NOURISHING BODIES.

NOURISHING DREAMS.
I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve as Board Chair and to represent an organization I believe so deeply in. This year at Phoenix Rescue Mission, we implemented both innovative and sustainable ways to solve the pervasive issues of homelessness in our neighborhoods, so that people could get off the streets and begin experiencing meaningful recovery.

At our Mission Possible Café, we began serving up top quality food to the community accompanied by a bold vision. The café serves as a reminder of this message painted on a vibrant mural inside: Hope begins with a meal.

Hope really can begin with a meal. But it doesn’t end there. The beautiful thing is, it’s just the beginning. Your support allows us to offer so much more than just the physical nourishment of a meal. It gives strength -- to help break the chains of addiction. It gives access -- to open doors to recovery. It gives direction -- to create a path out of seemingly hopeless circumstances. And perhaps most importantly, it gives salvation -- an opportunity to experience spiritual renewal and the hope of eternity.

Because when hope is nourished, rehabilitation takes place. Sobriety happens. Employment is realized. Families are reunited. And this year, we witnessed exactly that: thriving, independent lives, fully restored.

Your trust and belief in our mission allowed this to happen for the men, women and children that took the first step toward healing. As you read through this report, I hope you are encouraged by the impact you’ve had on each one of these precious lives.

Gratefully,

MARY KOSTRIVAS
As I reflect on 2017, I couldn’t think of a more fitting theme than this one word: nourishment. We welcomed thousands of men and women into the shelter of our care, many that were nearly defeated from loss and addiction, abuse and hunger. They came to us starved for something that would speak hope into their brokenness.

They craved something more substantial than the things of this world had offered them.

At Phoenix Rescue Mission, we provided an alternative to the streets, to alcohol and drugs, and to the rejection of their relationships. We offered solutions steeped in compassion and grace, so many could experience the relentless love of the Father and His pursuit of second chances.

Over and over, we saw that when you nourish lives, you lay the groundwork for dreams to flourish.

We witnessed this in early October, when our long-awaited Mission Possible Café became a reality. Those in our vocational program can now get tangible experience here and through Mission Possible Catering to broaden their skillsets and begin building their employment potential.

Through your support, we also extended our reach and began ministering to the needs of the hungry in Glendale through the Hope for Hunger Food Bank reopening. And we continued to greet hurting men and women with a warm meal and viable solutions at our Community Solutions Center.

I hope you are inspired by this year’s report and are reminded of what your commitment meant to so many. You helped us and those we welcomed believe that dreams really can happen.

God Bless,

JAY CORY

“PEOPLE NEED DREAMS... THERE IS AS MUCH NOURISHMENT IN THEM AS FOOD.” –D. GILMAN
You might not know that the homeless population only makes up a small amount of those who access food bank services. The rest? Everyday people like low-wage workers, senior citizens, and children. These are the people that are teetering on the edge of homelessness – suffering in the silence of their own homes -- often one meal away from hunger.

When Glendale’s Hope for Hunger Food Bank reached out to Phoenix Rescue Mission in January and asked us to take over their outreach, we knew it was a significant opportunity to extend our impact and give more hungry families nourishment as well as access to our transformative services.

Thanks to your support, Hope for Hunger serves more than 100 families a day. Hundreds of households now have access to a reliable, consistent source of nourishment each week -- translating into full pantries, and a fuller sense of hope.
“Thanks to this place, I have a way to move forward and support my family. For the first time, I have hope for a future.”
Children who live in a home where at least one person had a drug or alcohol addiction are four times more likely to suffer from substance abuse. Four times.

When the odds are stacked so greatly against you from the beginning, like they were for Adrian, it seems like an insurmountable feat to break the tangled cycle of generational addiction.

Adrian’s father wrestled with drugs, gang activity and abusive behavior. When Adrian was just 11, his father was taken away for domestic abuse. Adrian was overwhelmed by the weight of his new role as man of the house. By age 15, he was following in his father’s tragic trajectory, selling drugs and hooked on meth. He eventually dropped out of school and found himself engaging in illegal behavior, heading nowhere fast.

