

SPRING 2018

## Luis

“I got another chance, I came to the Mission, they gave me my life back.”

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Capital Campaign  
Fundraiser

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A New Men's  
Center

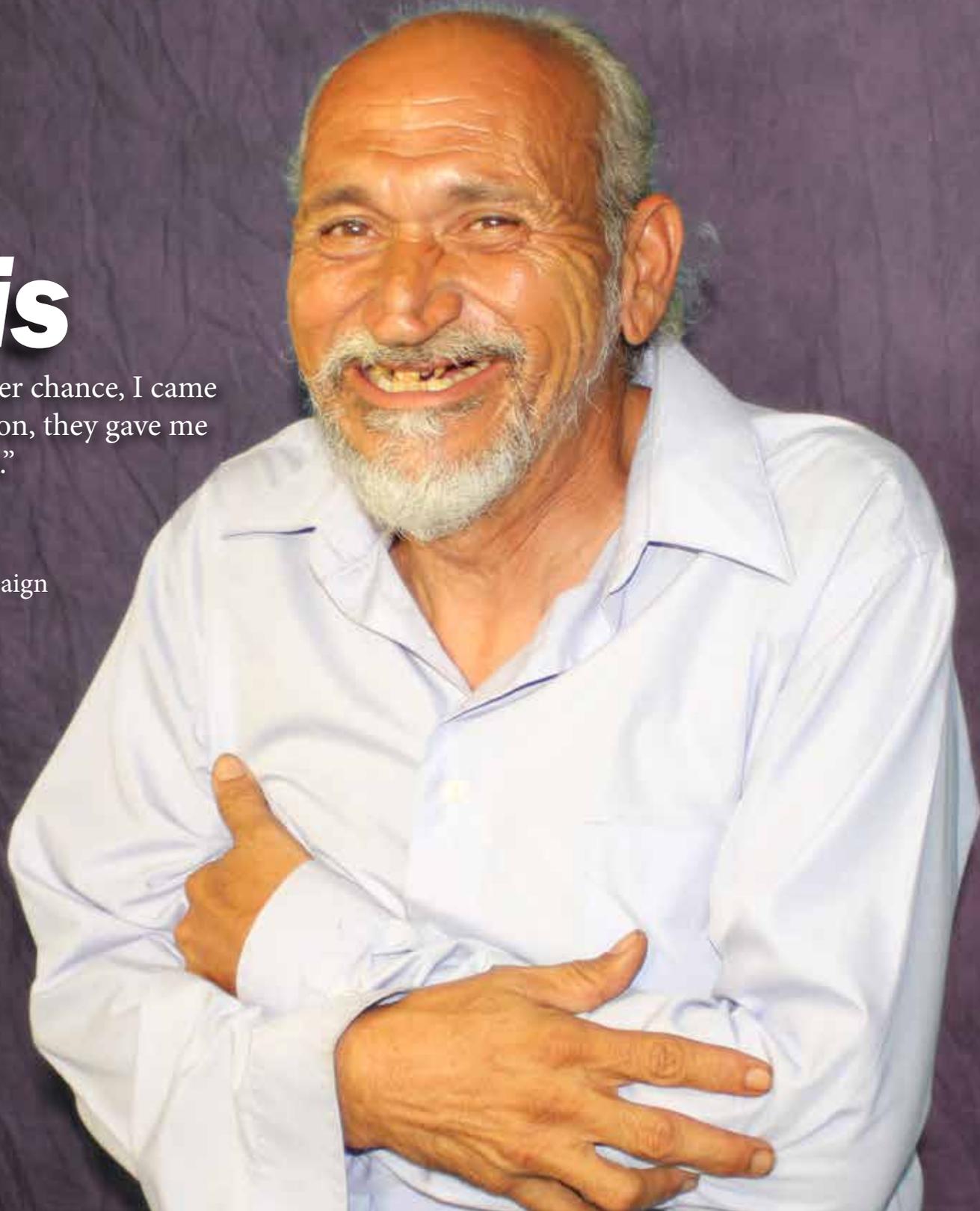
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6 Days,  
11,000 Meals

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# A Sample of What We See...



