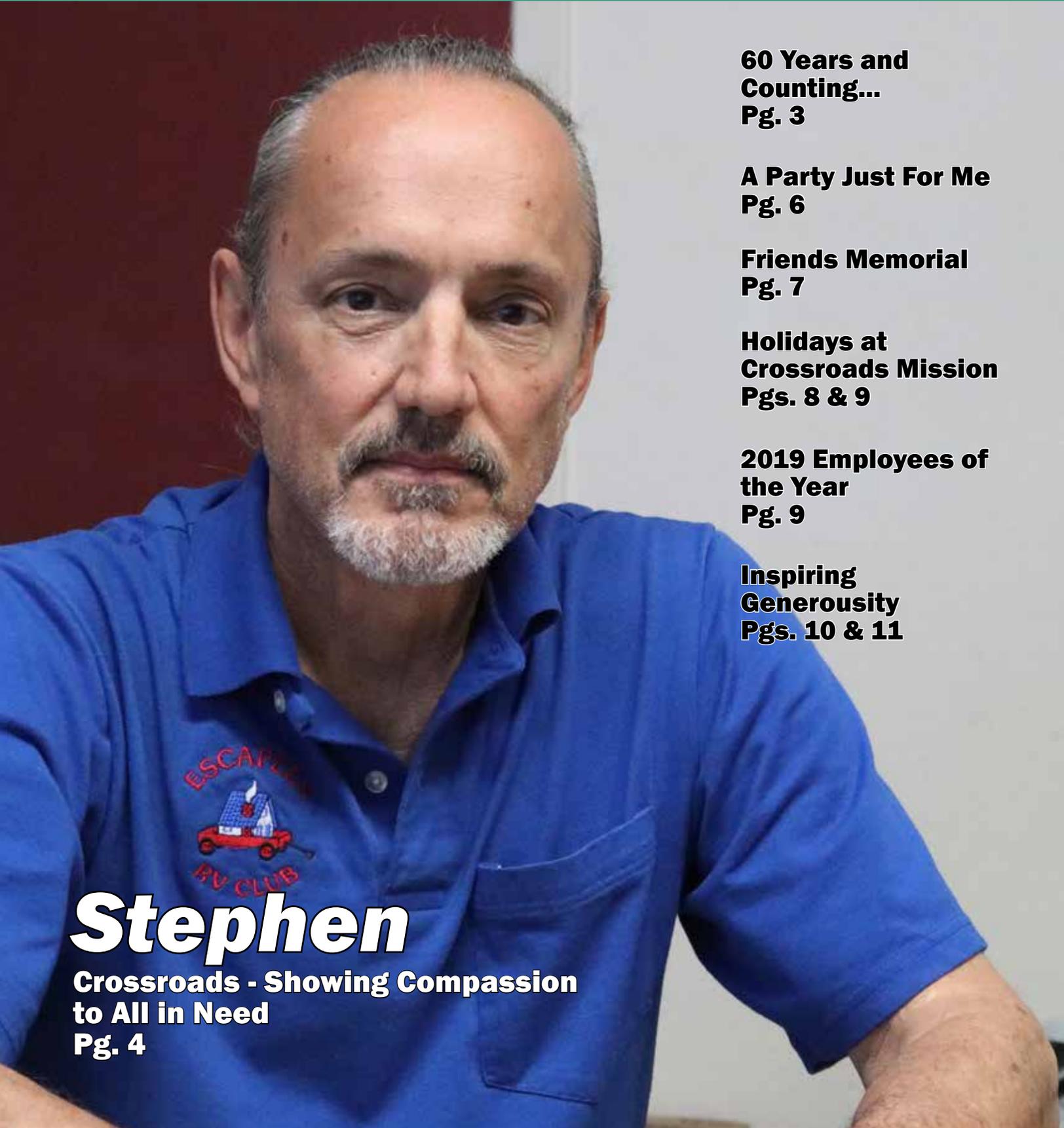


Spring 2020



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# A Sample of What We See...



