

Summer 2019

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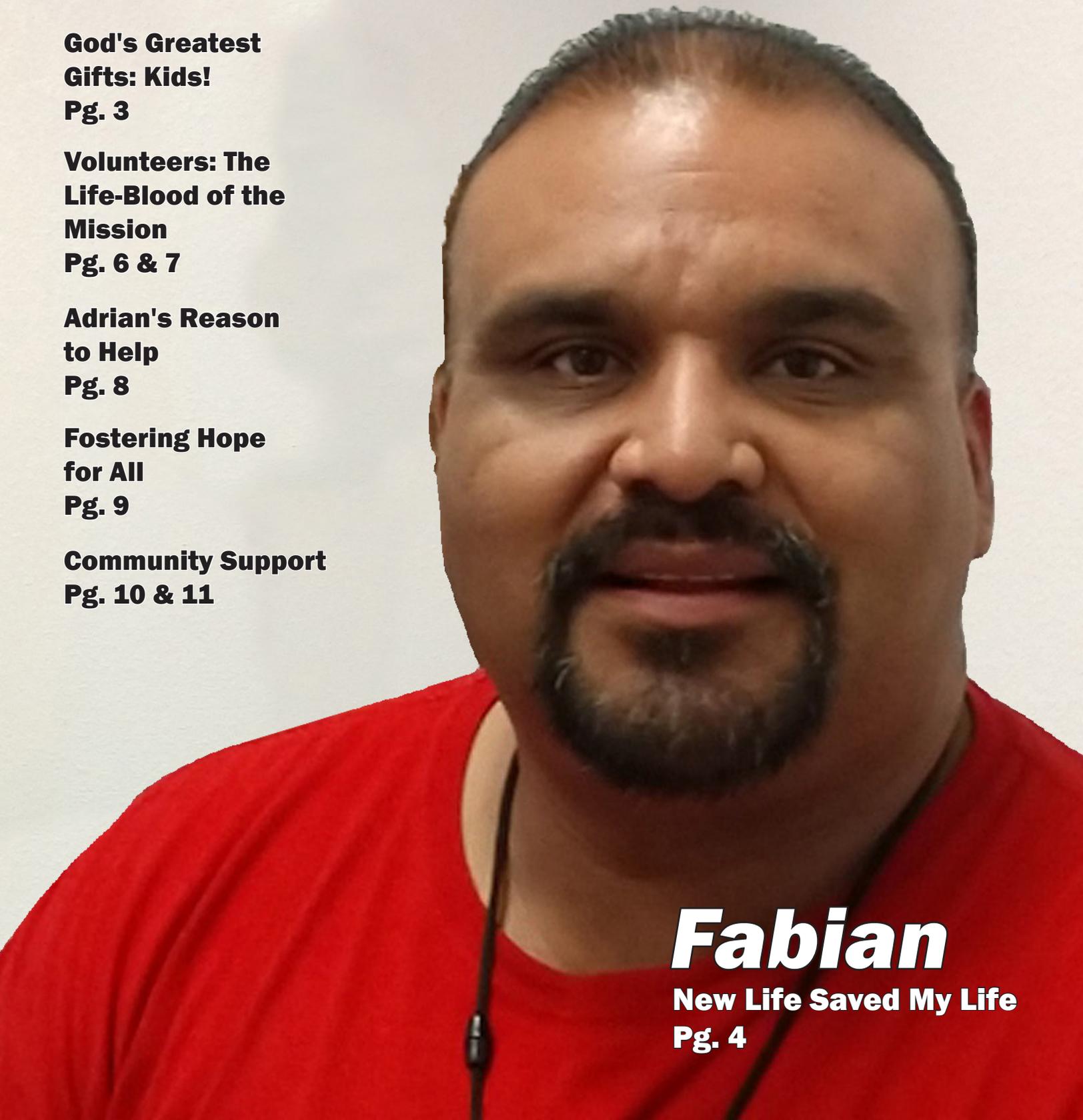
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A Sample of What We See...



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

Dear Partners:

It's hard to believe how quickly this year is whizzing by! Here it is already summer and we are more than half way through this year. Summer time is a tough time at the Mission but this year we have done many positive things to have an impact on several groups of people.

Volunteers are a mainstay of the Mission. We usually have an abundance of our volunteer helpers in the wintertime and a few workers in the summer time. Working in the summer time takes a strong drive. If you work at our store, it means working in the warehouse with no air conditioning. Trust me! The temperatures are grueling! It's so important to stay hydrated!