**Myra E. Garlit**  
M.Ed., LISAC, BHP  
Executive Director

*Thank you for receiving News or Our Partners! This newsletter gives you a glimpse of just a few of the activities at the Crossroads. Our mission statement **Glorifying God by helping by helping those at the crossroads of their life** is fulfilled every day at the Mission! Helping the homeless find housing, helping the addicted find sobriety, helping families stabilize after losing their homes, helping the children feel safe and unafraid, feeding the hungry, helping people get their GED or get prepped for college classes, giving clothing and shoes to those in need and the list goes on. The really exciting part of this ministry is you are a part of it as you support Crossroads. Of course, we seek cash donations so that we can continue to be the “hands and feet of Jesus” but we appreciate every can of food, every piece of furniture, every blanket and the clothing that you donate! Thank you!*

*We have started a new ministry! We believe that leaders are readers and we want to afford every child to opportunity to read. The books are easily accessed in the hallway of the Education Center with chairs for the children and parents to sit and read. The children read books and get stars on their chart. After reading so many books they will earn prizes. The more books they read, the better the prize. This ministry is run by the Education Center and it is going great! If you have children’s books please consider donating them to this ministry. We are always looking for books to add to our collection.*

*You may have heard about the new Men’s Center by now. Our current building is old and in need of major repairs. For the past eight years we have had to use our overflow beds to accommodate the number of men who need a place to sleep. The overflow beds are single-sized, plastic, floor cots. The men are happy to have a place to sleep. Looking forward to the future, we hope to help those still out in the elements and in need of services. We are planning a geriatric unit to our new shelter because we are seeing more of the baby boomers generation who have no family and cannot care for themselves.*

*If you would like to donate to Crossroads, we would appreciate it. You can donate through our website [crossroadsmission.org](http://crossroadsmission.org) or by calling our Donations Specialist Brennan Amos at (928) 259-5608. God bless you for being a part of all of the ministries at Crossroads Mission!*

*Myra E. Garlit*

## A New Addition to the Management Team



We are pleased to introduce you to Azucena Solorzano, our new Marketing & Development Director. Azucena is not new to Crossroads, she has been working here since 2001. In that time, she has been responsible for the News For Our Partners newsletter, website, social media, publications, and promotions. In recent years, Azucena has also been involved in the area of fundraising, and development. In her new position, she hopes to expand in the area of donor relations, fundraising, and community involvement. We invite you to join us in welcoming her to our management team. If you need help, or have questions about donations, fundraising, or marketing, please feel free to contact her at: [asolorzano@crossroadsmission.org](mailto:asolorzano@crossroadsmission.org) | (928) 328-8030.

# Great Eating for a Great Cause

It was a night of good eating during the Capital Campaign Fundraising Dinner. It happened at Britain's Farm at the end of February as part of the efforts to build a much-needed Men's Center building for Crossroads Mission.

The "Workers In Name Only – WINO Group" were a big part of the organization of this successful event. They sold tickets, conducted raffles, led a live auction, and much more. With their help, our kitchen staff was able to cook and serve a delicious four course meal. On the menu: Tortilla Soup, Wedge Salad, Rib Eye Steak, Risotto Rice, Vegetables and a Crème Brûlée Dessert.

The Oscar Chavez and Family band performed live music throughout the evening. There were over 400 people in attendance that enjoyed the great food, music, and ambiance.

This is one of the many events that we will host in the future to be able to build a brand new building. Learn more about it on Page 7. We thank the W.I.N.O. group, and Britain's Farm for their continued support, thank all of our friends who joined us for this wonderful dinner. God bless you!



To the left you can see Eduardo serving soup to the guests.

Below there are various items that were being sold during the event to raise funds, along with a display of the dessert that was being served.

Further down are the guests enjoying the live music: Oscar Chavez and Family.





# From Homeless to HOMEOWNER

At 58 years old, Luis Francisco Martinez has not had an easy life. He has had people taking advantage of him, stealing from him, and not taking care of him. He is a SMI individual - Severely Mentally Ill. He has lived in Yuma all of his life

“I was in boarding homes not really having a home, I was just roaming, really. For ten years I was homeless. I was roaming around, sleeping in the sidewalk, sleeping in the desert, sleeping wherever I could. I was SMI, I had a mental problem. I became homeless because I just gave up on life and I didn’t care about nothing so I went to the streets. I’ve been roaming around.”

