

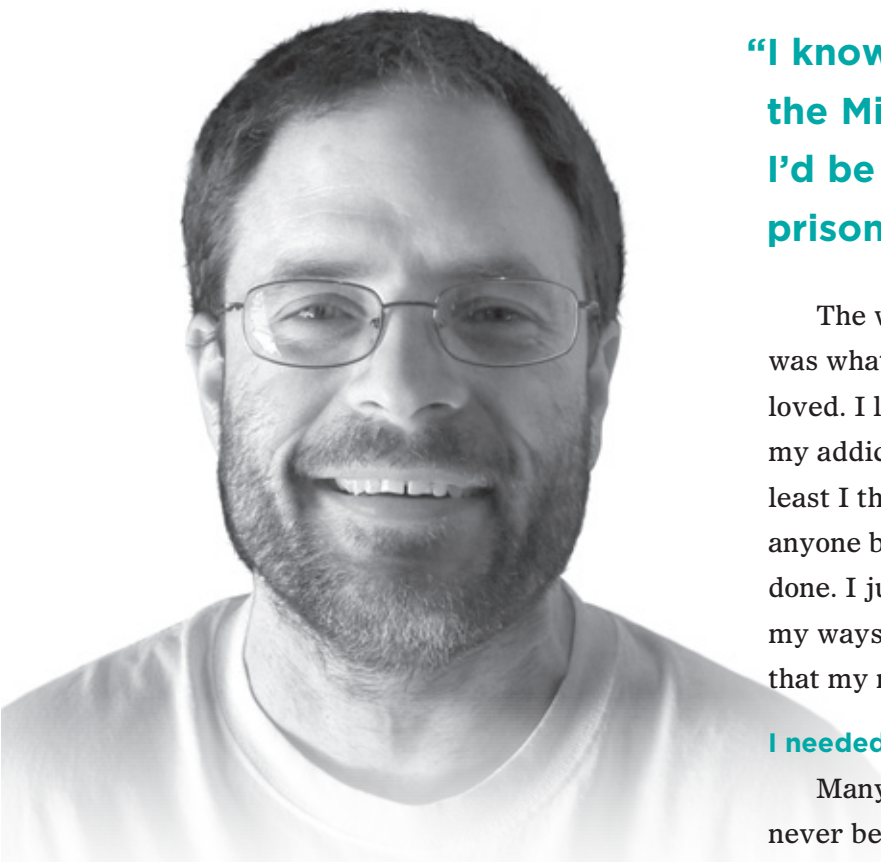
THE CROSSING

Sharing and Caring in Northern Nevada since 1963

I'm learning how to love God

and to care for myself ... thanks to the Mission and donors who care.

My name is Shawn. If you were ask me what the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission means to me I'd say it's giving me a brand-new life. I started drinking when I was young. After high school, drugs were a big part of my life. After that, it was a constant thing. When I went in the Marines, I really learned how to drink. They taught me well, and I've paid a heavy price ever since. I used to steal liquor. I stole from family, from friends and from grocery stores. I was that desperate.



"I know if I were not in the Mission's program, I'd be homeless, in prison or DEAD."

The worst part of my drinking was what it was doing to those I loved. I lied and I kept lying about my addiction. I was a good liar, or at least I thought I was. I don't blame anyone but myself for what I've done. I just know I want to change my ways. I want to keep believing that my new life is real.

I needed to be rescued from myself

Many of us at the Mission have never been very good at establishing

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SUMMER 2011



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An encouraging word from Rick



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When you're in front of a judge in shackles, you suddenly begin to take life seriously...



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Walk A Mile

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healthy relationships. That's why I needed to be rescued. I know if I were not in the Mission's program, I'd be homeless, in prison or dead. Those would be my three options. Today, I believe in a loving God. I also believe there's an enemy who is always around. But I know God is stronger than Satan.

At this moment, I have a heart filled with gratitude for a loving God, a caring Mission staff, and for you who donate your money and time to help us understand there's a better way to live. You give us everything we need, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. God bless you for your love, understanding and kindness.

Your friend,
Shawn

Garage Sale 2011



The Mission is asking local residents to donate their unsold garage sale items to help with services for the poor and homeless.

