

MISSION INSIDER

CREATING COMMUNITY. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

A newsletter of the Fresno Mission

Giving thanks for YOU

INSIDE: Michael and Samantha share how your support changed their lives!



FALL 2024

DON'T MISS...

2 Join our Thanksgiving Campaign!

3 "We felt broken..."

4 Coming Soon! One Table Fresno

For more information: (559) 268-0839 • fresnomission.org

Addressing Family Homelessness in Fresno County

A Message from
MATTHEW DILDINE

What would become of the struggling neighbors the Fresno Mission cares for if it wasn't for your support?

I think of families like Michael and Samantha, whose story you can read on Page 3. Not long ago, they found themselves homeless with their daughter, unsure how to get back on their feet again.

These desperate parents are not alone. Did you know there is a homeless ranking system that, in effect, makes it more difficult for struggling families to overcome homelessness once it happens to them?

Many of the families who apply for government housing may not appear "homeless enough," according to this system that assigns a priority for housing them.

So what happens when a family doesn't meet the criteria to get into one of these units? Sadly, their struggles with homelessness often continue...

That's why the Fresno Mission's new Family Center, opening this winter, is critical! With room for dozens of families, we can welcome more vulnerable parents and children with safety and stability.

Thank you for supporting this important ministry to families in Fresno!

As we prepare to serve even more guests this fall, I am grateful for your prayers and generous care of our neighbors in need.



Matthew Dildine
Chief Executive Officer

Join Our
2024 THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN

126,000
Meals Needed this Thanksgiving Season

This Thanksgiving, countless guests will gather at our tables. Many are alone... longing to overcome homelessness and poverty... wishing they could reunite with their families.

For just \$3.03, YOU can provide a meal to nourish their bodies and lift their spirits. Your gift welcomes someone who is hurting to our table and surrounds them with life-changing care:

			
Safe, welcoming shelter	Warm clothing, coats & shoes	Classes & job training	God's unconditional love

Please help our neighbors in need this holiday season! Send your 2024 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today using the enclosed reply card and envelope OR online at **fresnomission.org**.



Scan to see how you can help this fall!

Celebrating 75 Years of Service

This year has provided many wonderful opportunities to look back on the last 75 years at the Mission. The love and support of our community that has made it possible... the countless lives transformed... and above all the faithfulness of God through every season.

As the Fresno Mission looks to the next 75 years of service and transformation, we stand firm in our faith and blessed beyond words to know that our community is dedicated to uplifting those in need and sharing the message of God's love with every weary neighbor.

To continue learning about the Fresno Mission's ministry, visit our website at **fresnomission.org**. Thank you for making our milestone of 75 years possible!

In case you missed it! Revisit our 75th Anniversary Celebration, including Ron Hall's inspiring message and program graduate Pablo Sandoval's powerful testimony! Watch the full event now at **fresnomission.org/75-2**.



“We felt broken... until we came to the Mission.”

Michael and Samantha were no strangers to homelessness. After Michael’s parents died, he’d lived in his car trying to make ends meet. And Samantha’s trouble with drug use had led to homelessness for her, as well.

Now, together and with a daughter to provide for, they found themselves homeless and unsure where they could turn for help. “I was sitting in front of a church with my daughter,” Samantha remembers, “and I realized that I needed to straighten up my life.”

Michael felt a duty to care for his family, but he was struggling with feelings of hopelessness. “I felt like I’d lost all connection with who I was,” he says.

“I was really terrified,” Samantha recalls. “Everything felt like it was falling apart.”

They were desperate for a chance to rekindle their faith as they rebuilt their lives. “We wanted a place we knew would be safe, a place of compassion and integrity that was centered around God.”

In our residential program, they found the Christian support they’d longed for.

“I had been angry at God and blaming Him instead of seeing my own responsibility,” Michael says. “I’ve learned so much here. It’s been humbling.”

For Samantha, the community has transformed how she feels about her faith. “I’m so thankful for the people here who are willing to talk and pray with me.”

Now, God is at the center of their family, Michael is stepping into a new job opportunity and the Mission is helping them prepare to move into a home of their own.

This fall, Michael and Samantha give thanks for YOU and your incredible generosity. Your prayers and support have helped change their lives. “It feels good to know what our next steps are, to have a plan for moving into our own place and rebuilding our life as a family. The support we received here has made us feel like we’re human again.”

“Having a safe, faith-based environment to start over has meant more than we can say.”





OUR NEW FAMILY CENTER

Opening at the City Center campus

The new Family Center is a 4-story residential tower opening this winter that offers emergency housing for transitional age youth and families at the Fresno Mission's City Center.

The families we host range from 2 to 10 people. And with 52% of our residents under the age of 18, the opening of this new Family Center is a vitally important step!

The Family Center's services will be based on our DTCR Model: Dignity, Time, Community and Relationship. The facility will include resources like housing navigation to help families find long-term sustainable housing, and counseling rooms generously funded by CrossCity Church.

This center is just one of over 20 life-changing human services offered at City Center, thanks to the local organizations that provide holistic care to our community at this location.

These families will have access to additional City Center resources including:

- A 10,000-square-foot dining area
- Childcare facility & charter school
- Mental & family health services
- Financial literacy & job readiness training
- Food bank, church and more!



YOU'RE INVITED

One Table Fresno
November 23, 2024

Volunteers needed... *like you!*
Help serve hot meals, and provide winter coats and boxes of food for our struggling neighbors during **One Table Fresno**. For more information, visit fresnomission.org/onetable.



You can help bring hope to the city of Fresno!

Learn more about City Center and how you can support our work.

Visit citycenterfresno.org.