**Myra E. Garlit**  
M.Ed., LISAC, BHP  
Chief Executive  
Officer

*Dear Partners: Thank you for receiving our News for Our Partners this quarter. We wanted to start the New Year by giving you A Look Inside of Crossroads Mission as we begin the New Year with our theme of Continuing to Make a Difference.*

*Crossroads makes a difference every day and that difference is accomplished by the services and programs that are offered here. Our programs: emergency shelter, the New Way Program, the New Life Program, the Education Program, vocational services, case management services, the 2nd Chance Thrift Store, and meals help make a difference each day. The end result is our community is a better place to live. People become employed. People become engaged, taxpaying citizens. Children have a place to live. People become better educated. People who were hungry have food to eat.*

*In this edition, News for Our Partners, A Look Inside of Crossroads, we offer you the stories of the staff and people whom we serve. Because you are a partner, you help with being the hands of feet of Jesus. We are able to show compassion and to offer glimmers of hope to people who are destitute and who cannot see any hope in their current situations. Thank you from the Board of Directors, the management team, the staff, the volunteers, and everyone at the Mission. Thank you for your support. The greatest support of all is to remember the Mission in prayer. God bless you!*

*Helping to Make a Difference:*

*Myra E. Garlit*

## Thank You Camarena Law!

Once again, Attorney Candy Camarena has shown his dedication to helping his community by making a generous \$5,000 donation just before the year-end. This time, Candy has chosen to invest

in the future of Crossroads and of the entire Yuma Community. He has designated his gift to be used as seed money for the building of a new Men's Shelter. After hearing from Myra Garlit, Chief Executive Officer of Crossroads Mission about the disrepair and inadequacy of the current shelter, Candy decided to jump on board and to challenge his fellow attorneys and business owners to also pledge their support for the project in 2020. This is not the first challenge to help out Crossroads that Candy has launched. In fact, he has supported the Mission for 20 years! Through his donations, Candy hopes to help transform lives and to inspire others to give. "God bless Candy for helping with his continued, generous support." says Myra.

*Left - Myra Garlit, CEO of Crossroads, accepting Candy's donation of \$5,000.*



# Sixty Years and Counting...

This year we had the privilege of celebrating the Mission's 60th anniversary! In 1959, four men with a vision and \$50 founded the Lower Lights Rescue Mission. Their intent was to provide shelter and food to the homeless in Yuma. They followed a simple motto: "Soup, Soap and Salvation." In 1992 the name was changed to Crossroads Mission. The name may have changed, but we still follow the core tenants of providing soup, soap and salvation to all of those who ask for help.

To celebrate this milestone, Crossroads hosted a Jubilee at the place where everything started. There was great food, great music by Gwynn, and wonderful fellowship. The highlight of the event came when Leticia and Reyes shared their testimony. A while back, they both found themselves at Crossroads during their lowest

points. They found the help they needed at the Mission and were able to get their lives back on track. Leticia regained custody of her children and Reyes was able to see his children again. They even ended up getting married!

All the proceeds from this event were set aside toward the construction of the new men's center. With the current men's shelter at, or over capacity each night, the need for a larger facility has never been greater. Please continue to help and to pray that the goal of a new men's center can come to fruition.

We thank the entire Yuma community, volunteers, and supporters over the years. Your continued partnership is what has made everything possible at Crossroads Mission and we look forward to continuing to serve as the 'hands and feet of Jesus' for many years to come. God Bless You All!



*The building where it all started on Madison Avenue in downtown Yuma.*



*Guests socializing during the event.*



*The Gwynn sisters as they perform during dinner service.*



*Crossroads kitchen staff preparing the meal for the evening's meal.*

# Crossroads - Showing Co

When someone mentions Crossroads Mission, what is the first thing that comes to mind? Some people may say that the Mission is a homeless shelter, while others might talk about its recovery program. People might mention that Crossroads has meals three times a day or a place for people to get help with clothing and furniture.

In truth, Crossroads Mission does all of this and much more! The Mission provides meals 3 times a day, 365 days

a year, to anyone who wants to come and eat. The First Step Center helps those suffering from addiction to get clean. After going through First Step, they can enter the New Life Recovery Program to learn tools to help them stay clean and sober. If someone is in need of clothing, they can come and receive a voucher to the 2nd Chance Thrift Store.

Above all, the Mission offers a safe place to stay while people try to get back on their feet and recover from whatever hardship they are facing in life. No matter what that hardship may be, Crossroads' staff is there to help a person to get back on track.

