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God's Work At The Mission



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

Hello, spring time! Thank you for reading News for Our Partners! We are pleased to share the past events and future happenings! While many events had to be changed or postponed, we have been blessed to continue God's work. In fact, God's work can be reflected in Matthew's story, and in the lives of the 18 people who got baptized! The community has been very supportive. We are

pleased to announce the many agencies and companies participated in a much-needed water challenge. The children from Mesquite Elementary School donated 500 boxes of cereal, too. Check out our pictures and articles to learn more about these.

SEVEN LONG MONTHS

In March of last year, there was a rain storm in Yuma. We had a major sewage backup in the Family Shelter which caused massive damage. After being out of the shelter for 7 months, we are finally back in there. That was such an ordeal but we prevailed through it all and now are accepting the homeless back into the shelter. We are still accepting cash donations to help us replace the furniture that was lost during the disaster.

THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19

Many of you have felt like these past months have been such a switch from what your past life has been. We have been waiting for things to get back to "normal" and have found that things may never be the same as the "normal" we knew. At the Mission, we have been going through many changes. We understand our "normal" is a new "normal" and we are adjusting. COVID-19 has hit this community in a tremendous, devastating way. Sorrow has spread throughout this land but we can still find joy in the grace that God has given us. If you have lost someone during this pandemic, please accept our most humble condolences. Grief is such a hard emotion to understand. People will say that you just need to move on or that this will pass. In reality, we don't just get over it. We will miss our loved one until the day we die. The love just doesn't stop. The grief we experience goes on and we learn to live with those emotions. Pray, seek pastoral or professional counseling and don't be ashamed to reach out. At Crossroads, the past year has been an emotional roller coaster. We have helped many who have lost loved ones and who are going through the grieving process. The good news is God still reigns! My prayer for you is that you find comfort and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ.

A Celebration of Jesus



Every three months, we have a communion service during our regular devotions time in the morning. We do this because Jesus instructed his followers to use bread and wine (in our case it was grape juice!) to symbolize his body and blood in remembrance of the sacrifice that He made when He died on the cross to pay for our sins.

This is an opportunity for many to remember and celebrate Jesus. However, taking communion is not mandatory for anyone in attendance because it is not an obligation but a celebration of what Jesus has done and continues to do for us!



All of the guests and program participants were invited to take part in communion. It was led by Fabian Valenzuela, Ministry Coordinator, just as the sun was rising. Many participated.

ONLINE Auctions & Raffles!

We are trying to bounce back after a challenging 2020. Most of our fundraisers and community events had to be cancelled. As a result, our donations were severely impacted. That is why we are going digital! **Be on the lookout! We will announce our "going live" date on social media.**

ENTERTAINMENT/ EXPERIENCES

- Trips and getaways
- Restaurant, theater, gift certificates

ELECTRONICS

- TVs, gaming, and much more.

SPORTING GOODS

- Fishing equipment
- Hunting equipment
- Coolers and gear

OTHER ITEMS

- One of a kind: artwork
- Electric scooter

We are still collecting items! Want to help? Please drop off auction items with:

Barbara Rochester
Community Affairs Director

944 S Arizona Avenue, Yuma
(928) 580-4482

brochester@crossroadsmission.org
(Office located at the main campus)

Azucena Solorzano

Marketing & Development Director

550 W 8th Street, Yuma
(928) 261-9836

asolorzano@crossroadsmission.org
(Office located at the Thrift Store building.)

Devoted to Staying Safe and Helping Others!

With the many changes and challenges that we have had to face since the pandemic began, we have been doing our best to adapt. We have made adjustments in order to meet all of the CDC regulations and still help those in need.

Thanks to our donors and grants, we have assembled disinfection stations throughout our campuses. The stations at the entrance of each shelter include: hand sanitizer, face masks, and disinfection mats for people to disinfect the soles of their shoes before coming in. We even made arrangements to repurpose some rooms and turn them into quarantine rooms. Outside of these rooms, we placed tables equipped with disinfectant spray, hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes and gloves for anyone in quarantine and for the staff that interacts with guests that are in quarantine.

