

News for Our Partners

Winter 04

Crossroads Mission

Vol. 7, Issue 4

Privileged to Serve!



CHARLES D. ALLEN, M.Ed.
Executive Director

During 2004 we have been celebrating our privilege to serve the Yuma community for so long. But, last October was especially meaningful to us at Crossroads Mission when we officially celebrated our 45th Anniversary during our 3rd Annual Harvest Festival.

I'm privileged to be a part of Crossroads Mission during this time. A time of growth and new chapters. From a simple soup kitchen in 1959, to now a multi service social service agency that continues to grow and move forth despite many challenges.

Yuma is a dynamic city that is growing explosively. While this is good for our local economy and the overall quality of life for us residents, it also means that our homeless, needy and addiction-challenged population is also growing. Crossroads Mission is proud to be here to lend a hand. We are privileged to serve and to have each one of you, our donors, as partners in the business of rescuing lives.

Not much can be said that hasn't been said before. To be a part of a community for 45 years is something historic and momentous. The Yuma community has faithfully supported us, and God willing we hope to be here to support the needs of this same community for many, many more years to come.

Happy birthday Crossroads Mission!



Crossroads Mission
is a member of the Association of
Gospel Rescue Missions. www.agrm.org

Bill Anderson Does It Again!

Of all the fundraisers held for Crossroads Mission this one is surely the most extreme!

We knew it would be so when we heard that W.J. "Bill" Anderson, a 78 year old master cyclist and long time Yuma resident, was planning *another* bike ride and that he had chosen Crossroads as the beneficiary. Bill had already bicycled across the vertical distance of the country when he rode from the Canada border to the Mexican border, but this time he wanted to conquer the horizontal distance across the entire United States with his Ocean to Ocean ride - and conquer he did.

On October 21st Bill was standing in the Atlantic Ocean, at Jacksonville Beach, Florida after pedaling more than 2,000 miles and crossing the states of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida in 26 days. That day, Bill demonstrated the length he was willing and able to go to bring attention to healthy living and Crossroads Mission.

This trip was not just about covering the distance and raising funds, it was also a message of compassion, of striving through hardships and of caring for those less fortunate. Bill's journey got national attention and recognition: from local, state and national news coverage by CBS, NBC and FOX networks; numerous newspaper and radio interviews; and even government acclamation by the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration on Aging, who was instrumental in bringing additional awareness to Crossroads Mission!

Bill's efforts have put Crossroads and Yuma "on the map" and has opened doors of collaboration between other missions, organizations and agencies throughout the country. His ride has not only brought us new friends



Pictures of Bill and his road crew: 1-Bill in the Atlantic Ocean. 2-Bill fixing a flat. 3-Rick Ploski and Bill before a day of riding in the rain. 4-Bill Peyree, Bill, Marla & Randy Barnby. 5-At an interview. 6- Rick, Beryl Anderson (Bill's wife), Bill & Bobby Howard during interview.

and supporters and relationships that money can't buy, but he has raised funds on top of it all!

Once again Bill, Crossroads Mission says: THANK YOU!!!

Visit www.crossroadsmission.org for pictures and day to day summaries of Bill's ride!

The purpose of Crossroads Mission is to help disabled, disadvantaged and disenfranchised individuals and families achieve a better quality of life. We are 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. We partner with the State of Arizona, DES, Yuma Community Food Bank & FEMA. We do not solicit in front of stores or 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.

AT THE FAMILY SHELTER:

Rene Sonoqui is a Case Manager at the Family Shelter. Over the years she has seen almost everything. But, this summer she experienced something that she had never lived through before: denying services to women and families because the shelter was full. "We've had to turn people away and put them on a waiting list," says Rene.

There are 12 beds available for women in the Recovery Program; 14 beds for single women, single women with children, and families; and there are approximately 20 floor mats that are spread throughout the building for any overflow of people. Before, this was enough to meet the demands of the shelter, but now it is not. Rene acknowledges this when she says, "We have outgrown this building - big time!"

For the people who are turned away Rene and her staff still offer free Case Management and referrals. "We do everything we can for them. We call other agencies and churches and we try to find a place for them to stay. It's tough! Sometimes they just wait... on the streets, in their cars, by the river," says Rene.

