

Crossroads

News for our Partners

Mission

RESCUE

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“Testing Our Faith With Fire”

To really know the worthiness of something, it is necessary to test it. This summer, Crossroads Mission was literally put through a test of fire. Things got warmer than usual when one of our buildings burned on August 9, 2002. In this issue, read what happened and how we coped with the many changes that came about as a result.

Going Up In Flames...

How we coped...

Crossroads Mission made headlines on Friday September 9, 2002. There was a big fire in the city and it just happened to be at the Mission. The warehouse where donations were sorted and where our food for the next two months was stored had unexpectedly caught on fire.

Clients, staff and homeless guests watched in disbelief as the building slowly collapsed. Firefighters worked valiantly in the heat of the day and of the fire for several hours to contain and put out the fire.

That evening we were left with only rubble and ashes of what used to be there. What would we do? Where would we get enough food to serve so many people for the next two months... the next two weeks? Where would we get clothes and items to give to the homeless? All we could do was depend on God to provide for our needs. We had to test our faith. We didn't know how or who, but we would go on.

To our surprise and to God's glory, we were showered with donations and support from the Yuma community. The very next day we had to set up a drop off site for the incoming donations. We were also blessed with temporary storage space from the Food Bank, Salvation Army and Anderson.

Surely, it was evident that we had had a major loss. Vouchers for changes of clothes were not available for the first week, and our meals for our clients and guests consisted of whatever our donors had brought in.

Today, we are still going through readjustments. But we can say that we are doing better. We still depend on the support and donations from the community. God has provided and will continue to provide and we will continue to have faith.



“These trials are only to test your faith, to show that it is strong and pure. It is being tested as fire test and purifies gold—and your faith is far more precious to God than mere gold. So if your faith remains strong after being tried by fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world”
1 Peter 1:7 NLT



ALL THAT WAS LEFT from the Recycling Center/Food Storage Warehouse can be seen in this picture. This is the back view of the collapsed building.



Manny watched in disbelief as the Mission's food supply burned down.

“God did an awesome job providing all that we need through the Yuma community...”



Larry gets some help in sorting the cans that have been donated.

We are still in desperate need of:
 Fresh meat: beef, chicken, pork
 Fresh produce: fruits & vegetables



Manny R.
 Food Service
 Director
 (928) 783-9362,
 ext. 15

“God did an awesome job providing all that we need through the Yuma community, who not only gave above and beyond, but are still giving and showing concern for Crossroads Mission”, is what Manny says about our recent tragedy.

“When something terrible happens in our lives, it makes us go through emotions and feelings of despair, thinking of how and where we are going to get back what was lost?”

Manny's immediate concern after the fire was the food supply. We were only left with about a two day supply of food. Soon, his major concern became storage. “Where were we going to store all of the food that God is going to provide?”

Manny was right. Through the community, God has blessed the Crossroads Mission's kitchen with enough food to feed the approximate 250 clients and guests a day. “Our cup runneth over”, finishes Manny.



Larry C.
 Food Storage
 Supervisor

Larry's job as Food Storage Supervisor consists of receiving food and supplies, sorting them and delivering them to each department as needed. The food storage warehouse that burned down on August 9th was his office.

Larry has had to be flexible in the way he works. He is currently working out of several small storage rooms throughout the Mission. To do his inventory, Larry puts out several boxes along the men's shelter hallway and he sorts cans by placing them in one of the boxes. His wishes for Crossroads are that we have a speedy recovery from our recent fire and that we all can reach out to God more.

His message to the community is: “If you or anyone you know needs help, come on down and see us. We welcome everyone with open arms and a kind heart.”



Gail P.
Sales Director
(928) 783-9362

During the eight years that Gail has worked at Crossroads Mission, he has faced many challenges. Quite possibly, one of the biggest challenges he's faced so far has been the complete destruction of one of his departments.

Gail has had to work with his staff on making adjustments to accommodate the incoming donation. He and his staff moved fast and established a temporary donations drop off site. There, they were able to do a sorting and distributing operation similar to what we used to have, though much smaller.

Gail oversees the thrift store, the recycling operation, and donation pick-ups. What he likes best about Crossroads is the fact that it is spiritually oriented.

Thank you Gail and staff for your great work!

Doing what we can with what we have



The temporary donations drop off site is currently located in the back yard of the Administration Building. Donors can come and donate here and get a receipt for their items.

Free Pick-Up of Your Donations!

Furniture - Appliances - Clothes

To schedule an appointment for your donations to be picked up.

CALL 783-9362

Monday—Saturday
8 a.m.—5 p.m.

Our pick-up dates are:
Tuesday—Saturday
8 a.m.—5 p.m.

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE HOMELESS!

Your Gift is Tax Deductible!

