



2
Hundreds of
Thousands of
Bottles of Water



5
Paying it
Forward



Phoenix
Rescue Mission™

PhoenixRescueMission.org

Rising!

September 2015



Envyng the



“I didn’t want to live anymore,” says Rita. “I would cry out to God ‘Why? Why do you take people every day who have responsibilities, who have kids and families who depend on them? Why do you take them and not me?’”

In 2005, Rita was 37 years old. She had been married for 14 years, had three beautiful children and owned a nice house in Arrowhead. She ran a successful child care business with a staff of 20 employees and every Sunday you could find Rita and her family attending service at Christ’s Church of the Valley.

To the outside observer, it seemed like she had it all figured out.

But inside, Rita was dying.

The previous year, she discovered her husband had had an affair. For months she held the pain inside, burying it with work and alcohol. But when a minor surgery also gave her access to prescription pain pills, the tight weave of Rita’s life began to unravel.

“I was a mess,” admits Rita. “I was not functional, my life was chaos. I went from having... what I thought was

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keeping the main thing, the **MAIN** thing

a message from Jay Cory, President and CEO

There are thousands of people, men, women, and children, who for one reason or another call our city streets home. It's a dangerous existence, but when the temperatures reach 110, 115, or even 120 degrees, those streets become more than just dangerous, they become deadly.

This summer, as a part of our Code Red Campaign, hundreds of friends like you stepped in between the blazing sun and those suffering in the heat to offer them relief in the form of cold bottled water, nourishing food and most of all – hope.

We have so many stories of generosity like one 11-year-old girl who donated over 100 cases of water and folks that showed up with cases at Papa Murphy's Take 'N' Bake Pizza or Dunkin Donuts. Our corporate partners didn't disappoint – Movement Mortgage held the largest water drive raising 107,755 bottles, which was matched by their corporate foundation.

Together we distributed close to 500,000 bottles in four months to those who needed them the most this summer. When one bottle can be the difference between life and death – that is huge.

Thank you for your tremendous amount of energy that went into making this year's Code Red a giant success. Together, we made our streets a little cooler, we stepped into countless lives and offered them hope. Together, we used something as simple as bottled water to save lives.

We are grateful for the tremendous support and donations we received from individuals like you and great organizations like Movement Mortgage (top) Humana (second photo) and Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices (third photo). At bottom, Craig Webb, Code Red driver, holds the thank you note from the 11-year old girl who collected 100 cases of water.

CODE:RED HIGHLIGHTS



Envy the

Continued from page 1

everything, everything I needed to complete my life, everything I ever wanted, to living in a box on the street.”

Rita had a nervous breakdown. Her husband moved out with the kids, she lost her business and her home, and tried to commit suicide. The attempt landed her in a mental institution for a month. When she left, Rita turned to drugs for help.

“I didn’t care anymore,” Rita says. “I let everything go. Over the next 10 years, I was in and out of jail and prison for unpaid child support. I spent the last three with a dope dealer who was abusive. He would shave off my hair, pistol whip me, sometimes beat me to within an inch of my life. But I didn’t leave because, deep down, that’s what I thought I deserved.”

In between trips to prison, Rita was sent to recovery program after recovery program.

She tells us, “I would go into recovery expecting that once I was sober, all the things that I had lost; my family, my home, my life, would come back. When it didn’t happen I would use that as an excuse to drink and soon I was right back where I started.”

“This place gave me all the love and support I needed when I needed it most. It saved me.”

another beautiful day,” says Rita with a smile.

Thanks to the grace of God, the work of our counselors and staff and the support of friends like you, Rita is no longer wishing for death. Instead she’s sober, living a redeemed life, and looking forward to helping others find that same hope.

“This place gave me all the love and support I needed when I needed it most. It saved me,” says Rita. “I had given up on life, but this place gave me hope... it gave me – me. And I’m going to pass that on. If I’m flipping cheeseburgers for the rest of my life, that’s ok, because every spare moment I have I’m going to give back and I’m going to do His work. If I can touch one person the way this place touched me, it will all be worth it.”

See Rita in our new Mission video at phoenixrescuemission.org/mission.



Rita was among our first Food Service Management Course graduates and was recently hired at America’s Taco Shop where she was promoted to the general manager position.

“I went from having... what I thought was everything... to living in a box on the street.”

Then Rita found real hope when the judge sent her to the Phoenix Rescue Mission’s Changing Lives Center.

“None of the other programs had a spiritual aspect. Here I discovered that without God in my life, there was no way I was going to change... it was an incomplete recovery. Now for the first time in so long, I want to live. I wake up every morning and thank God for



Need help? If you are a woman over 18 with a life-controlling addiction (or if you know someone in that situation), please call our intake counselor at (602) 688-6219 for an initial screening.

Phoenix is *Rising!*



Contained in the pages of this newsletter are stories of lives burnt to the ground by addiction, loss, illness, and misfortune. Their beginnings reflect the heartache and desperation we find behind the eyes of so many who walk through our gates. But thanks to your prayers, countless volunteer hours, and your financial support, these adversities only represent the beginning of each story.