We have volunteers in the shelters, the kitchen, the thrift store, and some interns for the First Step Center (detox). If you are interested in volunteering, you can find an application on our web site at www.crossroadsmission.org.

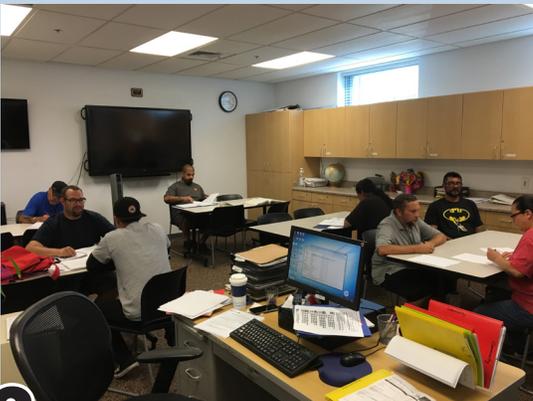
I'm extremely happy to announce to you the three weeks of Vacation Bible School (VBS) for the children this year. The children went to the Immanuel Southern Baptist Church and Foothills Baptist Church for two weeks of VBS. That was so much fun for the children - learning about Jesus. They went to the District 1 Nutritional Program at McGraw and Palmcroft schools for lunch. For the third week, the staff helped teach Bible stories and took kids on outings to city pools, the museum, the sprinkler park, and they also enjoyed a visit from the fire department. The children had a fun-filled week but, most of all, it was a meaningful week - that they were learning yet didn't even know it.

We love our children and want them to learn about Jesus at an early age. We continue to be the "hands and feet of Jesus." We want to make the children's experience at the Mission one that they will remember.

Please continue to pray for us as we reach out to the homeless and help those in need.

I want to send a special shout out to some special friends in Indiana. Florence Harstine (my mom), Anna Wells, Diane Owens, Dan Phillips, Ruth Dalton, and Kathy Oakes. Thank you for those continued prayers as so many of our partners lift us up month after month! God bless you all!

Myra E. Garlit



Academic Success

Did you know that Crossroads Mission Academic Center offers General Education Diploma preparation courses to our program participants and to the community? The Mission always encourages people to continue to improve themselves. The goal of Crossroads' Academic Center is to do just that. So far this year, seven people have successfully obtained their G.E.D.s. Four of those were just in the past three months! We hope to be a part of many more to come for the second half of the year!

God's Greatest Gifts: Kids!

With school out for vacation, it can be hard to find things to do for the kids at the Mission. Crossroads does its best to help the families at the shelter stay busy and active despite the heat. Swimming excursions are organized, families are invited to low cost or free movie showings, and water day events are put on for everyone.

Crossroads also has summer Vacation Bible School for the children to help them learn more about Jesus and the Bible. This year, Bible School lasted the longest it ever has! The kids at the shelter had the opportunity to sing and dance to uplifting spiritual songs. They took part in skits and plays portraying some of the more well known bible stories, and even had arts and crafts time.

VBS ended this year with the "God's Greatest Gifts" talent show put on by the kids themselves. This talent show encouraged the children to show off their own unique skills. There was cup stacking, singing, dancing, jokes and a puppet show. Everyone had a great time and loved seeing the kids perform!

Summer is still going strong and we have many more events planned at the shelters to help keep the kids safe and entertained. In the upcoming months, we have a couple pool parties, our big birthday party for everyone and many more fun things planned. Perhaps we will see you at one of our upcoming outings!



Fourth of July Fun in the Sun

Summer has finally arrived in the desert and it came in a hurry. This past 4th of July, Crossroads found the perfect way to beat the heat with the biggest water hose we could find! Rural Metro came down to the Mission and gave everyone the chance to cool off in the water. There was also a slide and pools for the kids to enjoy, water toys, water balloons, and much more. No day of fun would be complete without a great lunch as well. The heat may be on in the desert, but we are staying cool at Crossroads Mission.



Fabian: New Life Saved

Fabian Valenzeula, 35, had struggled much of his life with drugs. He currently works at Crossroads Mission as an Assessor and Peer Support Specialist. Before all of this, Fabian found himself in a very dark place.

What was your life like before you came to Crossroads?

"I was an addict, I used meth for about 15 years and made a lot of bad choices in life, doing drugs, stealing. It was really a hard way of living. It wasn't until 18 times of going to jail and becoming suicidal that I really started searching for God, for anything that would get me out of that situation, give me any type of hope. For the very first time, I prayed thinking I would rather just end my life than continue living the way I was. I reached out and there was Crossroads Mission."

How did you come to Crossroads?