Then Luis came to Crossroads just at the right time. A small mobile home was up for sale and the owners had asked

Crossroads to keep an eye out for a new owner. A small deposit and cleaning fee was all that was needed. After working closely with his Case Manager at the Hope Center, it was determined that Luis could be that owner.

“All of a sudden, I got another chance, I came to the Mission, they gave me my life back. And next thing you know, I’m putting in an application and I just got this place. It all felt like some kind of miracle that they had this place for me at the same time I asked. I put in the paper work and a month later I went over to check the trailer out and talk to the manager over there and she said for cleaning purposes and working on the trailer I could buy the trailer for \$500. Next thing you know, I’m in a new home. From homeless to homeowner in just one month. And it only took a month stay at the Mission.”

Luis was not used to people helping him. It took him a while to realize that he could really live a different life. He stayed at the Men’s Shelter for a whole month. During that time, he became used to the idea of not having a place of his own and living on the streets.

“The people at the Mission were good and they were friendly and they helped me out a lot. Everybody keep helping me out a lot. Were they going out of their way or what? I don’t know what was going on but they helped me out. It’s still new to me and hard to absorb but it’s coming to mind now.”

The ten years Luis had spent on the streets really disconnected him

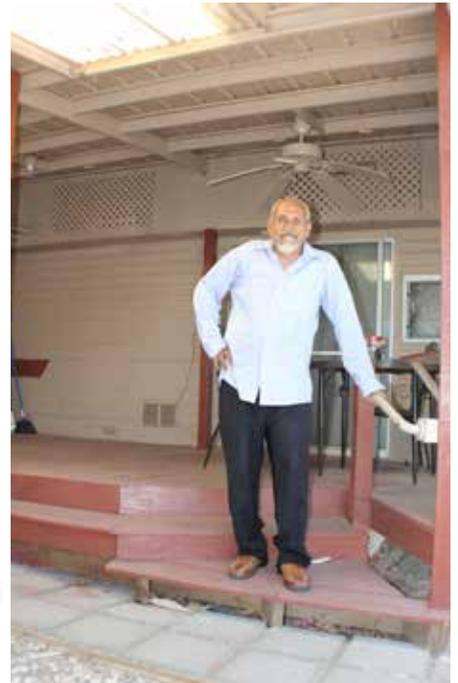
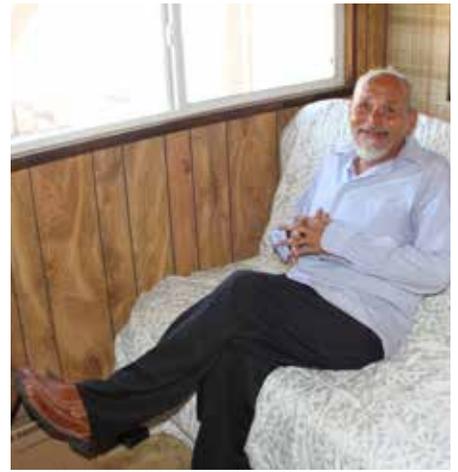
# Homeless to E-OWNER

from everything. For two years he had not had any contact with his family. They thought he was dead and he thought his mother was dead. But, after becoming a homeowner, Luis wanted to reconnect with them. They were both happily surprised!

“After a while, my case manager took me to go see my mom and she hadn’t

seen me in two years. She didn’t know if I was still alive or anything. I then knew she was surprised, my mom, and now she has come back to life because she found her son. Her son came back and he’s still alive. She didn’t know if I was alive or not after two years I didn’t contact her or any of my family.”

Today, Luis is living in his own mobile home. He is back in touch with his family. He is living a better life thanks in part to your generosity. “Thank you to all of my friends that helped me out I will always love them, always remember them. Thank you.”



Luis proudly shows off his new home.



