

AUGUST 2025

HOPE *Rising*

THE NEWSLETTER OF PHOENIX RESCUE MISSION

CODE: RED

Save a Life Today.
Plant the Seeds
of Change for
Tomorrow.

The water that Mark got from Daniel didn't just help save his life, it helped to change it forever.

"Daniel, one of the Street Outreach Case Managers on heat relief, was just pouring into me," Mark says.

Triple-digit temperatures on their own are enough to kill. But the combination of lack of nutrition, dehydration, and access to shelter puts our homeless neighbors in a losing battle against the brutal summer on the Valley streets.

Continues inside ▶▶▶

"I used to ask God, 'How can I get out of this?'" says Mark of his life on the streets.

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Phoenix
Rescue Mission™

Transforming lives. Transforming the Valley.

Save a Life Today. Plant the Seeds of Change for Tomorrow. continued from cover

A Formula for Death

Those who are battling addiction, like Mark was, are even more at risk of passing out in the sun and never waking up.

Thankfully, your support ensured that the Mission's Street Outreach team reached Mark in time. He knows if he hadn't gotten help when he did, he could have died in the summer heat like so many others do.

"People are dying out there," he says. *"People are just passing out, and it's a formula for death."* The water and heat-relief helped save Mark's life. But it wasn't until much later that he could trust someone else to help him heal.

Mark had been on the streets for six years and he was tired of it. His brothers introduced him to pot when he was seven. By 12, he was using cocaine. At 17, he says he was a "full-blown" heroin addict.

"No positive seed was being planted," he says, looking back on his childhood.

Seeds of Hope

It wasn't until he was almost 50 and encountered the Mission's Street Outreach team that he started to think his life could change.

"Now I look at life from a different lens. I have gratitude for being able to see, smell, taste, hear, feel . . . I have gratitude for everything." – Mark

Mark didn't come with us the first time he met our team, but by engaging with him over and over again and building a relationship, the Mission was able to earn his trust. One day, Mark realized he was ready to change his entire life. He went to detox and then came to the Mission and joined our Transformations recovery program.

"When you don't have a home or somewhere to go to, or have water and a bed, you can't process your trauma," he says. *"That's why I'm so grateful for the Mission providing all those little things, because they're actually really big."*

Forever Changed

Mark graduated from the Mission's year-long recovery program in February. He is walking closely with Jesus and now is determined to share God's love with everyone he meets. As a Case Manager on our Outreach Team, he wants to help others experience hope and healing that changed his life.

"I'm not going to be a drain anymore," he says. *"I'm going to be a fountain. . . This place really made me a better person."*

Partner Spotlight: Illuminate Church

The best way to save as many lives as possible is to join forces! That's why we're proud to partner with a variety of businesses, churches and organizations.

"The summer heat can be deadly, and we realize the importance of providing water to those living without shelter," says Emily Talpas, Care Director of Illuminate Community Church. *"Knowing that PRM provides water and so much more to those receiving it is why Illuminate participates each year."*

We've collected water for Code:Red for 4 years now, if not more. We started by collecting for one month, but as we began to see a growing population in need, we extended the drive to run May through the end of September. Water provides life-saving hydration, but a bottle of water provides so much more."

It opens the door to conversations and relationships that can bring about life-changing solutions to people without hope. It shows the love of Jesus in a tangible way."

Illuminate Community Church knows that a bottle of water shows people that they are not alone or forgotten, that each individual matters to God. Their partnership makes such a positive impact in the Valley, and it saves lives.

We know that without groups like Illuminate Community Church holding water drives, the Mission wouldn't have been able to collect 810,000 bottles of water last year to people on the street, and we certainly won't be able to hand out 1,000,000 this year.

Every bottle may cost only cents, but its impact is priceless!



Reality Check

A few years ago, one summer evening, my air conditioner went out.

As I felt the temperature in the room rising, I remember feeling like time was standing still. And, in that moment, I thought about our neighbors surviving in the summer heat.

With a call, I was able to have someone fix our A/C. But our neighbors on the streets don't have that.

I was frustrated with the possibility of being hot for one night, but our homeless neighbors, like Mark, are trapped in it every day, for months or more!

Mark's story – and the stories of the hundreds of people who are rescued every year through Code:Red – are only possible because of friends like you.

Thank you!



Ken Brissa
Chief Executive Officer



HOW HOT IS THE SIDEWALK?

WE TOOK OUT OUR HEAT GUN AT 3:00 PM AND DISCOVERED THAT EVEN THOUGH THE AIR TEMPERATURE WAS

112°

THE ASPHALT WAS

167.5°!

OUR HOMELESS NEIGHBORS ARE EXPOSED TO THIS EXTREME HEAT ALL DAY LONG, AND NIGHTS DIPPING INTO THE 90S AREN'T MUCH BETTER.