A good example of this is the journey of Stephen. Stephen came to Crossroads in 2019 seeking help to get back on his feet. Stephen, a plumber for 25 years, had lost his job and this eventually led to his losing his apartment, as well. He had heard of the Mission through some of his friends, despite living near Phoenix at the time. Stephen decided that he needed to focus on getting some help, so he packed what few items he had and came to Yuma.

He came straight to Crossroads to get the help he needed with his drinking. He learned the tools needed to help him abstain from alcohol and continued to make progress towards his goal of returning home to take care of his girlfriend. Unfortunately, Stephen suffered a severe setback when he fell and ended up breaking his hip. When

he was examined at the hospital, the doctors let him know how fortunate he had really been. Though broken, it was a 'clean' break and wouldn't leave him bedridden.

Stephen's stay at the Mission continues, though now he gets around with the assistance of a walker while he heals from his surgery. He had feared at first that he wouldn't be allowed to stay because of his injury, but he found that staff at the Men's Shelter were there to support him. He spoke to them and had his mind put at ease when he was told he would have the time he needed to recover.



*Left - Stephen with his walker after his surgery to repair his broken hip.*

# mpassion to All in Need

Stephen is continuing to work towards returning home and finding employment once again. He is going to his physical therapy appointments and continuing to regain his strength since his surgery. Stephen reported that he even was in contact with a couple people who were willing to offer him work once he returns. He has a positive outlook on things and is determined to reach his goal so he can be with his family and loved ones once again.

**A**nother example of how the Crossroads helps people can be found in Nathan. He admitted right from the beginning that he didn't want to be at Crossroads Mission. Nathan said he was resistant to the idea that he needed any help and didn't like the idea of having to stay at a homeless shelter.

From a young age, Nathan had a problem with drugs and alcohol and as he got older this problem only got worse. He would use drugs every day and often ended up feeling depressed because of it. As an adult, Nathan's continued drug use ended up costing him his job.

Without a steady income, Nathan eventually lost his apartment and was forced to stay with friends and family members. Even without a job, Nathan still continued his drug habit, finding the drug wherever he could. This eventually led to his being kicked out of his family's home and ending up on the streets. Not only did he lose his place to stay, Nathan also lost his mother to illness, causing him to become even more depressed and hopeless.

Nathan said that even though he was resistant at the start, he found himself accepting the help that was offered at Crossroads in the New Life Program. Nathan discovered support from friends and a renewed relationship with his family while learning to live a better lifestyle. When asked, Nathan said that things at the Mission were pretty simple and you just had to follow the rules.

Nathan's ultimate goal once graduating from the New Life Program is to go into either the Army or Navy. Nathan said he had learned to no longer run

away from his problems and he wants to give back in whatever way he can.

Stephen and Nathan are just two examples of the hundreds of people that come to Crossroads Mission each year seeking help. Though they came here for different reasons, each was able to find the support to work toward their goals. None of this is possible without the support of donors and volunteers like you. We ask that you continue to support Crossroads. Your donations and time are directly responsible for the helping those staying at the Mission find hope. May God bless you all!



*Right - Nathan during his stay at Crossroads Mission in the New Life Program.*

# A Party “Just For Me”

How would you feel if you found out there was a special event that was held just for you? Excited, right? Maybe, a little baffled - wondering what you did to deserve such an event.

At Crossroads Mission, we have a special event just for the homeless guests called “Just for You.” It was started last fall by the Mission’s CEO, Myra Garlit, to better help the homeless who stay at Crossroads but aren’t signed-up in any program. People who are not staying at Crossroads, but are seeking help, are welcome.

Each month, guests are treated to food, games, and gifts. There are even raffles for prizes for everyone who attends the meaningful event. No one leaves empty handed.

These events are more than just a meeting, though. Case Managers are on-hand to answer questions guests may have. Finding affordable housing, getting medical treatment, and help with getting veteran benefits, are just some of the questions often asked during these events.

The messages that are repeated each time are that there is a better way than living on the street, and that everyone is worthy of respect. Guests and non-guests are given clothes, blankets, and essentials to help them and remind them that Crossroads is there for them. These helpful events are possible through the love of Jesus Christ and your donations. Please continue to donate and to show people the compassion of God!