Just call us before or after your garage sale, tell us when you want us to come and we'll send a truck to pick up your items — and anything else you want to clear out of your garage!

You'll get a clutter-free garage, a tax receipt for your donation and peace of mind knowing that you helped the unfortunate in our area!

Call us at **775-323-7999** (weekdays) or **775-379-9161** (weekends), or email us at dispatch@rsgm.org to schedule your pickup!

Items collected by the Mission will be sold, and all proceeds provide direct assistance for the homeless and needy in our area.

An Encouraging Word from Rick Redding



In Jesus' day, lepers were the scourge of the earth. They lived in isolation. Their hair was unkempt and they wore dark clothes. They couldn't sell anything because they were seen as unclean. *Perhaps this is the reason Jesus spent time with them ... because no one else would.*

In many ways, people who live in a state of homelessness in our community are treated in a similar fashion. People don't want to be around the homeless. When they wander around in the street, they don't smell good. They panhandle. They distract us from our daily routine. And ... *that's probably why we spend so much time with them ... because few others want to.* Our calling is to reach out to those no one else cares much about: the homeless, the addicted, the despairing and the abused.

“People don't want to be around the homeless. When they wander around in the street, they don't smell good. They panhandle. They distract us from our daily routine.”

You are playing a key role in the recovery of Shawn and Christina ...

As you read the stories of Shawn and Christina, you get a sense of what it's like to live a life apart from God. Shawn lived a life of alcoholism; Christina spent her days dealing and doing drugs. But today both are on the road to recovery ... something that happens continually at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission — thanks to your prayers, donations and acts of kindness.

Now the summer months are here, and I wonder if you'd consider giving an extra special gift to help us meet the rising costs of helping the homeless during these warm months. *After all, pain and despair will not take a vacation this summer.* Your donations are providing hope and new life to men and women in great need. God bless you for caring ... not only today but throughout the year.

Your servant,

Rick Redding, Executive Director

Touch even more lives during the

Do you ever suppose that when people suffer in some extraordinary way they must have been guilty of some extraordinary sin? Not so, says Jesus in Luke 13:5 ... *I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.* As human beings, we all face the same verdict, whether the results of our poor choices make it into the newspapers or not.

That's why at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, we understand the seriousness of our desire to do things our own way. Each day, our staff and our guests make it a point to turn to Jesus for forgiveness, and then to do our best to live consciously and continuously by His mercy.

When you're in front of Judge Breen in shackles, *you suddenly begin to take life seriously...*

My name is Christina. I'm afraid of what my resume looks like. Ran away from home at 17. Married at 19. First child at 20. Grew up in a foster home. Didn't graduate from high school. The guy I had the baby with went to prison. I was a drug dealer ... and in 2008 I got nabbed outside a 7-Eleven store ... caught in the act of dealing and using a gram of meth. There's more, but that should do for starters.

Today, I thank God for His love, the staff at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission and you who are so generous with your kindness and donations. When I was dealing dope, I felt like a big person on campus. It was cool ... *and I thought I was even cooler.* I used to think I was gaining respect by engaging in my drug activity. In fact, I was losing everything, little by little: my four kids, my house and everything that once meant something to me. All gone.



Living under a bridge was home for me

I became homeless. For two months, I lived under the Walgreens Bridge. When I did get a check, I would gamble or drink it away. And, of course, the rest of the time I slammed dope. I thank God for the day Judge Breen said to me, "If you don't enter the program at Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, you *will* go to prison." Being in shackles and standing before Judge Breen got my attention. To make a long story short, I came to the Mission and God turned the lights on me and on my life. Here I'm truly loved.

The sisters take me under their wings. I used to love the drug.

Now I love God. Thank you for making this

place available to me. This time I'm going straight. Promise!

Sincerely,

Christina

Walk a Mile 2011

More than 200 enthusiastic walkers braved frigid temperatures to support the Mission's second annual "Walk a Mile (or 2) in My Shoes."

The event is designed to bring attention to the plight of the homeless during Reno's often harsh winters. With snow falling and temperatures around 15 degrees, walkers of all ages took to the streets to experience firsthand some of the conditions.