Here at the Phoenix Rescue Mission, the weary and the downtrodden find rest, nourishment and healing, but most of all, they find hope. Like the namesake of our city, every man and woman who pass through our doors discover the chance to rise anew from the ashes, transformed, confident, walking in faith, and better than they were before. We love to share these stories with you every month through our newsletter.

To better reflect the amazing transformation we see in lives every day here at the Mission, we've changed the name of our monthly newsletter. We chose this new title, *Rising!*, because it's the perfect summary of what effect your support has on the lives of those we serve, what happens to each of these lives, and what effect all of it has on our city as a whole. Since Phoenix Rescue Mission updated its look we thought that should extend to our newsletter.

We hope you enjoy reading *Rising!*



Paying it *Forward*

You may remember Richard. Just 16 months ago Richard was homeless, addicted to alcohol and sleeping in the bushes behind a church. He had lost ties to his family, his own daughter considered him dead... his life was in total shambles.

Then one day in a search to find food, Richard heard about the Phoenix Rescue Mission.

We reported that thanks to the hard work of our team of counselors, chaplains and support staff, Richard found sobriety, reconnected with God, he got his own place, a truck and even rekindled his relationship with his daughters.

But Richard's story didn't end there. Since we reported on his recovery he's been using the second chance you helped give him to Pay it Forward.

Today he's working as a Behavioral Health Intern at Banner Heart Hospital, helping men and women attain sobriety and find their way back to wholeness. In his spare time, he volunteers at the Mission, signing up families who come for help. He's even become a financial partner to the Mission, supporting the work that changed his life and allowing others the same opportunity to find transformation.



Once a man living on the streets who showed up at the Mission looking for a hot meal, Richard is now paying it forward as a Behavioral Health Intern at Banner Heart Hospital. Just another success story you helped make possible.

Richard tells us, "I believe in giving back to my community because of all the help that's been given to me. It's not something I have to do; it's something I want to do."

But the best thing about Richard's story is that it's not unique. The truth is, the life change God produces in the men and women here at the Phoenix Rescue Mission doesn't end at the door. Each new life is another opportunity to touch and transform countless others. Scores of graduates like Richard have gone on to make it their life's work to do just that.

One meal represented a turning point, not just for one man, but ultimately for many. Because someone cared enough to Pay it Forward and purchase a meal for Richard, today he is a changed man. But more than that, he is a man who is giving back. Through him, countless other lives will also be changed.... some of them forever.

Visit us on social media @phxmission and share with us the ways you are Paying it Forward. Use the hashtag #payitforwardphx to join the conversation.

Coming Events



Quarterly Celebration – October 15th

The Phoenix Rescue Mission's Board of Directors invite you to attend the Quarterly Celebration on Thursday, October 15, 2015. Phoenix Rescue Mission's Quarterly Celebration is an opportunity for you to enjoy a meal with us, fellowship with other friends of Phoenix Rescue Mission, and be inspired with stories of how God is moving in our midst and in the lives of those we are privileged to serve. Consider inviting family members, friends, or associates to introduce them to your Mission! Reserve your seat today by contacting Tracey Medrano at (602) 346-3330 or by email at tmedrano@phoenixrescuemission.org.



National Make-A-Difference Day – October 25th

National Make-a-Difference Day encourages people to volunteer in the community, making a difference in the lives and surroundings of others. This year we will be "adopting" an area in the inner city that is in need of help. We will be doing a prayer walk, going door to door to find out some of the needs of the families, and offering to help. For more information, please visit phoenixrescuemission.org/events.



Frozen Turkey Sunday & Open House – November 8th

Frozen Turkey Sunday is an event that brings people to the Community Services Center for a tour, free lunch, and musical entertainment. It is also the day people drop off their frozen turkeys to share with the community. Our goal this year is to provide frozen turkeys and food boxes for 1,500 families! Bring your frozen turkey to the Mission on that Sunday from 9 a.m. to noon and help feed those who are in need of a bountiful Thanksgiving meal.



It's almost Fall, y'all!

Interested in holiday volunteer opportunities, hosting a canned food drive? Contact Yadira Francies at (602) 233-3363 for more information.

"WOW! I had no idea you did all this!"

Want to see the life transformation for yourself? Want to learn more about the Mission? We give tours of our facilities every month and we'd love to have you join us! Groups are welcome.

- 1st Thursday: Combined Tour
- 2nd Tuesday: Changing Lives Center Tour
- 3rd Tuesday: Community Services Center Tour

Reserve your spot by contacting Nikki Smith at (602) 346-3337 or naika.smith@phoenixrescuemission.org. Visit phoenixrescuemission.org/mission/tour for more information and a listing of specific dates.



Mission Milestones

January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014



Total Meals Provided

411,881



Bed Nights of Shelter

86,839



Volunteer Service Hours

19,924



Bottles of Water Distributed

522,809



**Phoenix
Rescue Mission™**

Transforming lives. Transforming our city.

To mail a gift:

P.O. Box 6708 ~ Phoenix, AZ 85005-6708

For shelter & meal service:

1801 S. 35th Avenue ~ Phoenix, AZ 85009

(602) 233-3000

www.phoenixrescuemission.org