*Barbara:
Crossroads
Mission's
"Phone
Warrior"
is always
at work!*



Barbara Rochester is the Crossroads Mission Public Relations and Special Events Coordinator. During our recent fire, she worked hard at obtaining and locking in donations from our major supporters. Barbara is the Mission's "Phone Warrior" - if there is something that we need, Barbara is able to get it most of the time with a simple phone call! She not only has been working in solving our immediate crisis, but she has been on the phone working non stop to get the 12th Annual Colorado River Crossing Balloon Festival on its way. The festival will be held on the Padres Complex on November 16 and it will benefit Crossroads Mission. She is also working on other special events such as: The Octoberfest, held on Main Street on October 26, from 4-10 p.m.; Pictures With Santa at the Southgate Mall, starting November 29 until December 24. Barbara sends a special thanks to all of the businesses and individuals for their generous donations and their endless cooperation. Keep up the good work Barbara!

Opening New Doors...

Mike Elg,
Executive Director
for Crossroads
Mission; Charles
and Dorothy
Warner, owners
2291 E. Palo
Verde, at the time
of signing the new
lease.



Bill Esmeier
Director of
Development
(928) 783-9362,
ext. 36

We never know what new doors will open each time something happens. This time, Crossroads Mission is opening new doors to a bigger and better building to house the Recycling Center.

Located at 2291 E. Palo Verde, this facility has everything from a big warehouse with oversized vehicle access, to a comfortable and elegant executive office. Also, there is a sales display area that will work perfectly for a possible second thrift store. There are numerous work stations and offices throughout the building that allow for the expansion plans to move forward. We are all very excited!

The building belongs Charles and Dorothy Warner. We will be leasing from them starting this month of September. The building used to be a sprinkler and irrigation supply business. We hope to grow nicely into it.

Tax time is fast approaching

Don't forget that tax time is coming up sooner than one might think. You are still in time to donate \$200 to Crossroads Mission and have it fully deducted from your 2002 Tax Return. Fill and cut out the form below and mail it in the envelope provided.

You can still choose who your money will go to. If it will be deducted anyway, why not choose Crossroads?



TAX CREDIT DONATION CARD

Crossroads Mission * P.O. Box 1161 * Yuma, AZ 85366

Participants Name: _____ Social Security # _____
Last Name First Name MI (For Tax Records Only)

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Phone # _____

Participating donations will be used for covering general expenses of Crossroads mission, a 501 C(3) organization. The maximum Arizona State tax credit is \$200 per year, which is determined on the base you established previously, in donating to charitable nonprofit organizations. These donations are pursuant to A.R.S. Section 43-1088. Donations must be postmarked or delivered to Crossroads Mission by December 31, 2002 to be claimed as a credit for this year.

Amount: _____ Check Number: _____

Meet Our Mighty Volunteers...



Special Thanks to **Margene**, who volunteers as a receptionist at the Social Services Office. Issuing vouchers for clothes, setting up transportation for clients and guests and answering phones are just a few of the many things that Margene helps out with.



Another special Thanks to **Silvia**, she assists with filing, sorting and creating forms for the Community Service Program. Silvia also works as a volunteer at the Social Services Office.



Charlie Allen
Ministry &
Personnel Director
(928) 783-9362,
ext. 12

Got a little bit of time in your hands? We've got the best way to add some spark to your life... volunteering!

Crossroads Mission is always in need of volunteers. In fact, a good portion of our operation hours depends on volunteers that come and donate their time and services. Consider the benefits:

- Get out of your house and change your routine.
- Meet new people.
- Make a difference in someone's life when you show that you care.
- Contribute to the overall goal of Crossroads Mission—Help people!

Call now. Your skills can sure be of help!

Congratulations to Our New Chaplain!

Charlie Allen had the privilege of being ordained as a Chaplain this August. He took a trip to Indiana where he attended some conferences and went through the ordination.

To become a volunteer simply call Charlie Allen at (928) 783-9362, ext. 12.

Memorial & Honorable Gifts

IN MEMORY OF:

Carolyn Mulch
Carolyn Mulch
Edward (Joe) Welsh
Ethel Colby
Ethel Colby
Eugene Munoz
Grace Reilly
Grace Reilly
Grace Reilly
Grace Reilly
James Earl Miller
James Earl Miller
James Earl Miller

THE KIND GIFT OF:

Charles & Sharon Craig
Albert H. Weber Jr.
Ruth Elliot
C.H. & Mary Meyerholtz
John & Mary Whitlock
Mary P. Munoz
Ida Warner
Charles D. & Dorothy Warner
Marcylene Boyles
Marcylene Boyce
Anita C. McCurley
Roy V. & Juanita Jones
Kenneth J. Lynch

IN MEMORY OF:

Juvenio V. Lopez
Kimberly Rush
Kimberly Rush
Merle Titas
Norma Chiles
Rex Tyson
Richard Chiles
Sally Reynolds
IN CELEBRATION OF:
87th Birthday of
Everett Ellerton

50th Anniversary of
John & China Montoya

THE KIND GIFT OF:

Margarita M. Lopez
Fae Shurtz
Irene Tribble
Everett & Lorraine Ellerton
Betty June Johnson
Charles & Sharon Craig
Betty June Johnson
Stan & Linda Lane
THE KIND GIFT OF:
Phyllis Bell

Bill & Ellies Esmeier



Myra G.
Treatment
Director
(928) 783-9362,
ext. 21

Focusing on the recent fire gives this department's staff members and clients a chance to focus on our world and the world around us. During the crisis it was comforting to know that Zeller's had employees who cared enough to come to our assistance. It was comforting to see the fire fighters from the city and Rural Metro work so diligently to complete the immediate task of taking care of the fire.

