

News for Our Partners

Winter 05

Crossroads Mission

Vol. 8, Issue 4

Christmas in the Desert!



MYRA E. GARLIT
M.Ed., LISAC
Executive Director

One of my fondest Christmas memories was several friends and me camping on the desert. The weather was cold and took my breath away. We stacked several tumble weeds on top of the other. Then we decorated our "tree" with aluminum foil. We sat around the tree, listened to Christmas music over the truck's radio, and watched the light from our camp fire reflect off of the aluminum foil. I remember watching the stars flickering in the sky and knew that there was a Creator of the mountains, sand, rocks, Mesquite, Palo Verde and cacti that surrounded us. I remember being filled with **hope** for a future. This was my first *Christmas in the Desert* experience.

As I continue to experience *Christmas in the Desert*, I realize that Christmas should be a time filled with **hope**. Sadly, everyday at Crossroads, people come to us for services and have little **hope**. I'm so excited to see that **hope** come back in someone's eyes when they realize that there are people who care about them. A hot meal, warm clothing, blankets, a dry place to sleep is important in bringing **hope** for tomorrow to our guests. Donors like you help us give **hope** to the homeless, addicted, abused and mentally ill. Without men and women like you, *Christmas on the Desert* would not be filled with **hope**. As believers, we know that from His birth in the manger to His dying on the Cross we can have **hope** for eternal life. May your Christmas Season be filled with **hope** as we share the **hope** of this season and eternity with our guests at Crossroads Mission. Merry Christmas! God bless you and your loved ones!



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



Joy to the World!

For the past three years Crossroads Mission has expanded the Christmas festivities and has celebrated for three days instead of one. This year will not be the exception!

We are expecting to serve approximately 1,500 holiday meals during the Three Days of Christmas Celebration. These festivities and the Thanksgiving ones are our biggest events of the year. Though we start planning well in advance for them, we still can't do these big projects without the many volunteers and donors that help us faithfully every year.

Make a difference this Christmas and join us during the 3 Days of Christmas. Volunteers are *always* needed!

For more information on volunteering call Jan at (928) 726-0491, Ext. 20



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 & Cenpatico of Arizona. 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.



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 prayed for all of the requests that were sent in on the Prayer Partner cards and we will continue to hold these requests before the Lord in the coming weeks. Please remember Crossroads Mission's special requests:

- **Our outreach projects**

That we may reach the many people who need services and they are willing to accept our help.

- **An increase of donations**

That our In-Kind and cash donations increased 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)



Please consider helping us with:

- Turkeys, hams, and desserts for the upcoming 3 Days of Christmas celebration.
- Blankets, jackets, and general warm clothing for men, women, and children.
- Food for our pantry.
- Socks & underwear (new) for men, women, and children—in all sizes.
- General toiletries and personal care items.

IN HER OWN WORDS...

Laura, Finding Her Strength and Dignity



My name is Laura P. and this is my story.

I guess this story starts about eight years ago when my former husband nearly put me away for good. He put me in a coma for three months causing the loss of the child I was caring. It took me two years to pull through this and then to gain the strength to leave my marriage. I also left my surviving children with my husband, due to not having the ability to care for them or myself, until I was able to build up the strength I needed to be a mother. In the mean time my husband passed away and his family got custody of the children. My husband and his family had papers drawn up stating that in the event of something happening, that the family received automatic custody of my children.

I had a very tough time with this and I could not pull myself out of my depression.

I had to dig deep to find my strength I knew I had, to pick myself up and not let life keep me down. I forced myself to go out and find a job. I walked into the Ramada Inn on 32nd Street a year ago, and filled out an application, and have been working for them since. I started out

“The Crossroads Mission gave me a safe haven in which to lay my weary head and body, while I fought back to regain my dignity and self worth.”

working with Chef Bob in the kitchen.

While working at the Ramada Inn, the Child Enforcement Agency sent documentation to my General Manager informing him to garnish my wages for child support payments, from a deceased husband. I had to hire a lawyer to fight for me, but in the meantime I lost everything I was fighting for. I continued to work everyday and literally living on the streets at night. Finally my boss in the kitchen asked me what had been wrong and I broke down. Afterwards I ended up at the Crossroads Mission losing everything, but I forced myself to carry on. The Crossroads Mission gave me a safe haven in which to lay my weary head and body, while I fought back to regain my dignity and self worth.

While the Crossroad Mission gave me a safe place to sleep, Vocational Rehabilitation gave me a satisfying work environment. Vocational Rehabilitation bought my hearing aides, as I do have a silent disability and also referred me to the S.M.I.L.E. Association which gave me one-on-one tutoring in computer

IN HER OWN WORDS...*Continued from page 2*

programming. I have now completed the program and am applying the skills I learned in my current position at work. I worked hard and am now an Administrative Assistant for the Ramada Inn. Vocational Rehabilitation has purchased me a computer so that I can perform my work duties in more timely and effective manner.