After burning every bridge around him he finally hit the place where every addict eventually lands: rock bottom. He found himself broke, homeless and living in his uncle’s van. He locked himself in the bathroom with a loaded a gun to take his life.

“I was depressed. Everyone had given up on me... I was tired of living.”

In that moment, as he plummeted toward his rock bottom, there was a soft landing waiting for him. Adrian dropped to his knees and prayed to God, wondering if the Father he remembered from his childhood was real. In his infinite goodness, God answered and reminded him of the Phoenix Rescue Mission referral card his mother had recently given him as a last effort to help Adrian.

On that day, December 23rd, Adrian picked himself off the floor with renewed faith and showed up at the gates of our Community Solutions Center. “They welcomed me with open arms. They fed me,” he recalls with gratefulness.

Adrian has since graduated from our men’s recovery program, is now working as a correctional officer and is engaged to be married. His story is a vivid reminder of how the first step, that guides the next thousand steps, is often the welcoming kindness of a nourishing meal.
“Recovery can feel impossible unless you have a place like this and people like them to walk you through it.”
It has been said that the best gift you can provide your children is your own healing. For mothers like Noora who have been nearly overcome by abuse and addiction, healing can feel seemingly impossible. Growing up in Israel, she found herself raised in a culture of acceptance to alcoholism – an unhealthy setting that left its mark during the formative years of her life. Later when she got married, she and her husband moved to Phoenix – leaving any support system or accountability far behind. Over time, her relationship with her husband began deteriorating. They became emotionally abusive to another and codependent on prescription drugs and alcohol.

Her heart longed to be the mother her three young children needed. Like all addiction stories, there came a breaking point -- or the “point of desperation” as Noora calls it -- when life became too unsustainable, too painful to continue. She arrived at this place when she had a physical confrontation with her husband. She left immediately and began earnestly seeking a domestic abuse shelter. She needed somewhere that would not only care for her needs, but her children’s needs as well. A shelter directed her to our Changing Lives Center and she began a recovery journey that would change the course of her and her children’s lives. Here, God got a hold of her heart and she understood His love, real love, for the first time. Her children received both physical and emotional nourishment and began to thrive. It was exactly what they needed.

“This center has been a huge support to me. They make sure the kids are okay and I am okay... I want to strive to know God more and never let any addiction be above God. I want to be a great mom for my kids.”

Because of your support, Noora is able to give her children the best gift – the gift of her healing – which will have profound impact on their future.

Changing Lives Center is the only faith-based recovery program in the region offering long-term, comprehensive services to women and children.

**CHILDREN RECEIVE:**

- Nutritious meals three times a day that meet Child and Adult Food Program guidelines
- An understanding of the importance of nutrition through stories and instruction
- A family dining experience where all eat together and engage in meaningful conversation
"THE MISSION GAVE ME ALL THE LOVE AND SUPPORT I NEEDED WHEN I NEEDED IT MOST."
If you have been in our Community Solutions Center dining hall at some point over the last eight years, there is a good chance you have met “smiley”. Denise Dillard has been serving up encouragement with a radiant smile to homeless men and women for almost a decade.

For Denise, her calling started as a child when she first heard Matthew 25:35-36:

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in…..”

This verse tugged on her heart and she began a lifestyle of giving back from early on in life. When she and her husband Terry moved here in 2010, they heard about the Mission through their church.

“When they come through the line, they are usually down. They share what they’re facing and I give them tidbits of scripture. Are you sick? He is the Healer. You have to go to court? He is the Judge. In everything, I want them to know they matter, that they have a great God of second chances. There is always hope for their story.”

When Denise and her husband Terry aren’t at the Mission spreading joy, they serve as preachers at a local prison, pouring out this same message of restoration to the inmates living there. Throughout her years of loving and serving, she has been led by one guiding truth.

“We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers. When they are hurting, we need to show them the love of God. The Lord works through us as his hands and feet, so the more we give, the more we bring his Kingdom here,” she says, flashing that contagious smile.