After the initial shock of seeing the devastation of the fire and knowing that our food supply had been destroyed so quickly, it was a great comfort to see how quickly members of this community stepped forward to offer assistance.

In treatment, we speak of service and giving "it" away to keep it, meaning, we remain in sobriety as we become of service to those around us. This community is exceptional with all the help they provided during this exceptional time of need.

From the Life Skills Department, the staff and clients send a heart-felt "thank you" to everyone for all the prayers, food, paper products, personal hygiene items and other things too numerous to list here. This world is truly better when we support each other and "give it away to keep it!"

Julie, Helping Herself..



"You have to help yourself before others can be there for you," says Julie.

Sometimes addiction can grab a hold of you so tight that it is hard to break loose without help. But, in order to receive that help, "you have to help yourself before other cans be there for you," says Julie.

Julie came to Crossroads Mission in May of 2002 looking for the help she needed. She credits the grace of God for coming here and the fact that the violation of her probation terms required for her to complete the Crossroads' Drug and Alcohol Recovery Program.

During her stay at Crossroads, Julie says that she learned how to "live a clean life (from drugs and alcohol) and how to live on life's terms." She was able to accomplish several goals, including her graduation of 120 day recovery program. Soon after, she obtained a full time job and found a place to live.

Julie encourages anyone struggling with any type of addiction to come to Crossroads Mission so that "you can help yourself". Her message is: "Believe, just believe, through God anything is possible".

If you would like more information about the Drug and Alcohol Recovery Center at Crossroads, please call the Chemical Withdrawal Unit at (928) 783-9362, ext. 22.

Serenity House - Helping in Success

The Serenity House has helped in the success of many. Lawrence is just one of many who have lived here until they are ready to move out.



Lawrence came to Serenity House as part of his prison release agreement. He was given 1.5 years in prison and halfway house time after that. While he was there, he as able to find employment at a local auto parts store, get his own place to live and reunite with his wife and four kids. Lawrence feels that the Serenity House has played a big part in his success. In his own words he says that it is "an affordable way to get your head and heart together".

The Serenity House is a halfway house for men run by Crossroads Mission. Residents of the house work closely with a Case Manager to reach their self sufficiency goals..

The Serenity House is located at 244 S. 3rd Avenue. For more information, please contact Pat Long at 783-5642.

Community & Clients Come Together

By Mark T., Men's Shelter Case Manager



There were some unique challenges at the men's shelter following the aftermath of the August fire and the overwhelming generosity of community contributions.... The first challenge was, where to put all the donations that were coming in? For the warehouse was the main storage facility for clothing, appliances, and a vast majority of the Missions food supply. So when the flood of community support came rolling in, we were not only in awe, we were also wondering, where? But "where" is where the questions stopped and the energy and ingenuity kicked in! For the clients of the men's shelter worked tirelessly, not only collecting the donations but organizing, separating, writing receipts, and storing the food and other items that were being brought in. At times it got a bit crazy! We had donations literally pouring out of the offices, Bible study room, the hallways, chapel, and the dinning room...Plus they had to work quickly to separate the perishable food from the rest of the rest of the items. But thanks to the community support and the clients work effort we were able turn a bad situation into a resounding success!

TOP: Jeremy helps unload some of the donated items.

We are still in need of:

Soap	Shampoo	Conditioner
Detergent	Softener	Toilet Paper
Cleaning Supplies	Razors	Toothbrushes
Toothpaste	Combs & Brushes	Deodorant



Mark T.
Case Manager for
the Homeless
(928) 783-9362,
ext. 13

"You need to talk to a Case Manager", is what a lot of people first hear when they come to the Crossroads Mission's Men's Shelter. That person, is Mark.

Mark started to work at the Men's Shelter last July. He helps our homeless guests in many ways, from directing them to other services in town, to encouraging them make some life changing choices. He oversees the Renewed Life Program, where men get the opportunity to have their room and board provided by Crossroads while they become employed, save their money and move out on their own.

Mark is originally from South Sioux City, Nebraska and has been in Yuma for three years now. He comes to Crossroads with 5 years of experience in case management, a B.A. Degree in Psychology, and most importantly "a sincere desire to help others".

His message to the community is: "Crossroads is a wonderful organization, dedicated to the investment and advancement of the human spirit, one individual at a time. Come down and visit!"



A special thanks to the Yuma High School Co-op students, who donated more than 3,200 items to Crossroads on September 6, 2002. The students belong to four different clubs: COE-FBLA, DECA, HERO and ICE. The items donated included a variety of canned foods, cereals, and personal hygiene items. Great job!