"I prayed without really knowing if there was a God or not. God answered in a way that I couldn't see at the time. I came to Crossroads Mission and I didn't like it. I didn't want to stay here, I didn't want to think of myself as a failure, staying here with the homeless. I became a participant in the New Life Program. I met a lot of people who were struggling with the same thing I was. We started sharing about our lives. The first two weeks, I still wanted to leave.

But, the third week

4 something started to change.

NEWS for our Partners

I started to accept the fact that I needed to be here and it was better to be here than to go back out into the life that I had. I get into my second month and now I'm telling the other guys not to leave. The third month goes by and I start trying to get others to think about their salvation. I get to the fourth month and I think 'I don't know if I should leave.' I remember how my perspective changed and how it took four months, not to be cured, but to understand that I needed this help. New Life saved my life!

What did you do once you finished the New Life Program?

"Something in my heart had changed and I wanted to give back. I didn't know how I was going to. I surrendered myself to God (and) became very involved with my church. My sponsor helped me understand the need to continue to learn and grow after graduating the program. I joined Grand Canyon University as soon as I got out of the program. Then, I got hired at Crossroads Mission. Can you believe that? A thief, a drug addict, got hired at Crossroads, where I can be of service and help to others who are struggling with addiction. I continued to learn. I became Peer Support certified, got my fingerprint clearance card. Since then, I've been continuing with college. I am about four classes shy of getting my bachelor's degree (Counseling) and looking forward to continuing on to get my master's degree so I can continue to help people in a better way."

What else happened in your personal life after you graduated?

"It's amazing how things change when you are doing good. It's amazing how things get better when you are doing better. My professional life is great, I do service work at church. In my personal life, I enjoy being a dad again. My children are getting older, and for the longest time they didn't want to talk to me. I remember I would be locked in my room getting high and they would be knocking at my door saying 'Daddy I'm hungry.' I would tell them to just give me a couple minutes and the next thing I knew, it would be like two or three hours later. I am so grateful that my relationship with them was restored. We get to spend time together, go to the movies - they can call me now. That restoration is all to the glory of God. I also met a woman named Lisa that I ended up getting married to. My whole life has changed tremendously since getting clean."

How was your spiritual experience at the Mission?

While I was in the program a man said to me, "I want to challenge you to challenge God." I told him I had this belief, but not knowing if its there or not, "I want to believe, but I have doubt." He told me to ask God in quiet times and prayer and that soon I would hear someone talk about what I had just asked. He said that God was going to talk to me through that person, through the Bible.

ed My Life!



So, I started asking God and he started responding to me. Today, I have peace and hope that yes, He had everything in His hand. Today, I can say with confidence that He is in control of my life. Everything I am today I owe to God. This all changed here (at Crossroads) and I am grateful for that.

*Above - Fabian and his son
Below - Fabian with his wife Lisa*

"If there is anyone out there who still has doubts about asking for help, about reaching out; whatever it is, guilt, shame, feel like you are too broken: come to Crossroads. If you can't sleep at night, if you know you need the help: come to the mission. It's a place of hope, restoration, love, and forgiveness. There are other people who have been in your shoes. I've been on the other side of this desk, crying and broken. Now I am on this side, giving this message of hope to whoever needs it. Don't stop growing, there are people who need you, so come and get better!"



To see Fabian's story in his own words, follow this Quick Response Code!

Volunteers: The Life-Blood



Top - Our Volunteer Suzie

Right - Mike, 2018 Store Volunteer of The Year

Far Top Right - Volunteers serving a meal to the homeless

Far Middle Right - Serving line during the Thanksgiving holiday

Far Bottom Right - Local barbers volunteer their time cutting hair

During Crossroads' 60 years of service to the community, Crossroads Mission has always relied on the kindness and generosity of the community. Donations of items and money help to keep the Mission running and offering services to the needy.

Volunteers are just as important to the Mission as the donations that we receive, perhaps even more. Without the many people who give of themselves and their time, Crossroads wouldn't be able to do all that we do. From helping at the store by sorting through donations, to serving meals to guests in the kitchen, volunteers are an integral part of the Mission.

One such example is Suzie. She started volunteering in 2002 when she arrived in Yuma to take care of her mother. She was introduced to volunteering at the Mission by another volunteer and she started out by helping to pickup food donations from the community. She had volunteered before, but wasn't quite sure what to expect at Crossroads. Her first impression was a lasting one that stuck with her throughout her years of volunteering.

"What the Mission does is fantastic," Suzie stated. "I love that everything is Christ-based and they help everyone to get back on their feet." While taking care of her mother, Suzie continued to volunteer and help out, even after her passing. "I had met a lot of people and had a lot of friends from helping around the Mission. It helps me to get out of myself by staying busy."