There are many reasons why families come to the Family Shelter. It is usually a last resort for many of them. There are women who come escaping from domestic



Left: A look inside one of the rooms. Below: Rene & Little Joe. He has been living at the shelter since before he was born.



TOUGH *Times*

violence: husbands or boyfriends abusing them and or their children; there are those who end up with nothing after living through the devastating effects of an illness or drug abuse; and many who lost their jobs and with it everything they had.

Such was the case of the Smith family (not their real name). The father had three heart attacks and they lost everything. The mother has a mental illness disability that limits her employability drastically. They

came to Crossroads looking for a way to get their five children, all between the ages of 7 and 13, out of their temporary home: a crude campsite by the river.

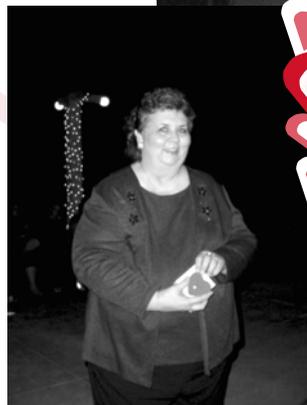
The good news is that there are usually more jobs available in the winter months. This helps people at the shelter get back on their feet faster. For now, all we and Rene can do is our best. The rest is up to God. We trust that one day things will be better!

And The Nominees Are...

At The Heart of Yuma Award:

Each year the Yuma Community Foundation presents four prestigious awards to members of the community. This year, Crossroads Mission was proud to have our Recovery Treatment Director, Myra Garlit nominated for the Outstanding Leader Award. Myra's positive impact in our community through the influence of the Recovery Program was noted in her nomination. *We, of course, agree!* Also, Alex Montoya, a long time and faithful Crossroads volunteer was nominated for the Outstanding Volunteer Award. Congratulations! Crossroads Mission is proud to be represented by both of you!

Left: Myra while she receives the Heart of Yuma Nomination Award. Bottom: Myra & Alex enjoying their awards.



Do you, or someone you know, have an addiction problem?

WE CAN HELP!



The Recovery Program

We offer a comprehensive drug and alcohol recovery program that includes safe, monitored detoxification and individual counseling. Call 783-9362, ext. 22 for more information, or visit us anytime, 944 S. Arizona Ave.

*Open 24 hours a day,
7 days a week*

Opening Doors Through a G.E.D.



"I feel very good about myself. I know I can do anything I set my mind to..."

- Barbara T.

CROSSROADS EDUCATION CENTER

Barbara, a single mother of 3 says, "I've had a hard life," when asked to share a little about herself. At the age of 21 she got divorced and started using drugs. It wasn't until February of 2003 that she put a stop to her addiction after getting arrested and serving jail time.

After getting out of jail Barbara was determined to make positive changes in her life and the first thing she was going to do was to obtain her General Education Diploma.

That's when she came to the Crossroads Education Center in search of a more promising life. After being evaluated, Barbara was put on a personal learning plan and was soon making progress. "I'd come twice a week for about a year and worked hard!"

says Barbara. "I finally got my G.E.D. on August 17, 2004. I was so proud of myself and thankful to Crossroads Mission for all their help!"

Now, Barbara is opening doors to a better life because of her G.E.D. After just three months of employment at a local fast food restaurant, Barbara's skills were noticed and she was promoted to Swing Manager. Her education achievement, however, gave her the confidence she needed to ask for a pay increase. She was very pleased when she learned that she did get it in the amount of \$1.00 more per hour.

Barbara has only been with the company for 7 months and already she's received another raise. Since her G.E.D. she has increased her hourly pay by \$1.50!

Barbara has been clean and sober for almost two years now and she is sure that her G.E.D. will continue to help her in opening bigger doors in her future.

"I feel very good about myself. I know I can do anything I set my mind to and now I want a store for myself. I want to be a General Manager!"

Barbara still comes to the Education Center but it's only to visit.

In His Own Words...

From *Walking Dead* to a new *Talking Heart*

By ANGEL H.