With the help of "Crossroads Mission, Vocational Rehabilitation and the Ramada Inn, I am now able to stand proudly on my own two feet. I now have the dignity, self-worth, and pride I needed to allow people to believe in me and support me through my difficult times.

I want to say thank you to all the people and agencies that have had, and still have, faith in me to achieve my goals that I have set for myself.

Furthermore, I am also an artist and I am in the process of painting a mural for the Crossroads Mission Family Shelter. I hope by sharing my story that I may give strength to others who are or have been in the same situations.

In conclusion, I need to say that pulling on your own strengths, and from the help of others, anyone can succeed.

Thank you, again to all the agencies and people involved in my personal success.

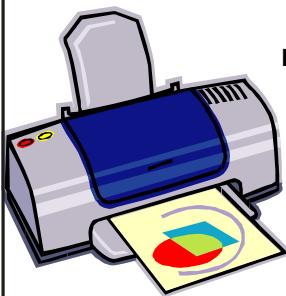
Canell & Jones Visit Crossroads



On October 21, 2005 Senator Robert Cannell and Representative Russ Jones visited Crossroads Mission. They toured the facilities and reviewed the services that Crossroads offers to the community.

(Left) Myra E. Garlit, Executive Director of Crossroads Mission describes a typical day at the Family Shelter for the dignitaries.

HELP US BY RECYCLING!



You can help Crossroads Mission by recycling your empty printer ink cartridges.

Simply drop them off at our administration offices on 944 S. Arizona Avenue, or at the 2nd. Chance offices on 2291 E. Palo Verde St. Or, you may use the enclosed postage-paid mailing bag. The bags are also available for your company or organization. When the cartridges are sent off for recycling we get a small profit in return. So don't forget—RECYCLE!

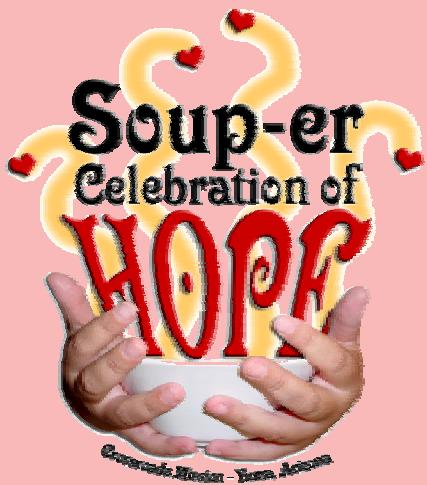
Colorful, Playful Murals at the Family Shelter!

Thanks to the Champion Church Youth Group the Family Shelter's playground is a happier, more colorful and playful place! The group visited Crossroads on October 1st, 2005 and worked hard on lots of projects and painted two murals at the Family Shelter. They transformed a basic gray wall into a "Little Bill" scene, and the front of an old rundown shed now looks like a beautiful playhouse complete with flowers by the windows, mailbox and butterflies!

Thank you Champion Church, the kids just love it!



Don't Miss the



**January 27, 2006
10:30AM - 2:00PM**

Please join us during our 3rd. Annual "Soup-er Celebration of HOPE", a free information and health services fair for the homeless and needy of our community. Make plans to have your organization be one of the presenters. Booth reservations are still open, so mark your calendars and save the day.

For more information contact Rene at (928) 783-9362, Ext. 30

A Performance by the Crossroads Players



The Crossroads Players performed at the Day Break Adult Healthcare recently. "Players" is a choir under the direction of Sam Knight, Ministry Coordinator, and it is made up of program participants.

A Great Time at the Harvest Festival!



More than 500 people joined us for the Harvest Festival last October 28th. There were many activities for the kids, from cake walks to horse back rides! A special thank you to all who helped in making this great event possible.

THANK YOU TO: All Seasons Air Conditioning • Clients & Staff • Guy Parker • M & M Balloon Jump • Michelle Wiley • Mom's Club of Yuma • Mr. & Mrs. McCary • Calvary Temple of Christ • Pepsi • Rural Metro • Saddles of Joy • Sonoqui Family • Yuma County Juvenile Detention Ctr. • Yvonne Estes-District One

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!



AEA Federal Credit Union donated \$1,000 to Crossroads Mission on October 24, 2005 to help fill the kitchen's pantry. Ken Bredemeyer, C.E.O. of AEA Federal Credit Union presented the check to Myra E. Garlit. THANK YOU!!!



A special thank you to Karl Lothmann for donating part of his restaurant equipment and furniture to Crossroads Mission. Our dining room received a much needed make-over and it looks very inviting. THANK YOU!!!