View Luis' interview on YouTube. Follow this QR code to reach it faster:



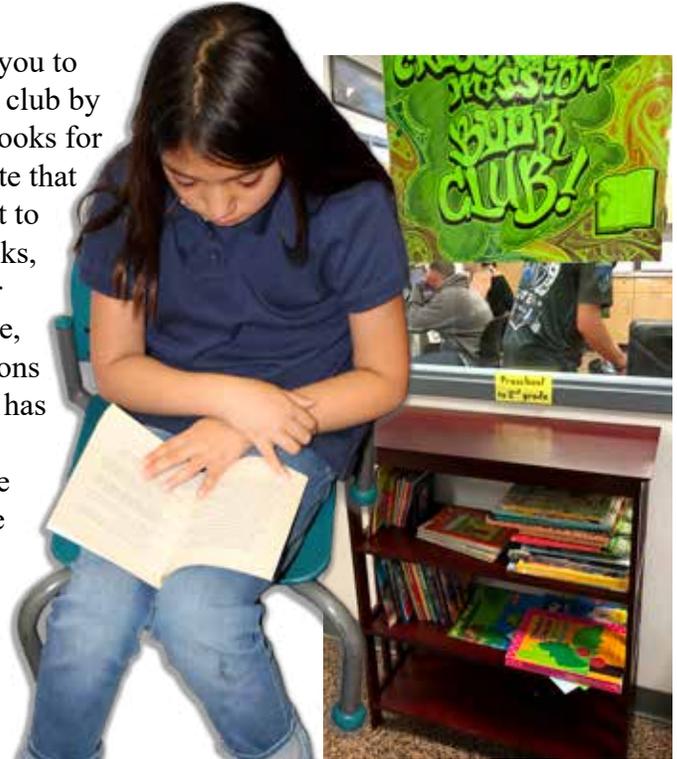
# Creating Leaders!

There's nothing quite like reading a good book – learning new things, imagining different characters, and even different worlds. We believe that books should be an important part of every child's upbringing. Readers are leaders! That is why we started the new "Mission Reading Club" as a way to encourage children to read more.

Just outside of the Education Center, there are four bookcases with books for different age groups. Children can pick out a book they would like to read and check it out. Once they return the book and read it, they receive credit in the form of a star on the board. For every book they read the kids can get a prize. Or, they can save up their stars and earn a bigger reward, such as movie tickets for their family. This program isn't just limited to the children who stay at Crossroads. Children from the community can come in and check out books to read, and earn rewards also.

We'd like to invite you to be a part of this book club by donating children's books for all ages. We anticipate that the children will want to keep some of the books, and that's ok. If their reading skills improve, and if their imaginations are fed, then the club has done its job.

Our goal is to create good memories in the children who live at the Family Shelter. With your help, the Mission Reading Club can create leaders.



## Public Speaking At Crossroads

About every four months, program participants get the chance to show the skills they gained in Mission Masters, a public speaking club modeled after Toastmasters International. You can check out some of those speeches by using the codes below.

Gil S.  
"The Main Event"

Tyler C.  
"From Pain to Victory"

Daniel W.  
"Love In Recovery"

Joel T.



The property before clean-up.



The property after clean-up.

# A New Men's Center

Since 1959, Crossroads Mission has been in Yuma, providing soup, soap and salvation to the needy in the community. We have come a long way since then and provide many more services now, such as: drug and alcohol treatment, case management, community outreach, and education.

The current Men's Shelter was built in 1993. At the time, it served the needs of the homeless very well. Now, the shelter is beyond capacity every night and showing its age. This is why we now



embark on a new vision for a brand new Men's Center. We fully rely on God, our generous supporters, and the community to make this vision a reality.