In addition, we have implemented new policies and procedures to ensure that everyone at the Mission is safe. During each shift, the staff clean and disinfect the shelter's high traffic areas. The guests and program participants clean up their living area and restrooms at least twice a day to keep it as safe and as clean as it can be. Plus, an outside company

4 comes to the shelters once a NEWS for our Partners



Hand sanitizer and face masks readily accessible.

week to professionally disinfect everything. Temperature checks are conducted every morning and throughout the day to ensure everyone is healthy. New guests are taken to get a COVID test as they come in. If they can't be transported right away when they come in, they are housed in separate rooms to quarantine. They are asked to stay in their room until they get a negative result back. During the time they are there, a staff member delivers meals; water bottles, and hygiene products. The EMT's



Curbside meals are being handed to the people outside of the Men's Shelter.

from our First Step Center go in to the quarantine rooms to check vitals for each guest and hand out medication, if needed, three times a day. Once the results show they are negative, then they are able to go out of their quarantine rooms with the rest of the residents

It is sad to say that even if we are taking as many precautions as we can to have everybody feel at ease, sometimes, the fear of getting sick still lingers in people. Unfortunately, it has gotten to the point that some of our guests have decided to leave and stay outside. In order to keep helping the guests that have chosen to leave, we set up a water station outside of the Men's Shelter where they can be at during the day. A cooler with water bottles and other drinks is set out and refilled by the kitchen staff throughout the day. Curbside meals are also given three times a day for the people who choose to stay outside. In order to house

and help more people we have set up a 36 feet by 18 feet tent outside of the Men's Shelter for those who have made a choice to stay outside. Currently, we are working on setting up electricity and an air conditioner unit to regulate the temperature inside of it once it is open for guests to stay.

None of this would be possible without the help of our community and our faithful donors! Crossroads Mission and it's residents thanks you for your continued support! Our need for donations grows as this pandemic takes the jobs and homes of many people and they are forced to look for shelter in places like Crossroads Mission. We pray everyone reading this is safe and



The 36ft x 18ft tent outside of the Men's Shelter will be used to house guests that prefer to be outside the shelters

that we continue to be able to help! May God bless you all!
"Whoever lends to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done." (Proverbs 19:17)



The Water Station across the street from the Men's Shelter.



Cold water bottles are available at the Water Station.