Suzie continued to help with food donation pickups and eventually started to help out with special events. She helped with baking desserts for Thanksgiving and Christmas. "Helping out gives me a sense of peace and satisfaction." Suzie is now returning to her home to be with her grand children and be a part of their lives. We thank Suzie for her dedication.

Another example of the people who volunteer at Crossroads is Mike. Our 2018 Store Volunteer of The Year drives over an



d of the Mission!

hour just to come and help out! For the last nine years, Mike has volunteered at the 2nd Chance Thrift Store, helping out wherever he is needed. "I like all the programs that the Mission has, from the Recovery Program to helping the homeless," stated Mike. "I like the mission that the Mission is on." Recently, we celebrated "I Like Mike Day" at the Store. We had a special sale and a pot luck to announce that Mike was the Volunteer of the Year. Thank you for your dedication Mike!



You can HELP!

In the Kitchen:

- preparing meals
 - serving meals
 - with special events such as Thanksgiving & Christmas
- Contact Barbara Rochester for more information at (928) 580-4482

At the 2nd Chance Thrift Store:

- sorting donations
 - with deliveries and pick-ups
 - organizing clothing, books
- Contact Patty Ehlers for more information at (928) 328-8624

At the Men's Shelter

- in the front office
- Call us at (928) 783-9362

At the Family Shelter

- in the front office
- Call us at (928) 328-8611

In the Education Center

- with helping students study
- Contact Jenny Hilpert at (928) 328-8236

Adrian's Reason to Help

Adrian Negrete, 47 years old was born and raised here in Yuma. He grew up a normal kid, having everything he needed. He had the love and support of his family and a good provider in his father. He played sports in high school and had a part time job like many high school students. Adrian had dreams and desires, wanting to go to college. He became a father at a young age, and close behind becoming a father he made the biggest mistake of his life. He tried Methamphetamines.

"Before that, alcohol had already got my attention because it gave me a feeling of empowerment and control." Adrian went on to attend college and he eventually obtained an associate degree. But, he was never able to put it to use. Meth had taken over his life. His friends were all involved with it as well. At this time, Adrian was 21, using meth heavily with his friends and falling into the same lifestyle they lived.

For 15 years, Adrian struggled with addiction finding himself in legal trouble. "I cornered myself with the justice system and I needed help. By that time, I had been arrested 31 times and been convicted of 3 felonies." He didn't know where to start to get help.

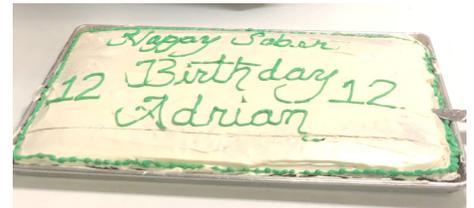
Adrian was blessed with the opportunity to enter recovery. He was admitted to Crossroads' New Life Program, a 120 day drug and alcohol recovery program. He had his good and bad days, but he completed the program and continued to live in sobriety.

This year, he celebrated his 12th year clean! He continues to live by the principles and steps he learned while at Crossroads. In fact, he now works at Crossroads as a Drug and Alcohol Counselor, helping those who find themselves in the same situation he was 12 years ago. He continued his education, earning many certifications to help him aid those struggling with addiction, including Moral Recognition Therapy and Wellbriety Therapy to name a couple.

When asked why he had chosen to become a counselor, Adrian's answer was simple and powerful. "I wanted to give back because someone instilled hope in me

that I could recover. I have the opportunity to instill that same hope in someone else who is struggling." Truly this is the essence of the 12th step, "carrying the message to addict who still suffers." May God continue to guide Adrian's path and bless him in his efforts to help those who struggle with addiction!

**Bottom- Adrian in his office
Below - Adrian's 12 year
sobriety birthday cake**



Fostering Hope For All

Crossroads Mission provides shelter and food for many of the homeless and needy in the community. We follow the core tenant of the Mission: "Soup, Soap and Salvation." Did you know that the Mission does more than just provide shelter, though?

We strive to show our guests that there is a better way of life and there is hope for them to make a change. Through case management, addiction recovery programs, educational assistance and much more, we help people to get back on their feet physically. What about their emotional needs?

Crossroads has events for every major holiday during the year and many more occasions that we consider special. We encourage our guests to take part in all of our events. We welcome them with open arms, providing support, and showing them that they are cared for.

During Mother's Day this year, purses and jewelry were collected by donors for the women staying at the shelter. Care packages of hygiene items, clothing, and many other items, were also given out freely to anyone in need. Many had the chance to spend time with family members they hadn't seen in months, or longer.