*A homeless guest receiving a meal during the party.*



*Crossroads Mission case managers are always on hand to help those seeking information and assistance.*



*It would not be a party without activities and games!*



*Free clothing is available for homeless guests to take with them.*

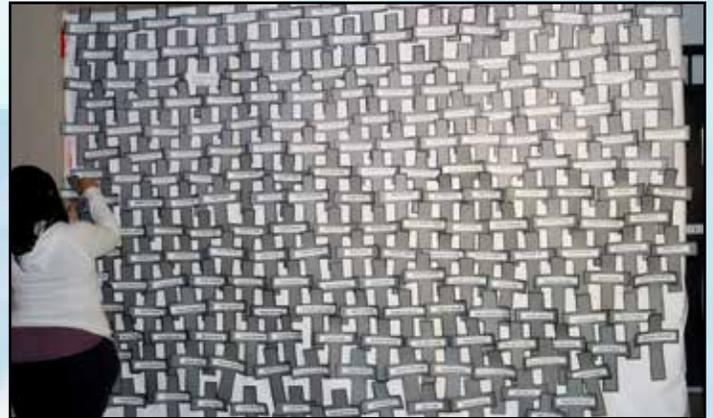
# Remembering Friends

December 21st is the start of winter of each year. This day is also the same day that Crossroads Mission has its “Friends of the Mission Memorial.” During this memorial, we remember those who have come through the Mission and passed away throughout the years. Many of them died due to drug overdoses and exposure to the elements while being homeless. Others were staff and volunteers at Crossroads at one point.

This year’s memorial started off with Crossroads’ Spiritual Coordinator, Fabian Valenzuela, reading from the Bible and providing some insight into his own life and how he came to the Mission. He continued by reassuring those in the audience that there is hope and help at Crossroads. Towards the end of his time, Fabian found himself interrupted by “Cousin Minny” (performed by Myra Garlit, CEO of the Mission) pushing her cart of belongings onto the stage.

During this skit, “Cousin Minny” went through her cart, asking for people to identify each item and what they might be used for. She had many examples of basic items that the homeless find different uses for.

Afterwards, Myra spoke of how the homeless are often called the “Invisible People.” Many will walk by them without really even registering that a person is there: turning their heads or trying to avoid the homeless. She proved this point by asking one of the people in the audience, a staff member dressed up as a homeless person (played



*Crosses are placed with the name each person is on the list.*

by Angel Wise) if she had been greeted or spoken to. She said that no she hadn’t and mentioned some people had moved from sitting next to her. Even at the Mission, a person can become invisible if we don’t take the time to talk to them and hear their story.

At the end, Fabian and his wife Lisa read the list of names of those who have passed away. Each name was accompanied by the ringing of a bell, a candle being lit, and a cross being put up on a wall with their name on it. By the end of the evening, we had remembered and honored well over 230 people.

At Crossroads we continue to offer hope that there is a better way of life. We encourage those who are struggling with any sort of addiction to come to the Mission and get help. There is a better way and there is always hope for a better future!



*During her skit, Myra as “Cousin Minny” talks to Fabian Valenzuela about her cart of items.*



*Candles are lit as each name is read, honoring those that we remembered this year.*

# Holidays at Crossroads



*Young volunteers set out desserts to be served to guests during Thanksgiving.*



*Crossroads' younger volunteers get the chance to interact with visitors during the holidays.*



*Barbers from the community provide free haircuts to anyone who wants one.*



*Volunteers serve meals and desserts to guests during each of 3 days.*

Every day is an opportunity to start fresh and to get better. This is especially true during the Thanksgiving and Christmas events at Crossroads Mission. The crowds offer certain anonymity and it's easier for some people to come looking for help without feeling exposed and on-the-spot.

We had the opportunity to fellowship with friends who come to the Mission often. We get to encourage them and guide them towards a better life. We also got to meet some new people who had never been to the mission.

We were privileged to see families that had been previously separated by addiction share their first meal together in months. We could see the start of family reunification. We saw veterans as they received well-earned military gear from the Disabled American Veterans. Many had not seen a veteran's services representative before and they got started right here at Crossroads.