A special thank you to Roy & Joyce Tyler, Tyler's Taste of Texas, & Brittain's Chuck Wagon & Steakhouse for ongoing support!
Another special thank you to KCFY 88.1FM Christian Radio for their recent concert to benefit Crossroads Mission!

You Can Receive a Tax Credit When You Donate to Us



BILL ESMEIER
CFO & Director of
Development

2005 will be gone shortly. It won't be long before we start filing our taxes for this year. 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. That's right!

You can receive up to \$200 back from Arizona as a tax refund when you itemize your deductions. You do need to have paid to Arizona at least the amount you donate.

It's not too early to plan ahead for your 2005 income tax return. Remember the deadline: December 31, 2005. Send your donation along with this completed form today! For more information call Bill at (928) 783-9362, Ext. 19.

TAX CREDIT DONATION CARD

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

Participants Name: _____ *Last Name* _____ *First Name* _____ *MI* _____

Social Security # _____ *(For Tax Records Only)* _____ **Phone #** _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

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, 2005 to be claimed as a credit for this year.

Amount: _____ **Check Number:** _____

Memorial & Honorable Gifts

In Memory Of

Betty Hardy
Betty Hardy
Craig
Esperanza (Hope) Castro
Francis R. Ridgeway
Grant Ellingson
Grant Ellingson
Frazier
Grant Ellingson
Grant Ellingson
ten
Grant Ellingson
man
Mae Palmquist
Mary Lou Trafzer/Bridges
Mary Lou Trafzer/Bridges
Mary Lou Trafzer/Bridges
Mary Lou Trafzer/Bridges
Mary Lou Trafzer/Bridges

The Kind Gift Of

Alvin L. Nance
Charles & Sharon
Charles & Sharon Craig
John G. Ridgeway
Marlene Palmquist
Kenneth & Enid
Dennis Braaten
Mr. & Mrs. AJ Brat-
Ed & Jane Cole-
Marlene Palmquist
Madge I. Jones
L. A. Luedke
Susan R. Christensen
Allen N. Christensen
Flavia Haskell

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.

Do you know someone with 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.



August & September Statistics

KITCHEN	AUG 05	SEP 05
Meals	10,493	10,085
FAM. Shelter	AUG 05	SEP 05
Bed Nights	896	884
Individuals	68	43
Children	41	26
MEN'S Shelter	AUG 05	SEP 05
Bed Nights	1,414	1,542
Individuals	133	75
RECOVERY	AUG 05	SEP 05
Individuals	16	30
Graduates	11	12
EDUCATION	AUG 05	SEP 05
Students	68	63
Hours Studied	864.5	787.3
GED's	1	2
Serenity House	AUG 05	SEP 05
Bed Nights	217	270
Individuals	7	9
Giving	AUG 05	SEP 05
Clothes	2,270	169
Furniture	2,089	12,112

Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Contact us to help or for help...

Ministry Opportunities

Chapel and Devotion Speakers,
Special Presentations, Church
Events & Worship Teams

Sam Knight

(928) 783-9362, Ext. 35

Public Relations & Special Events

Fundraising Events, Group
Presentations, Gifts of Goods,
Food, Services and Vehicles.

Barbara Rochester

(928) 726-0491, Ext. 17

Special Projects & Development

Financial Stock & Property
Contributions, Planned Gifts &
Charitable Trusts

Bill Esmeier

(928) 726-0491, Ext. 13

Volunteer Involvement

Individual, Church & Corporate
Volunteer Groups, Service Clubs &
Community Service

Janet Ward

(928) 726-0491, Ext. 20

Career & Academic Ctr. (928) 783-9362, Ext. 31

Family Shelter

(928) 783-9362, Ext. 30

Men's Shelter

(928) 783-9362, Ext. 13

Recovery Center

(928) 783-9362, Ext. 22

Serenity House

(928) 783-5642

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Charles Craig <i>Vice Chairman</i>	Doug Mellon
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Sarah Lydick <i>Secretary</i>	Joanne Jett
John Wiser	
Ralph Williams <i>Treasurer</i>	Mario Ybarra
Rev. Rick Seltzer	
Ema Lea Shoop <i>Past Chairman</i>	Tom Anderson
Tom Mannan	

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Caryl Stanley	Frank Orendain	Paul Heebink
Cassandra Carranza	Jayme Clark	Stewart Bradshaw

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2ND CHANCE



To schedule a free pick up
of your donations CALL:

726-0491

Ext. 20



The purpose of
Crossroads
Mission is to
help
disabled and
disadvantaged
individuals and
families achieve
a better quality
of life.

P.O. Box 1161 • Yuma, AZ 85365-1161
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