THE DANGER IS REAL

When the temperature exceeds 100 in the Valley, just 15 minutes of exposure can cause permanent damage.



The Brain and Nervous System

Anything above 104 degrees is dangerous for the brain.



The Body

Under the duress of high temperatures, the body is at a much greater risk of dehydration, heatstroke, illness – and even death.



The Heart & Circulatory System

If a homeless neighbor already suffers from high blood pressure and heart disease, heat can mean death. Heat can send an already overworked heart into crisis.



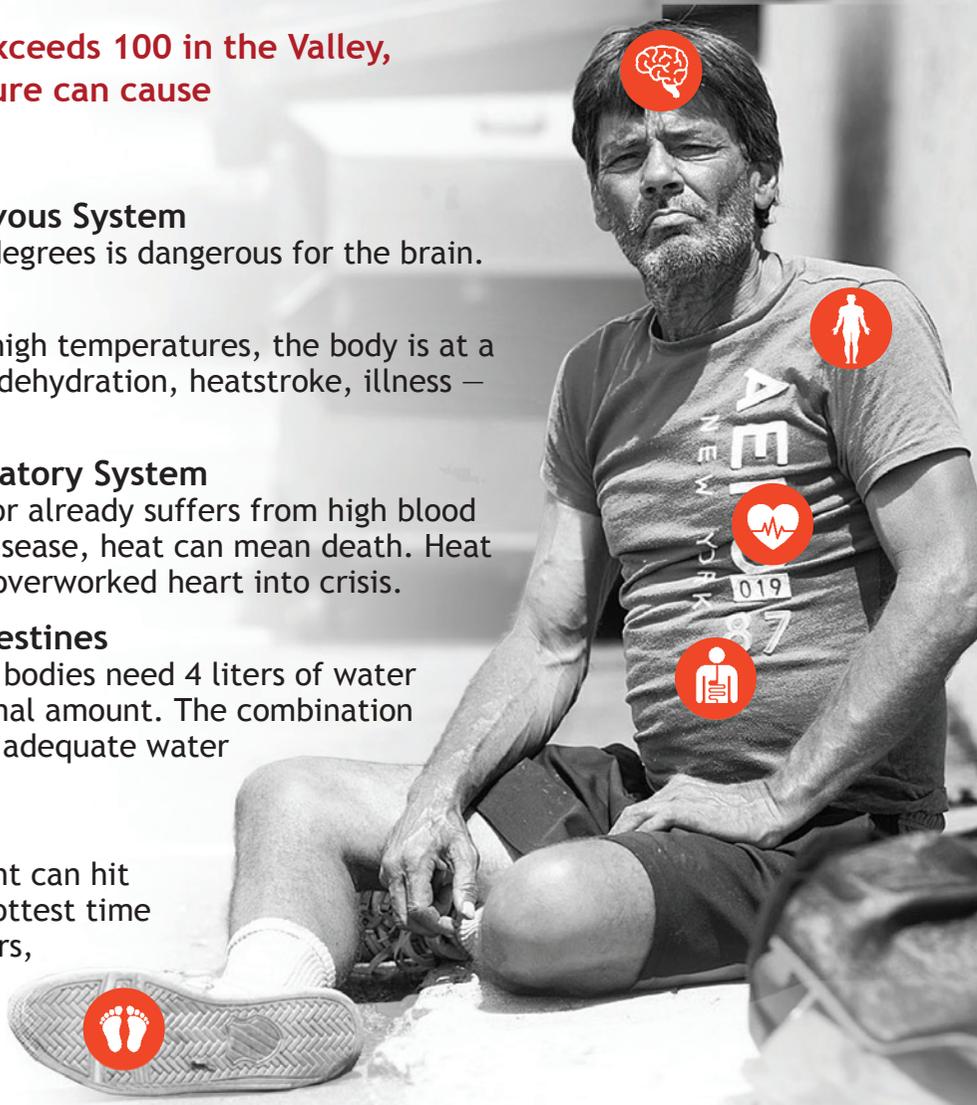
The Stomach & Intestines

In extreme heat, our bodies need 4 liters of water a day, twice the normal amount. The combination of heat and a lack of adequate water can be deadly.



Feet & Extremities

The Phoenix pavement can hit 200 degrees at the hottest time of day, causing blisters, painful swelling of the feet, and an unsafe rise in the body's temperature.



At high temperatures, the entire body is at a much greater risk of dehydration, heatstroke, illness – and even death. **No one is at greater risk than our homeless neighbors.**

Thank you for supporting Code:Red and providing life-saving water and critical care to our neighbors in need. Scan here to give online.



**Phoenix
Rescue Mission™**

602.233.3000 ■ TTY: 711 ■ phxmission.org

Transforming lives. Transforming the Valley.

We provide Christ-centered, life-transforming solutions to people facing hunger, homelessness, addiction and trauma.

To mail a gift: Phoenix Rescue Mission
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