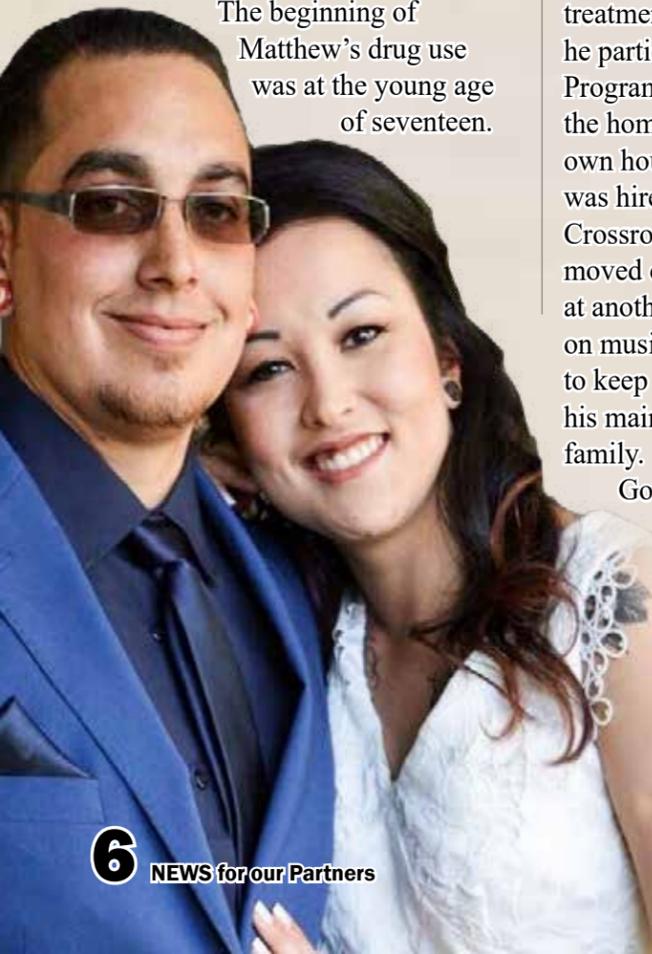


“Crossroads Saved My Life” - Matthew

Matthew's life before coming to Crossroads Mission was complete chaos. “My life before the Mission, it was a lot of things. I was using Meth. I was shooting up at the time. It always starts off good but then you start losing everything. I got to the point where I was just trying to find somewhere to stay or trying to scrape up money for a motel so I could shower and sleep.”

Addiction takes everything from people, including their homes and freedom. Homelessness is also a part of Matthew's story. After being asked how long he was homeless for, he said, “About six months. I had gotten out of prison and was staying with my dad. That's when I decided to run the streets on my own.”

The beginning of Matthew's drug use was at the young age of seventeen.



His addiction lasted about ten years. Thanks to God and Crossroads Mission, Matthew will celebrate his sixth year clean and sober this June.

“It was God watching over me.”

The circumstances that brought Matthew to Crossroads were, in his words, “crazy” because of the people he was around and things he was doing. “The way that it happened, I think it was God watching over me, trying to tell me that it was my time, and that was it.”

Matthew successfully completed the New Life Program, a 120-day residential drug and alcohol treatment program. Afterwards, he participated in the New Way Program, a program designed for the homeless to transition into their own housing. A short time after, he was hired to be a case manager at Crossroads Mission. He has since moved on to a job working with kids at another local agency. His focus is on music, fishing and other things to keep him away from drugs. But, his main focus is taking care of his family.

God has always been in Matthew's life, but his faith has grown since he came to Crossroads Mission. “Before I used to go to church when I was younger, with my dad and my stepmom - so I

always had God in my life. I didn't pray as much as I do now. I never did before. I was just there, just to be there. Looking at my life now, and looking back at the things that I've done and the things that have happened, I see the blessings and I see that God is there.”

“Everything is looking up.”

“I was able to get clean. If it wasn't for the Mission and the time that I spent there, I wouldn't of been able to have that stability to stay away from drugs and keep my mind focused. When I came into this, it was just me. Now, I'm married. I got my daughter in my life again. I got my stepdaughter. I got two boys. I got my own place. Everything is looking up.”

The most important thing that has happened to Matthew because of Crossroads is that he got his daughter back. “I was in jail when she was born. I went to prison. I got to hold her for the first time when I



Matthew holding his newborn son in the hospital



Matthew spending quality time with his children

hit the yard. After that, I was just in and out of prison, in and out of jail, getting high, running around. I lost six years of her life running around in addiction. Because I went to the Mission, because I was in Drug Court, I was able to get the tools and get the structure that I needed. Now, I see her. She lives in Maricopa but I get to bring her down to Yuma now and she gets to spend time with the family here. I'm actually able to take part in the things that she does.”

His advice to anyone who is battling addiction or having similar struggles to the ones he had is to “stick it out”. “When I first came in, I focused a lot on trying to make my situation stable. I was trying to have something to build off of. Because I stuck it out, I was able to get that foundation and get to where I'm at now. I would say just stick it out, because everybody's recovery is different and people go through different things.”

Before Crossroads, Matthew thought about going to a luxurious treatment center. “I was trying

to go to some expensive rehab in Colorado. My mom told me nobody was going to pay for that and just go to Crossroads Mission. I fought it. When I finally got arrested and put on Drug Court they sent me to the Mission.