At our Father's Day celebration over 250 hot meals were served at dinner time. The men also received care packages with items that they could use. Essential items, like socks, underwear, toothbrushes, and many other things most people are used to always having are needed desperately by the

homeless. Providing these items to them can bring a smile to their face and show them that people do care.

There are many more events coming in the future, but we need your help to make them a success. We ask you to continue praying for each person that we serve, and to continue donating to Crossroads.

Every item, every dollar, every bit of time volunteered helps to continue ministering to the homeless. God Bless You!

**Bottom- A guest is served during Father's Day
Below - Ladies pick out jewelry for themselves**





Thank you Little Cesar's Love Kitchen!

Crossroads thanks the Little Cesar's Love Kitchen for coming to the Mission and providing a meal to those in need. They provided pizza to feed more than 180 people during our lunch service that day. We appreciate all you do for the community and hope to see you again soon. God Bless You!



Thank you Yuma V.A. Clinic!

Crossroads thanks the Yuma V.A. Clinic for their donation of toiletries and water. As part of the National V.A. 2k Walk, the clinic accepted donations from the walk participants to benefit Crossroads. We appreciate being the recipient of your donation. Most importantly, we are thankful for everything our veterans do for our country. God Bless You!



Thank you Mrs. Secker's Class!

Crossroads thanks Mrs. Secker's class from James B. Rolle Elementary School for choosing the Mission to donate to. The class organized a canned food drive to help out those in need. Their donation of canned goods will help to provide meals for many people during the hot summer months. God Bless You!

What Your Gifts Made Possible:

DEPARTMENT	APR	MAY	JUNE
Kitchen			
MEALS	11,922	12,269	13,359
Family Shelter			
BED NIGHTS	1,430	2,271	2,219
INDIVIDUALS	105	115	136
CHILDREN	41	42	61
Men's Shelter			
BED NIGHTS	2,215	1,912	1,947
INDIVIDUALS	152	141	144
Drug & Alcohol Stabilization Unit			
ADMITTED	67	55	64
COMPLETED	37	42	32
New Life Recovery Program			
ENTERED	18	19	25
GRADUATES	7	7	10
New Way Homeless & Transition Program			
PARTICIPATING	39	38	39
Career & Academic Center			
STUDENTS	86	143	139
HOURS STUDIED	714	976	857
GEDs	1	2	1
Giving			
CLOTHES	24,520	16,076	21,971
FURNITURE	60	75	21

Memorial Gifts:

A Gift In Memory Of:

Kindly Given By:

Laura Aldridge	Allen Applehans
Edward "Edy" Eshaya	Dennis Clark
Lester Janes	Sheryl Janes
Earl Maxwell	Lianne Levey
Janet Moenk	Stephen Reynolds
Edward Eshaya	Linda White
Allah	Eric Johnson

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.

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.
Have a Blessed Day!



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!

The Prayer CLOSET

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.
—Matthew 6:6 (KJV)

We invite you to share your prayer requests with us on our website. You may also call us or write to us.

Please remember Crossroads Mission's special prayer requests:

- Our outreach projects and special events
That we may reach the many people who need services through our outreach efforts and special events and that they accept our help.
- An increase of donations
That our in-kind and financial donations increase to continue the many services that we offer. (in-kind donations are donations of goods such as food, clothing, blankets, furniture, etc.)
- All the people involved **with Crossroads Mission**
All of our clients, guests, volunteers, Board members, staff, and staff family members.

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. —Romans 12:12 (NIV)

Our Basic NEEDS

Please consider helping us with some basic needs:

- Food for our pantry: fresh produce, canned vegetables, beef, chicken, cold cuts, hot dogs, sugar, etc.
- Socks & underwear (new) for men, women, and children—in all sizes.
- General toiletries, personal care items, and towels.

NEWS for our Partners **11**

CROSSROADS Mission

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

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

Major Gifts & Development
Financial Stock & Property Contributions,
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
Donations Pick-Up Line (928) 726-0491
Cashier's Station (928) 328-8626

Volunteer Involvement
Individual, Church & Corporate Volunteer
Groups, Service Clubs & Community Service
Barbara Rochester (928) 580-4482

Ministry Opportunities
Chapel and Devotion Speakers, Special
Presentations, Church Events & Worship Teams
(928) 328-8610

Public Relations & Special Events
Fundraising Events, Group Presentations, Gifts of
Goods, Food, Services and Vehicles.
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

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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 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.

Member of the Citygate Network.
www.citygatenetwork.org



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