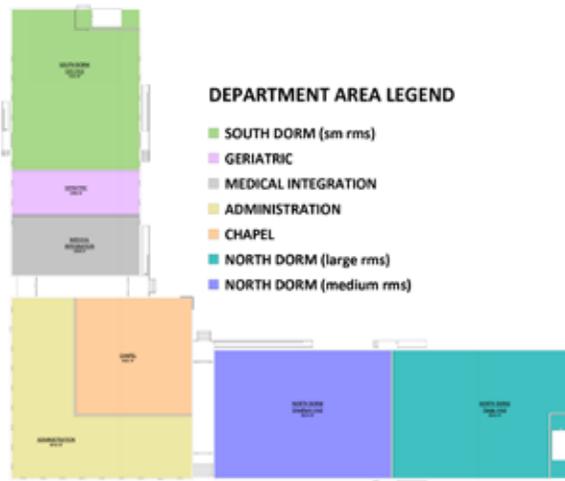
This new Men's Center will be located just south of our main campus, on Arizona Avenue, behind the Greentree Grocery Outlet. Our goals are not only to have adequate room, but to expand the services we provide to the homeless. The plans include a new geriatric wing to better serve the elderly homeless population, and a new medical integration area for more advanced care services.

Most importantly, a larger and dedicated chapel room will allow Crossroads to continue

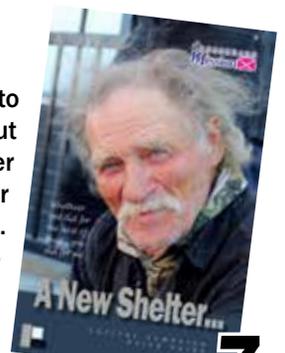


The staff praying for the future Center

share the Word of God on a daily basis. Through your support of Crossroads and with God's guidance, we look to the future to make this vision a reality!



If you'd like to learn more about the Men's Center project, visit our website or call us. We'll be glad to share more with you.



# Over 11,000 Meals in J

The 3 days of Thanksgiving and 3 days of Christmas have always been the largest events of the year at Crossroads. But, this past year we had our biggest event yet. In 6 days over 11,000 meals were served!

We served our traditional meals for each of the 3 days: Mexican food for the first day, roast beef on the second day, and oven roasted turkey on Day 3. Volunteers helped out tremendously, providing most of the desserts that were served during these days.

During the 3 days of Thanksgiving, a total of 6,249 meals were served to those in need,

and 5,027 meals for the 3 Days of Christmas. Out of those meals, 3,962 were delivered to the frail and elderly directly to their homes. Food wasn't the only thing to be found during these days.

There was a face painting, a crafts for the children, live music, services and goods for the veterans, free clothes and blankets, and more. During Christmas, Santa made an appearance to provide gifts and happiness to the children in attendance. Thanks to generous donations from volunteers and donors, every child was able to receive presents.

Each of those days, enthusiastic

volunteers were at every station: serving lunch to people with a joyful attitude, delivering meals to homebound people, providing haircuts to the homeless, and even providing prayer to any and all who requested it.