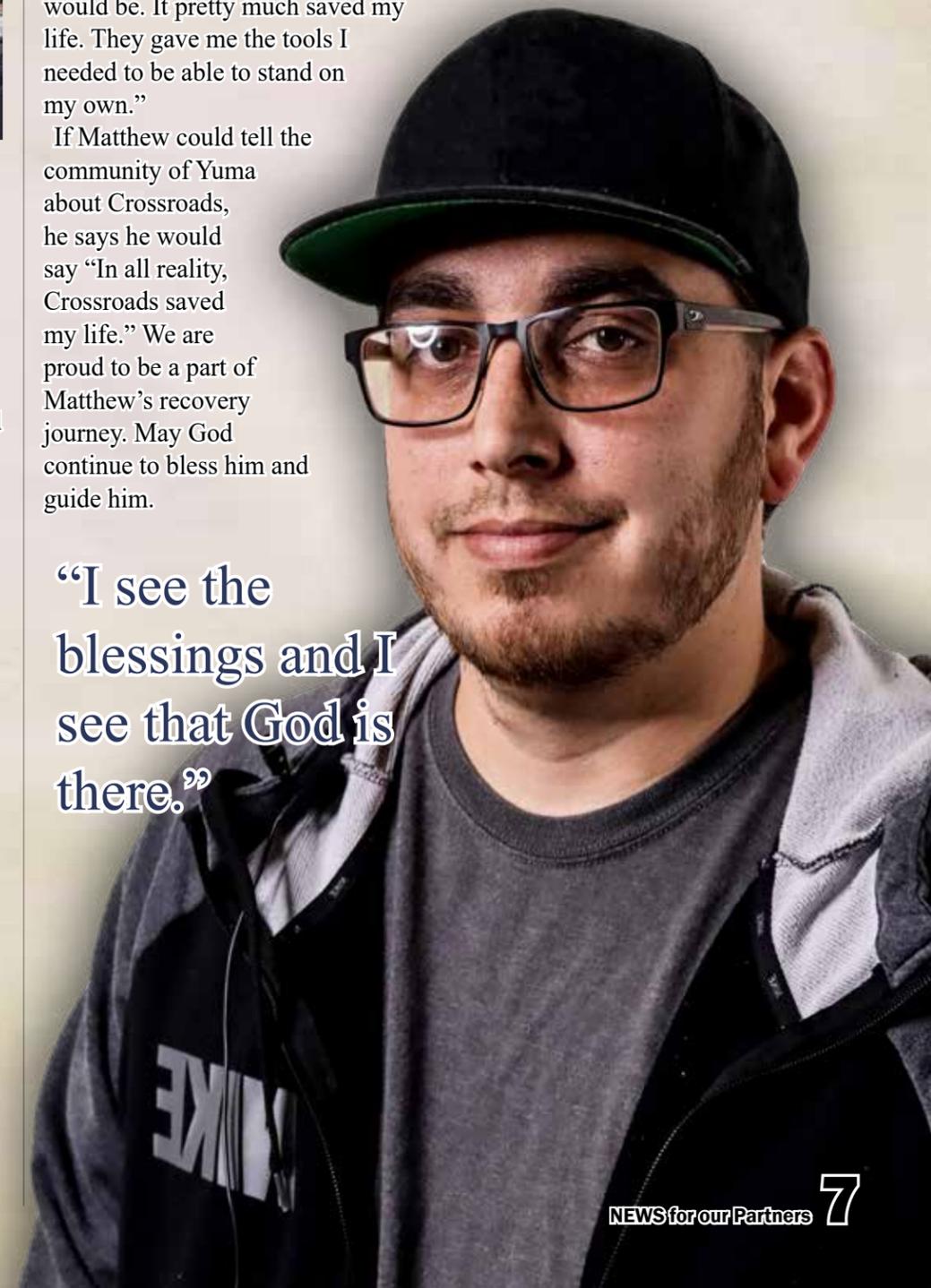
It was a lot better than I thought it would be. It pretty much saved my life. They gave me the tools I needed to be able to stand on my own.”

