowable by law.

Direct my gift of: \$ _____ _____
 \$ _____ \$ _____ Other \$ _____

Designate my gift to:

As needed CCLM Shelter Other _____

Name (as it appears on credit card)

AMEX VISA MASTERCARD

CC# _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____



Please fill out and enclose this form with your gift in the envelope provided.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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Voices OF *Hope*
AUGUST 2017

AUGUST 12
LUTHERAN NIGHT
at
DODGER STADIUM
Saturday, August 12th 6:00pm
DODGERS vs PADRES
TO PURCHASE TICKETS:
Visit dodgers.com/lutheran or
contact Britni Howze at
323.224.1304



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