The Mission is planning to expand the event each year to include passing out emergency kits to the homeless and extending the route to include a 5K or 10K run.

Thank you to all who supported Walk a Mile!

More information available at [facebook.com/renomission](https://www.facebook.com/renomission)

the critical summer months

We're all in this together

When you give your donations, you help us continue to be the men, women and children God wants us to be. It's been said we may not have all come over on the same ship, but we *are* all in the same boat. That means we're all in this together. We simply could not carry on this ministry without your support and friendship.

To make a generous donation today, kindly use the remit slip enclosed and send it along with your gift. You may also take advantage of giving on our secure website at www.rsgm.org. Thank you for being our partner in caring for the poor and needy in Reno-Sparks during the critical summer months and throughout the year. God bless your caring so much for people in need.

"It's been said we may not have all come over on the same ship, but we are all in the same boat. That means we're all in this together."

Soroptimist Ruby Award

Tammy Treadwell is the recipient of the 2010 Soroptimist Ruby Award: For Women Helping Women — for her extraordinary work as the women’s services coordinator for the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission.



The award is presented by Soroptimist International of Washoe County to honor women who use their personal or professional influence to improve the lives of other women. Treadwell advances to the national level, where an online poll will decide the recipient of a \$5,000 charitable donation by the Soroptimist International of the Americas organization.

Treadwell was nominated by Vanessa Sweglar, a Mission employee who works closely with Treadwell in helping female clients.

“She makes every woman — no matter what abuse they’ve been through or caused — feel loved and special ... she loves the 46 women in that house exactly the same. She shares their joys. She feels their pain. She helps them find worth when they see none at all.”

“I don’t see myself as anything special,” Treadwell said. “I love my job and love my Jesus and want everyone to come to know Him like I do. I’ll keep doing this as long as He lets me.”

Christmas in July 2011

Volunteers are needed for our annual “Christmas in July” dinner beginning at 4 p.m. Monday, July 25, at the Mission, 355 Record St., Reno.

The event — featuring a full-costumed Santa Claus greeting guests — is a festive reminder that the homeless and poor need year-round services. More than 500 men, women and children are expected to attend.

The Mission will serve ham meals with all the sides, and will give away wrapped toys for children and new clothing and hats to adults. Volunteers are needed to help serve meals and pass out presents and clothing.

Call Tammie at 775-323-0386, Ext. 16, to sign up today!



Thrift Stores

Visit us for great **tax-free** deals on new and like-new furniture, electronics, appliances, clothing and other great items!

You never know what you’ll find! Plus, your support stays in this community to help others!

All stores open 9:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m., Monday – Saturday.

- **Thrift Depot Kietzke**
630 Gentry Way (at Kietzke)
Reno **775-825-4424**
- **Thrift Depot Reno**
575 E. Fourth St. (at Elko)
Reno **775-786-4499**
- **Thrift Depot Sparks**
640 Greenbrae Dr., #160
(Greenbrae Shopping Center)
Sparks **775-331-5020**
- **Thrift Depot North Hills**
1075 North Hills Blvd.
(Raley’s Shopping Center)
Reno **775-677-2266**
- **Thrift Depot Prater**
1450 E. Prater Way
(Hacienda Plaza Shopping Center)
Sparks **775-331-5528**
- **Thrift Depot Sun Valley**
5105 Sun Valley Blvd., Ste. 200
Sun Valley (at First Avenue
next to Dollar Loan Center)
775-674-6444

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My Summertime Gift

YES, Rick ... it continues to be my pleasure to support the Mission with my finances and prayers.

- Please bill my credit card (please print):
 VISA MC

Here’s my gift of:

- \$20.50** to provide **10 meals** and other assistance
 \$30.75 to provide **15 meals** and other assistance
 \$61.50 to provide **30 meals** and other assistance
 \$_____ to provide as many meals and care as possible

ACCOUNT NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____
 NAME ON ACCOUNT _____ SIGNATURE _____
 NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY / STATE / ZIP _____
 EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, Inc.
 P.O. Box 5956
 Reno, NV 89513-5956

Please mail this completed form and return it with your generous summertime donation. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. You may also give online at www.rsgm.org. You will receive a receipt. God bless you for sharing your compassion with so many in need.