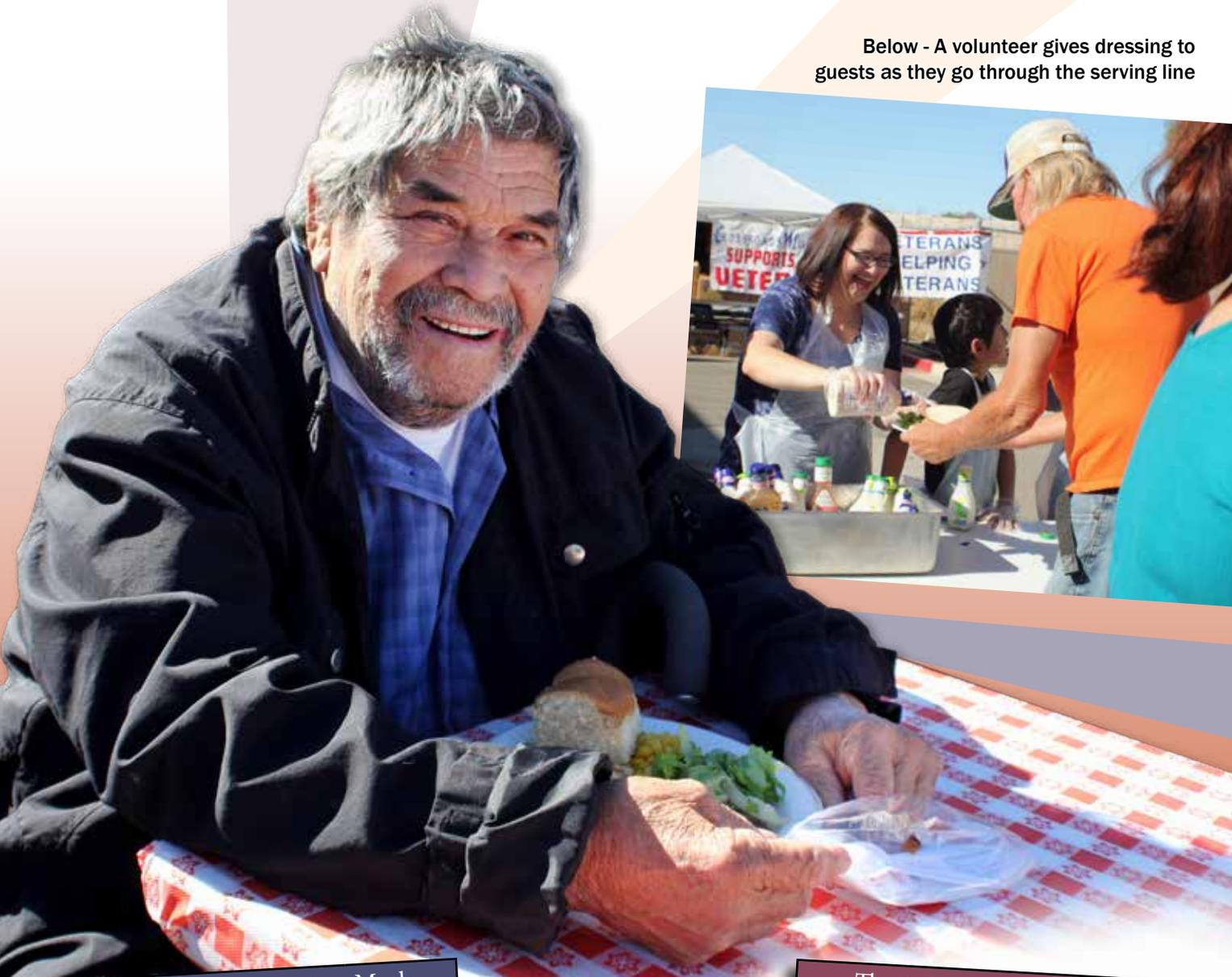


Without your help, these events would not be possible! Thank you for continuing to support Crossroads.

God truly does provide for everyone in their time of need!



# Just Six Days!



Below - A volunteer gives dressing to guests as they go through the serving line



The 3-Days of Thanksgiving: Meals			
Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	TOTAL
1,897	2,297	2,055	6,249

Above - A guest at Crossroads enjoys his holiday meal.

Left - Volunteers prepare to serve desserts to guests.

Right - Free Haircuts are being given to visitors

Far Left:

- 1 - Volunteer Sign-In
- 2 - Serving Line
- 3 - Prayer
- 4 - Crafts Table
- 5 - Haircuts
- 6 - Dessert Line
- 7 - Music and Entertainment

The 3-Days of Christmas: Meals			
Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	TOTAL
1,532	1,671	1,824	5,027





## **Thank You Phil & Debbie Townsend!**

We thank Phil and Debbie Townsend for their donation of \$10,000 towards the new Men's Center project. They, along with many other donors helped to make the vision of a new Men's Center that much closer. We thank them for their selfless generosity. This donation was presented during the capital fundraiser dinner. May God bless you!



## **Thank You The Vertical Church!**

We thank The Vertical Church for their donation of \$5,000. This donation was part of a special offering to support Crossroads Mission and the entire community. We thank them for their continued support! This donation was presented to Myra Garlit during one of their weekly services. God bless You!



## **Thank you Mesa Verde Quilters!**

We thank the Mesa Verde Quilters! They created a beautiful, hand-made quilt to be raffled off to help support Crossroads. Through their hard work, a gift of \$700 was received by Barbara Rochester on behalf of Crossroads Mission during one of their recent meetings. We thank them for their continued support! God bless you!