Kitchen Supervisor

The life I knew prior to Crossroads was filled with work and alcohol. A cycle of filling a void with all that I knew at that time.



My mother expressed that she felt her child was walking dead, and in an odd sort of way I guess I was, at least dead inside. At some point in the Crossroads Recovery Program a miracle started in me that brought to me a rebirth. My heart started talking to me. I didn't ask for my heart to talk to me, but it did. I guess you could call it a God thing, that's the only way I can explain it. The longer I'm around Crossroads Mission the more my heart speaks and the more I find myself following my heart.

At first this change was scary to me. I was never one to express my feelings: the life I was accustomed to related feelings to weakness. I don't feel the loneliness now that I once tried to fill with work and alcohol. Even in the darkest of places I can feel God's warmth.

I can't explain why he is saving me of all people. I've learned that He died for my sins through studying the Bible, but at first I didn't understand why. I've studied the Bible before and it was merely words, now it is making more sense to me. I once lived a life of emptiness. At Crossroads, my heart opened, my emptiness filled, and my loneliness has been lifted. The change makes sense when I listen to my heart.

I find myself now employed at Crossroads. This blessing has allowed for my heart to sing even louder.

The Desert Lily Quilters, Inc. is proud to present

Enter To Win!
The 2005 Opportunity Quilt:
"Floral Fantasy"



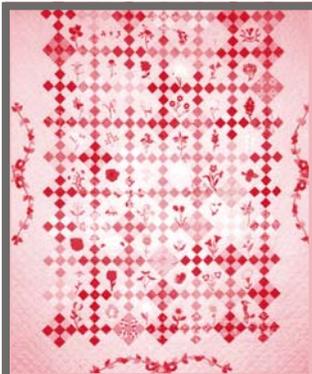
TICKETS: \$1.00 each or
6 for \$5.00

Drawing: January 22, 2005
at the Civic Center at 4 PM
All proceeds will be donated to
Crossroads Mission.

Quilt Specifics:

- Queen Size: 86" W x 104" L
- 9 patches are machine pieced
- Flowers are hand appliquéd
- Quilt is hand quilted

For more information call Mildred at (928) 726-0491, ext. 18



In His Own Words...

A New, Better Road

By JOHN H. -Men's Shelter Facility Supervisor



I came to Crossroads lost in life, with a desire to get help and I received more than that. I felt that all I needed to do was learn how to live without drinking. Looking back, I can see that God was working on me long before I accepted Him.

It was only after reaching a bottom of not knowing where to turn, that I realized I truly needed someone. Crossroads was there for me. Many in the Recovery Program were there when I needed them and they helped me up from that bottom. But, even then I was scared to live without alcohol. I was carrying a weight of prejudice, pride, and emptiness that completely blocked any attempts to move forth. With the support offered to me from Crossroads and the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous I found myself on a road with places to turn. A road of faith and a spiritual way of life that allowed me to feel whole.

Now, I relish the sunsets and sunrises as gifts from God. He did not grant me material possessions, take away my suffering, or spare me from disasters I had coming, but He did give me a good life, the ability to cope and peace of mind.

I have been blessed in countless ways and it all started with that turn when I was at a Crossroads in my life.

We Celebrated Our 45th Anniversary During the 5th Annual Harvest Festival!

On October 29th we celebrated our 45th Anniversary during the 5th Annual Harvest Festival!

Each year, our Harvest Festival gets bigger and our organizer says we're just getting started!

Over 300 people joined us in the celebration. We had a wonderful birthday feast as well as games and entertainment for all the children.

Special thank you goes out to all the volunteers who helped and to everyone who helped make this possible:

- Saddles of Joy** -Free horseback rides for the children
- M&M Balloon Jump** -Free balloon jump for the entire night
- Yuma Drug Court** -Free photo booth and bails of hay



- Wonder Bread** -Free cupcakes for the cake walk
- Ramon Soto** -Free delicious Mexican flavored drinks for all

You Can Receive an Arizona Tax Credit of Up to \$200

It won't be long before we start filing our 2004 taxes. Remember that A.R.S. Section 43-1088, designed to help the working poor, is still in place. This allows you to donate up to \$200 to Crossroads Mission and declare it as a tax credit on your state taxes and the usual deduction on your federal taxes. This applies as long as you've given at least this amount in recent years to charitable, non-profit organizations. If you itemize your deductions and you've paid Arizona withholding equal to the amount of your donation to us your state tax refund will include the figure you donated. So plan ahead by donating to Crossroads Mission!