“And that’s what it is all about.”
"Without your help, I know I'd either be in prison... or dead. I feel completely free for the first time in my life."
Two years ago, Brandon could barely feed himself. Today he is feeding others.

In high school Brandon loved the party scene. No stranger to using drugs and alcohol to escape the real world, he fell in love with life in the fast lane. Pretty soon, he began selling drugs to support his lifestyle. The thrill and the chaos replaced his feelings of being trapped. Drugs became a priority over education and family. He dropped out and dedicated himself to hustling.

The fast life came to a screeching halt when drug addiction left Brandon homeless and hopeless. Broke and depressed, he decided to move 1,000 miles away from everyone and everything he knew. His self-prescribed detox left him alone and dwelling on his failures. Suicidal thoughts became so prevalent, he worried he was a real danger to himself. He barely ate and when he did, it was whatever he could afford from a convenience store.

Realizing he couldn’t do this on his own, he came to Phoenix Rescue Mission. Once here, he found stability. He learned to let go of disappointments and find joy. Feeling the power of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross was a turning point in his recovery program program and entered the vocational development track. He was our first employee at the new Mission Possible Café to supervise the kitchen. Now he manages a crew of eight clients in the program (more about the Café on page 13).

“So much care goes into each dish. So many different flavors all blend together,” said Brandon. “I feel like all of us in this program are like that, very raw, but once God’s got ahold of us, he uses all to his perfect will.”

Brandon’s new mission is to be a role model to others who were in the same dark place he was. He has found a heart for training others and a purpose in his new life.

“People can lay their burdens on me and I can be there for them. I am no longer afraid to be close to people. My goal is to be a positive role model to everyone I train and also to my younger brother. I want him to know how it feels to focus on others and not just yourself.”
Water Bottles Given: 1,200,000

Volunteer Service Hours: 23,106

Total Meals Provided: 302,649

Bed Nights of Shelter: 111,035

Persons Served: 49,532

Volunteer Service Hours: 23,106

Persons Served: 49,532

Food Boxes including Hope for Hunger Food Bank: 33,928

Attained Employment: 364

Persons Served: 49,532
On October 13th, the Mission Possible Café (located on 15th Ave. and Van Buren) opened its doors to the community, offering Southwestern-inspired Mexican fare in addition to giving its staff an invaluable opportunity: work experience. For homeless men and women who are trying to rebuild their future, viable experience is often the biggest hindrance to financial independence.

With the opening of our café, we can now give participants of our four-month vocational training program the option to not only learn about the food service industry, but to also work in a restaurant for relevant, on-the-job training. Working alongside interns of Grand Canyon University’s hospitality program who run front-of-house, our residents will serve as cooks, cashiers and runners, and gain skills to use when they enter the workforce.

The best part (besides the food!) is that the café serves as a social enterprise project – meaning all the money raised will go directly toward funding Phoenix Rescue Mission’s rehabilitation and vocational training programs.

In addition to this newest training opportunity, vocational program participants may also receive relevant experience through our Mission Possible Catering and Mission Possible Cookies (giftcookies.com) projects.
The Phoenix Rescue Mission is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is funded almost entirely by individuals, churches, businesses, foundations, and other organizations. We have more than six decades of proven history bringing hope, healing, and new beginnings to the hurting in our community. Currently, seventy-two cents of every dollar spent goes directly to programs and services.

We are an accredited charity with the Better Business Bureau, the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, and GuideStar. We are also members of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions, which holds us accountable for stewardship and other vital aspects of the ministry.

FISCAL YEAR 2017 FINANCIALS
JULY 1, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017

Total Revenue $15,842,043
Contribution $9,928,765
Social Enterprise $83,930
Gifts in Kind $4,903,281
Other $926,067

Total Expenses $13,968,938
Program Services $10,002,611
Fundraising & Development $3,158,454
Management & General $807,873
Contributions $9,928,765
Social Enterprise $83,930
Gifts in Kind $4,903,281
Other $926,067