REAL STORIES OF HOW YOUR GIVING IS CHANGING LIVES

**APRIL 2024** 

## "THERE'S HOPE"

Jesse thought he had reached a dead end.
But a miracle — and YOUR generosity —
changed everything for him
and his daughter!

"The darkest night, you can light it up . . . "

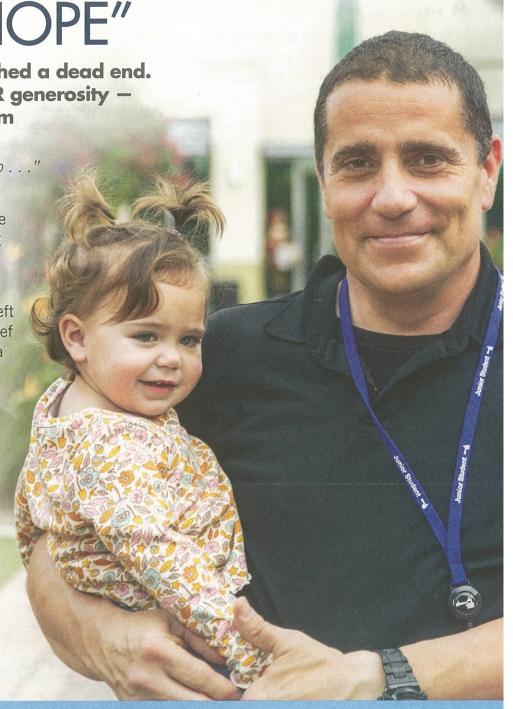
For Jesse, these lyrics are more than just a favorite worship song — they're a testimony of God's miracle-working power at a time where hope seemed lost.

Losing his mom at the age of three left Jesse with trauma that he sought relief from in drugs. "It's hard to replace a mother," he says.

It took starting a family for Jesse to put addiction behind him. For 14 years, he was sober. But when his brother passed away, life began to spiral. "I started having panic attacks and didn't know how to stop them. That woke up the beast and made me relapse." Jesse lost everything: three cars, a nice home, and his family.

Moving through life as a functioning addict, Jesse experienced a threeyear run of relapsing. It took

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# Thank you for all you do to restore l

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the responsibility of fatherhood for him to make changes in his life once more. "When I found out that the woman I was with was pregnant, I went into a treatment center and got clean," Jesse says.

### A LIFE-CHANGING MIRACLE

Because her mother was struggling with addiction, Jesse's newborn daughter was put into the foster care system. They wanted to adopt her out to a family as soon as possible.

Jesse got to work doing everything he could to gain custody of his daughter. He checked every box except one — a place to live. On his last string of hope, he reached out to us for help. But because of the massive need the Rescue Mission has been facing, there was no room available for Jesse and his daughter. "The moment they said, 'Everything is full,' my heart dropped," he says.

Jesse didn't know what else to do but pray. And God worked a miracle just in time for his court date.

"The next day, the Rescue Mission called me. They said, 'You're never going to believe this, but we have a spot that opened up for you."

#### A NEW BEGINNING

Without God, without the Rescue Mission, and without you, Jesse would be in a very different spot right now. "I could've lost my daughter forever," he says. "There aren't many programs that help single dads. I couldn't have done it without the Rescue Mission."

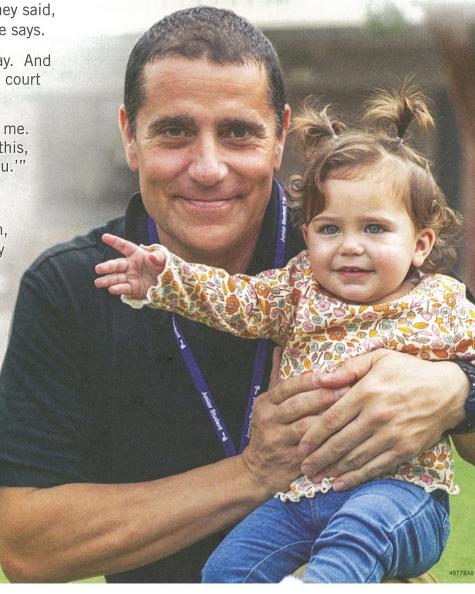
Jesse started parenting classes, got help with childcare services, closed his daughter's custody case, and earned his high school diploma. Everything he needed to get off the ground as a single parent, you helped make possible.

"I'm thankful that I get to wake

up to my daughter every day," says Jesse. "I don't have to worry about how I'm going to clothe her or feed her. The Rescue Mission helps with everything."

Jesse has entered the workforce and plans to move into transitional housing, save up for the future, and give his daughter an education. He hopes his story inspires her to never give up and wants to educate more families on all the Rescue Mission has to offer. His words to people feeling trapped in addiction are: "There's hope." You help spark that hope.

"Without you, without the Rescue Mission, a lot of people would have no hope to get out of homelessness." — Jesse



## es in our community!

# LOOK AT THE LIVES YOU'RE TRANSFORMING



"When you're homeless, you lose hope. The Rescue Mission gives you the hope that you've lost. I can stand on my two feet now and provide for my girls." — Raymond



"The Rescue Mission gives you the resources you need to reach goals and maintain sobriety. They helped me more than I could have ever imagined." — Amanda



For a family that's endured unimaginable challenges, there's nothing like the joy of restoration they experience at the Rescue Mission.

Here, families don't have to barely survive anymore. Instead, they can step into the beautiful promises and plans God has for them.

We never want to have to turn anyone away — especially a dad like Jesse, who was completely prepared to come into our program with his daughter. It truly is a miracle only God could have worked that a spot opened up for Jesse just in time.

Even in the face of a growing need and a record-breaking occupancy, miracles are on the move at the Rescue Mission.

# You play a part in these inspiring stories and miracles.

Your generosity keeps families together, turns stories of despair into stories of victory, and puts neighbors on the path to a healthy way of life. Thank you for helping us meet the increased need in our community!

Byen Crain

## YOUR IMPACT WILL DOUBLE!

Right now, there are families and individuals in our community who are at rock bottom. They're ready to make genuine changes in their lives but don't know where to start or who to ask for help.

You can be there for our struggling neighbors in the moment they need help and hope the most.

And when you give now, a \$40,000 Challenge Gift from friends in our community will DOUBLE the impact of your generosity.

Don't miss your opportunity to change lives in Orange County!

Every \$2.21 you send will double in impact to provide even more meals and critical services that lead to transformation, stability, and faith in Jesus Christ.



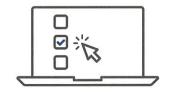
### Restoration begins with YOU

### 3 EASY WAYS you can transform even more lives today

**1. Give by mail** by sending your gift with the enclosed reply form.



**2. Give online** at Rescue/Mission.org/give-now.



**3. Give by scanning** this QR code with your mobile device.