We had clothes hanging and on tables for the homeless to come and choose. We had gift boxes and produce to give, as well. It was good to see guests walking away with their hands full! Our hearts broke when we saw just how many families were in need during the holiday season, though. We did our best to give each child presents and good memories through games, crafts, and delicious desserts. We got to see happy parents and happy children.

Many volunteers kindly offered their support: serving meals, delivering meals to the homebound, providing refreshments, and helping with cleaning up, and more. Serving that many people would simply be impossible with just our staff. We are ever thankful for your support and look forward to seeing you at the mission again next year. God Bless You!

The 3-Days of Thanksgiving				
2020	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	3 DAYS
Served	866	1,024	740	<b>2,630</b>
Delivered	720	769	987	<b>2,476</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,586</b>	<b>1,793</b>	<b>1,727</b>	<b>5,106</b>

The 3-Days of Christmas				
2020	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	3 DAYS
Served	660	766	870	<b>2,296</b>
Delivered	771	765	727	<b>2,263</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,431</b>	<b>1,531</b>	<b>1,597</b>	<b>4,559</b>

# s Mission



*Left - A young girl shows off the gifts she received during Christmas.*

*Below - Children eating lunch during Thanksgiving.*



## Employees of the Year!



*Heather Schwind, Family Shelter Case Manager and Donovan "Greg" Culver, Men's Shelter Director, as they receive their awards.*

Each year the directors at Crossroads Mission are faced with the task of choosing an employee of the year. With so many wonderful and caring staff at Crossroads, this is quite an undertaking.

This year, two members of the Mission were awarded the "Employee of the Year" award. Donovan "Greg" Culver, the Men's Shelter Director, and Heather Schwind, Case Manager, at the Family Shelter. Throughout 2019, both showed an extreme level of commitment and compassion in their work with the people at Crossroads. Thank you for all of your hard work and congratulations!



# Inspiring Generosity



*John and Pam Osterman presenting the check for \$8,000 towards the building of the new men's shelter.*

Crossroads Mission thanks John and Pam Osterman for their generous \$8,000 donation towards the new men's center!

John and Pam Osterman have been members of the Yuma community for almost 50 years. They have been on many local boards and have contributed their time and resources to various organizations, including Crossroads Mission.

The Mission has always been important to them, and over the years they have donated personally and through the John T. and Pamela S. Osterman Charitable Foundation within the Yuma Community Foundation. When their daughter, Erin Ballos, was Director of Drug Court, they attended many graduations, and heard from people who were able, with the help of Crossroads Mission, to change their lives. They restored their relationships with family, regained their good health, trained for and found employment in the community.

The Osterman's recently saw the thank you notice in this newsletter, with a photo of Phil and Debbie Townsend, who contributed to the building of the men's center at the capital fundraiser dinner. Phil and Debbie have been their friends for many years. It was their example that inspired the Osterman's recent donation.

Both John and Pam feel strongly that it is important to give back to the community. The mission has a number of important projects underway, including the building of a men's shelter. The new men's shelter will allow Crossroads to increase the number of men that can be helped. It will also include a geriatric wing to assist the aging homeless men.

The Osterman's hope that their donation will inspire others to help Crossroads Mission. We hope that you will follow their example and continue donating to Crossroads! God bless you John and Pam!

## What Your Gifts Made Possible:

DEPARTMENT	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>Kitchen</b>						
MEALS	14,511	12,839	14,702	15,910	19,468	18,083
<b>Family Shelter</b>						
BED NIGHTS	2,752	2,399	2,294	3,247	3,152	2,998
INDIVIDUALS	133	127	129	131	168	136
CHILDREN	57	33	47	54	65	51
<b>Men's Shelter</b>						
BED NIGHTS	1,995	2,364	1,935	2,086	2,057	2,226
INDIVIDUALS	154	165	152	154	138	132
<b>Drug &amp; Alcohol Stabilization Unit</b>						
ADMITTED	63	65	57	62	61	57
COMPLETED	40	46	41	33	39	32
<b>New Life Recovery Program</b>						
ENTERED	18	26	31	31	18	20
GRADUATES	13	11	12	18	7	9
<b>New Way Homeless &amp; Transition Program</b>						
PARTICIPATING	42	48	43	36	38	34
<b>Career &amp; Academic Center</b>						
STUDENTS	104	156	171	163	135	125
HOURS STUDIED	809	825.5	915	929.25	713.25	753.75
GEDs	0	1	2	1	0	0
<b>Giving</b>						
CLOTHES	10,533	7,449	11,499	11,875	8,358	11,493
FURNITURE	42	55	32	43	27	58