In 2003, 38 people donated to us pursuant to A.R.S. Section 43-1088. Help us double that number by taking advantage of this tax credit in 2004. **Remember the deadline: December 31, 2004.**



BILL ESMEIER
Director of Development

TAX CREDIT DONATION CARD

MAIL TO: Crossroads Mission
P.O. Box 1161, Yuma, AZ 85366-1161

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, 2004 to be claimed as a credit for this year.

Amount: _____ Check Number: _____

Thank You! **KCFY 88.1 FM**



Yuma's Christian radio station KCFY collected donuts for us on Sep. 10 . We received about 120 dozen! (yum!) Everyone enjoyed them, especially the kids. Thank you!

Thank You! **St. Francis of Assisi**



On time for the winter! St. Francis Catholic donated about 70 jackets, 15 blankets, plus misc. clothing. Mrs. Graham's Confirmation Class delivered the items on Oct. 31. THX!

Thank You! **All Donors!**

A special Thank You goes out to all our donors. In the last months we have seen a greater demand for our services and we want to tell you that we're grateful for your support. Your donations have allowed us to make a difference in the lives of many. May God Bless You!

Our Wish List:

Education Center

- DVD Players for new audio visual learning stations
- \$75 scholarships for low income students to pay for G.E.D.

Family Shelter

- Toys for children
- Jackets, Winter-wear
- Blankets, sheets & pillows
- Toiletries
- Diapers & Wipes
- Laundry Soap

Kitchen

- Hams for Christmas Dinner
- Pies & Desserts for Christmas Dinner
- Fresh Fruits & Produce
- General Food Basics

Men's Shelter

- Socks
- Underwear
- Jackets
- Towels
- Shampoo
- Razors

Serenity House

- Twin Size Bedding
- Pillows
- Cleaning Supplies

Recycling Center

- Furniture, clothing and miscellaneous donations
- Free Pick Up, call:



Because You Give!



Statistics for the last three months at Crossroads Mission.

KITCHEN	AUG 04	SEP 04	OCT 04
Meals	7,083	6,981	7,053
FAM. Shelter	AUG 04	SEP 04	OCT 04
Bed Nights	839	838	794
Individuals	47	55	45
Children	23	28	26
MEN'S Shelter	AUG 04	SEP 04	OCT 04
Bed Nights	534	654	886
Individuals	81	100	108
RECOVERY	AUG 04	SEP 04	OCT 04
Individuals	9	25	25
Graduates	10	9	10
EDUCATION	AUG 04	SEP 04	OCT 04
Students	70	73	72
Hours Studied	1,092.5	845.5	663.5
GED's	5 GED's in the last 3 months. 14 students awaiting results or taking test.		
Serenity House	AUG 04	SEP 04	OCT 04
Bed Nights	264	265	249
Individuals	12	11	12
Giving	AUG 04	SEP 04	OCT 04
Clothes	1,215	1,073	2,128
Furniture	22	70	72

Memorial & Honorable Gifts

In Memory Of

- Betty Hardy
- Bill Jett
- Charlie Dine
- Claire Mellon
- Claire Mellon
- Cushing Lord
- Don Casey
- Herman Saulters
- Joe Hicks
- Lester Weimer

The Kind Gift Of

- Charles & Sharon Craig
- Jon & Jacqueline Tylor
- Charles & Sharon Craig
- Michael Friends
- James & Linda Burkhardt
- Lorene "Bab" Hicks
- Martha Weimer

In Honor Of

- Ruby & Ennis Rice's 14th Wedding Anniv.

The Kind Gift Of

- R. E. & Donna Caffee

Every effort is done to assure that all the names in this Memorial & Honorable Gifts section are correct. We apologize for any errors that may have occurred.