If Matthew could tell the community of Yuma about Crossroads, he says he would say “In all reality, Crossroads saved my life.” We are proud to be a part of Matthew's recovery journey. May God continue to bless him and guide him.

“I see the blessings and I see that God is there.”



Use your camera on your smart-phone, to open this QR code to see Matthew tell his story in his own words!



Taking the Next Step: Immersing Into a New Life

Water baptism is the next step after receiving salvation. It is also an act of obedience to God's commands. It is a public declaration of your faith and commitment to Christ. It symbolizes your new life as a follower of Christ. We "bury" our old life in the water like Jesus was buried in the tomb and we rise to our new life just like Jesus rose to his resurrection. During March, our guests and participants were given the opportunity to make this public declaration and 18 people decided to take the next step. They were baptized in the Colorado river by our Ministry Coordinator, Fabian Valenzuela. It is amazing to see how God can transform people's lives. Because of your donations many are able to have life-changing transformations at Crossroads.

Congratulations to everybody who took the next the step to make an outward expression of their inward decision to follow Christ! *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"* (Matthew 28:19)



James A.



Raene S.



Robert M.



Michelle S.



Donella M.



Shelbi B.



Erik S.



Jennifer M.



Alberto G.



Oscar M.



Dawn E.



Samantha L.



David O.



June A.



Joseph L.



Thank You Vertical Church for providing t-shirts for everyone who got baptized!



Kevin C.



Shamra D.



Amon J.

Challenge

ACCEPTED

Water is an ongoing need here at Crossroads and we have been blessed by a Facebook water challenge that many people accepted. This is great help, especially for the outdoor water station that has been set



up for the homeless. We are thrilled to say that we have received cases of water bottles from many local businesses, organizations, and sport teams from our community. Among them, FTS Automotive Center, Castillos Southwest Towing,



Aquaforce Swimming, Holy Aguas and Fruit, Grooming by Josephine, Glory Fitness, Southwest Sanitation, Yuma Random Acts of Kindness, Home

Depot, Yuma Rattlers Fastpitch Softball Team, Beast Factory/Beast Box Crossfit, Pilkington Construction, Grace Salon, Rising Stars 4H Club, 928 Flathead Boyz, Desert Valley Outdoors, and many others! Thank you to all of the participants and to Jennifer Blackwell for promoting it - there are no words to express our appreciation!



Honorary Gifts:

A Gift In Honor Of:	Kindly Given By:
Bill Esmeler	Beverly Esmeler
Dr. Bharat Magu	Edith McCloud
Her Grandkids	Virginia Marten
Jan Stevens & Susan Hacker	Dean Stevens
Jean & Reagen	
Mental Health Court	Pamela Walsma
Michael Young	John and Anita Young
Mr. Bill Peyree, Volunteer	Mike McDermott
Patricia Osburn	Norma Bradley
Peggy Munger	Pamela Tangonan
Rachel's Birthday	Timothy Murphy
Rev. Dr. Timothy John Brand	Allen Applehans
Shania Martin	Kylie Martinez
The PsychoPros Staff	Holly Dorna

Thank You MES!

Mesquite Elementary School chose Crossroads Mission as the recipients of a very generous donation of over 500 cereal boxes! This was part of their monthly fundraisers in which their students from all grades participated. In over the course of a week, Mesquite Elementary was able to collect all of these cereal boxes. We are deeply honoured to receive this donation! Thank you Mesquite Elementary School and to all the students and parents who made this possible!



Staff from Mesquite Elementary with our warehouse staff and volunteers.