## Memorial Gifts:

A Gift In Memory Of:	Kindly Given By:
Tommy White (Whitey)	Darlene Abdelnour
Ron Adams	William Adams
John Paul Chavez	Joyce Alcantar
Debbie Gunsch RN	Allen Applehans
John Robert Minore	Anthony Artale
Jon C Tyler	Blake Bryant
Ann Buster	Jim Buster
Keith Nelson	Linda Cardoza
Larry Hieber	Charles Craig
Gregory Malouff	Charles Craig
James Deibert	Jon C Tyler
Susan Dowling	Ray & Carole McCoy
Robert "Mike" Shantek	Kimberly Gerardo
John Minore	John Lichty
Jeff Moerke	Brenda Moerke
Janet Moenk	Lloyd Murray
John Peach	Kathryn Stocking Tate

Our deepest sympathies are with those who have lost loved ones. A memorial gift to Crossroads Mission is a special way to offer hope to the needy in the name of a friend or family member.

## Honorary Gifts:

A Gift In Honor Of:	Kindly Given By:
Grace Helen Ferris	Aaron Ferris
Sun Vista Resort Choral Group	Frank Johnston
Ray & Carole McCoy	Laurie McCoy
Bobby & Glenda Brooks	Thomas McIntire
Peggy Munger	Pamela Tangonan
Michael Young	John & Anita Young
Ms. Elsie Cavanaugh	Shirley Cramer
Mr. & Mrs. James Shuster	Shirley Cramer
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Shuster	Shirley Cramer

Every effort is made to assure that all names are correct. We apologize for any errors that may have occurred.

# Thank You Mr. and Mrs. Fisher



Rob Keppeler, General Manager of Fisher Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, hands over the keys of the new van to Barbara Rochester, Public Relations Director of Crossroads Mission.

Crossroads Mission thanks Joe and Ann Fisher for their wonderful donation of a 14 passenger van to the Mission. Their donation came at just the right time, when we were in desperate need of a van to replace our oldest van. This new vehicle will help Crossroads to continue serving those in need and aiding them in getting to vital appointments around town. It's because of donors like you that the Mission is able to help so many people. God Bless You!



MAIN PHONE NUMBER: (928) 783-9362  
\*Operator on duty 24/7

Chief Executive Officer  
Myra Garlit (928) 783-9362, Ext. 101

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(928) 328-8604

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Cashier's Station (928) 328-8626

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Fabian Valenzuela (928) 328-8610

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Barbara Rochester (928) 580-4482

\*Family Shelter  
(928) 328-8611

\*Men's Shelter  
(928) 783-9362, Ext. 100

\*First Step Center - OPEN 24 HRS.  
(928) 328-8082

Career & Academic Center  
(928) 328-8236

Newsletters & Website  
Mark Tawzer (928) 246-7956

[www.crossroadsmission.org](http://www.crossroadsmission.org)

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## Did you know?

For every dollar you donate to Crossroads Mission, only 3 cents are used for administration costs



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- Summer Mellon
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- Barbara McAleese

**Crossroads Mission is committed to glorifying God by serving those at their crossroads of life**

Crossroads Mission is a 501(c)3, Private Nonprofit Organization serving the homeless, needy and poor of Yuma County without regard to race, color, national origin, religious background, age, sex or handicap. (Alternative format and reasonable accommodations available upon request.) We depend on the contributions of concerned individuals and organizations. All contributions are tax-deductible. We are a member in good standing of the Citygate Network and are accredited by the Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability. We partner with the State of Arizona, Yuma Community Food Bank, FEMA & Arizona Complete Health. We do not solicit door to door. Please report any impostors to us immediately. News for Our Partners is a quarterly publication for the friends and supporters of Crossroads Mission. We welcome comments about the content of the newsletter. If there are issues you want to hear about, please let us know.

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