## **Thank You Little Caesar's!**

We thank Little Caesar's Love Kitchen! They brought their mobile kitchen to Crossroads Mission recently and baked enough pizza to feed over 150 people for lunch. We also thank the local Little Caesar's employees who selflessly volunteered to help out. It was a big treat for everyone who came to the Mission to eat. God bless you!

# What Your Gifts Made Possible:

DEPARTMENT	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>Kitchen</b>						
MEALS	14083	13865	13,682	13480	17428	16628
<b>Family Shelter</b>						
BED NIGHTS	1970	2373	2459	2742	2539	3085
INDIVIDUALS	67	77	75	121	127	129
CHILDREN	24	38	48	41	43	46
<b>Men's Shelter</b>						
BED NIGHTS	3050	3019	3347	3359	3322	3531
INDIVIDUALS	197	200	196	211	239	217
<b>Drug &amp; Alcohol Stabilization Unit</b>						
ADMITTED	45	56	46	40	51	39
COMPLETED	35	39	33	24	39	33
<b>New Life Recovery Program</b>						
ENTERED	22	30	25	23	29	24
GRADUATES	9	12	8	9	12	9
<b>New Way Homeless &amp; Transition Program</b>						
PARTICIPATING	32	41	41	43	49	54
<b>Career &amp; Academic Center</b>						
STUDENTS	121	158	143	133	124	92
HOURS STUDIED	865.25	1185.75	984.5	957.5	781.75	593.5
GEDs	2	0	0	0	2	2
<b>Giving</b>						
CLOTHES	8,072	10,400	10,548	12333	20418	13436
FURNITURE	58	17	24	34	10	14

# Thank You!

Without all your support during these past months, we could not have provided vital services to the homeless and hosted the many special events. Our promise to you is one of accountability, transparency, and good stewardship. We are careful on how we spend because it's not our money - it's your money and God's money!



# Memorial Gifts:

A Gift In Memory Of:	Kindly Given By:
Alice Steele	Karen Campbell
Ann Marie Stone	Jo Ann Stevens
Anna Lee Phillip	Kathryn Arthur
Betty Esmeier	Charles Craig
Captain Bruce McCandless	H. L. Ritter
Carolyn Butcher	Charles
Charles Cordery	Charles Craig
Charles Powell	Charles
Connie Skala	Dolores Holzinger
Elaine Murphy	David Neal
Frank Irr	Tom Rushin
	Thomas Tyree
	Charles Craig
	Joanne Gill
Jerry Moon	Charles Craig
Joanne Jett	Tami Harmon
	Esperanza Zaragoza
	Jean E. Rivers
	Sharon Jessup
	Lynn Comstock
Joe Ostrowski	Shelley Ostrowski
Lynn Dalbey	Charles Craig
	Phillip Townsend
Margie Edwards	Shirley Pate
Mary	James Hammonds
Mildred Whitehead	Charles Craig
Pat Monks	Barbara Ernst
Ray McCoy	Julia Couch
	Susan Dowling
	Susan Dowling
Robbie Peterson	Sundance Insurance Agency Inc
	Mary Jacobson
Tommy White	Darlene Abdelnour
Wally Brandt	Dave Nelson
	Norma Messman
Wilburn McCurley	Charles Craig

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:
Nancy Lutes	Sylvia Rambo
Norma W. Nelson	Edward Nelson

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

To learn more about Crossroads Mission and what we do, follow this QR code or visit our website at [Crossroadsmission.org](http://Crossroadsmission.org). Have a Blessed Day!





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

**Executive Director**  
Myra Garlit (928) 783-9362, Ext. 101

**Major Gifts & Development**  
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Planned Gifts & Charitable Trusts  
Azucena Solorzano (928) 261-9836

**Finance & Cash Donations**  
(928) 259-5608

**Kitchen & Food Donations**  
(928) 328-8604

**2nd Chance Thrift Store**  
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**\*Family Shelter**  
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**\*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



Accredited by the Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability. Your donations are in good hands with Crossroads Mission!

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**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 Association of Gospel Rescue Missions and are accredited by the Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability. We partner with the State of Arizona, Yuma Community Food Bank, FEMA & Cenpatco Integrated 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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