Memorial Gifts:

A Gift In Memory Of:	Kindly Given By:
Adolf and Gerda Kraus	Anne Roman
Anne Buster	Jim Buster
Anne Peavy	Douglas Smith
Arnold Meyers	Elliot Meyers
Brooks/Brooks	Patricia Haynes
Charles Craig	David White
Charles Scarborough	Lori Mckenna
Connie Ray	Senior Class of 1960
	Barbara Bennet
	Carolyn Bryant
	Cynthia Cotton
	Don Clements
	Erma Brownd
	Evelyn McDowell
	Gayle Greeson
	Judy Northcutt
	Karren Turner
	Kregg Wilson
	Mary Ford
	Neva Bowman
	Owen Drake
	Roger Highland
	Sharon White
	Suzanne Wood
	Vandra Milloy
Daniel Burhans	Dennis Burhans
David Sosa	Paul Torrence
Diego Gettig	Denise Carrasquillo
Grace Helen Ferris	Aaron Ferris
Keith Nelson	Linda Cardoza
Larry Engler	Carol O'Donley
Lucino Ruiz	Chad Hefner
Mary Devine	John Kerr
	Tony Byrne
Mary Roman	Denise Carrasquillo
Mgysgt Larry Price	Heather Price
Michelle "Shelley"	John McKinley
Roberta Shook Ponce	Richard Johnston
	Rochelle Thompson
	Shari Leeper
	Shirley Morris
	Thomas McIntire
Nancy Rather	Marvin Rather
Pastor Glen Larsen	Faith Lutheran Church
Ralph Williams	Glenda Spencer
Ralph Williams	Louis Maxcy
Ray Drysdale	Kathryn Stocking Tate
Robert "Mike" Schantek	Kimberly Gerardo
Theresa, Wayne, and Hugh (Wes) Nelson	Victor Nelson
Tom Molyneux	Susan Molyneux
Tommy "Whitey" White	Darlene Abdelnour

What Your Gifts Made Possible:

DEPARTMENT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
Kitchen					
MEALS	7,068	9,013	10,404	9,278	9,700
Family Shelter					
BED NIGHTS	308	329	845	911	1,281
INDIVIDUALS	11	13	38	46	59
CHILDREN	1	1	1	7	8
Men's Shelter					
BED NIGHTS	359	359	1,593	1,481	1,488
INDIVIDUALS	20	30	77	79	82
Drug & Alcohol Stabilization Unit					
ADMITTED	35	43	40	35	46
COMPLETED	21	30	26	16	29
New Life Recovery Program					
ENTERED	16	17	18	8	23
GRADUATES	3	4	10	6	7
New Way Homeless & Transition Program					
PARTICIPATING	13	9	9	11	14
Career & Academic Center					
STUDENTS	39	50	48	83	68
HOURS STUDIED	218.5	327	206.75	481.75	544
GEDs	0	0	0	0	0
Giving					
CLOTHES	167	248	888	631	424
FURNITURE	0	5	7	12	23

Memorial Gifts, cont.

A Gift In Memory Of:	Kindly Given By:
Tommy "Whitey" White	Darlene Abdelnour
William "Bill" Esmeier Sr.	Douglas Stanley
	James Esmeier
	Kerrie Esmeier
	Leone Neegan
	Richard Sprague
	Robyn Suci
	Rochelle Thompson
	Steven Watkins
	Wayne Benesch

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 of family member.

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



CROSSROADS Mission

MAIN PHONE NUMBER: (928) 783-9362

*Operator on duty 24/7

Chief Executive Officer

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

Leticia Diaz, Kitchen Coordinator

(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

Fabian Valenzuela (928) 328-8610

Public Relations & Special Events

Fundraising Events, Group Presentations, Tours,

Gifts of Goods, Food, Services and Vehicles.

Barbara Rochester (928) 580-4482

***Family Shelter**

(928) 328-8611, Ext. 702

***Men's Shelter**

(928) 783-9362, Ext. 602

***First Step Center - OPEN 24 HRS.**

(928) 328-8082

Career & Academic Center

(928) 328-8236

Newsletters & Website

Bryan Valdez (928) 328-8410

www.crossroadsmission.org

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To Schedule a FREE pick up of your donations call: **(928) 726-0491**



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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- Chad Curry
- Bill Buster

Crossroads Mission is committed to glorifying God by helping 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 us to hear about, please let us know.

Member of the City Gate Network
www.citygatenetwork.org



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