



Desert Sunrise

"The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." Matthew 4:16

Spring 2009 | Tucson, Arizona

Serving others... Full Circle

"One of the greatest lessons I've learned is recognizing that God created us all for a purpose and that I was able to find my purpose... which is simply to be a part of God's plans and desires to serve others," declared **Wes Shepherd**. The good news is that Wes is living that lesson on a daily basis in more ways than one.

Wes not only teaches discipleship classes and facilitates a GENESIS Process recovery group at the Mission, he also owns and operates 2 sober living transitional houses, and he serves on the Board of Directors of and teaches life skills classes for the Turn Your Life Around non-profit organization. Not bad for a "former homeless addict" who came to the Mission needing shelter in October 2004!

"I came to the Lord while in jail for something I really didn't do. I know every inmate says that, but it was true. They cut me loose after 5 ½ months, once they realized I didn't do it. I got out of jail and went to the Salvation Army and completed their recovery program. After being sober a year, I got an apartment and was working, but, my co-workers, my boss, and my roommates were all using drugs and I knew I couldn't

be with them or I'd relapse myself. So, I left my job and moved out. Working day labor wasn't enough income to keep an apartment, so I ended up coming to the Mission for shelter," Wes stated.

"One of the greatest lessons I've learned is recognizing that God created us all for a purpose and that I was able to find my purpose... which is simply to be a part of God's plans and desires to serve others."

Wes began taking discipleship classes at the Mission and went to work for our ministry part-time serving in the kitchen. Wes said, *"At the Mission I heard and witnessed teaching that you don't necessarily hear or see in churches. There was a lot of grace and love and not judgment or condemnation for the situations we were all in."*



Wes, in blue shirt, facilitates a recovery group.

I learned that God wants you to be surrendered to His will and be obedient to His leading. So, I chose to enter the Mission restoration/recovery program as a student. I graduated the program in 2006 and went right into a staff position at the Mission."

In January 2007, Wes bought his first transitional house, an 11 bedroom, 6 bath home with an indoor pool. In October 2008, he bought his second home, a 5 bedroom 2 bath home. Between these 2 homes, he is able to provide 25 men with sober and affordable housing, so they won't have to be homeless themselves.

God blessed Wes with a wife, Tabitha, who he married in July 2007. They are currently in the process of purchasing a home of their own. Putting the needs of permanent housing for others...first and above his own housing needs...reveals his true heart to serve and bless others. It demonstrates a practical living out of **Philippians 2:4**, *"Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also the interests of others."*

YOUR financial gifts to the Mission and prayer support have not only dramatically changed the life of Wes, but of the many others he has personally assisted with housing, counseling, teaching, and love...as Wes is **Serving Others... Full Circle**...thanks to God and to YOU.



A Special Gift from a Homeless Woman

I've experienced receiving financial donations of all sizes...from one dollar to the recent \$383,736 donation for the new women and children's center. I can assure you that they are all appreciated equally, as each comes from God through His people.

However, I don't know if any have brought more joy to my heart than the recent one we received from a homeless woman. This woman had come to the Mission several times this past year for food and clothing.

This time when she came it was different. She didn't come to ask for anything. Instead, she handed staff member Liz Lane a styrofoam cup. Visible were stains and fingerprints on the outside of the cup, evidence of frequent use. Liz peered into the cup and along with sand and pebbles she found it half full with pennies. The woman said she wanted to give it to the Mission.

Liz told her she didn't need to do this as the food and clothes we give out are free. Liz then asked her if maybe she might want to keep the pennies to use for her own needs. The woman insisted that she wanted it to be used to help someone else.

She had been collecting the pennies for a period of time. Pennies she found on the street, in parks, and on store floors. We knew that this was indeed the case, as we had to wash off many of the pennies before we were able to roll them. The total amount was \$1.32!

This brought to mind the widow's gift in Luke 21:1-3. I know God will honor her sacrificial gift and will stretch each penny out to bless others...as well as bless her.

Because of these difficult economic times, we have experienced a tremendous increase in the number of people coming for shelter, food boxes, and other items. God has been faithful in meeting the increased demand...as He has done here for 55 years and we expect Him to continue through our faithful supporters and volunteers!

"She had been collecting the pennies for a period of time. Pennies she found on the street, in parks, and on store floors. We knew that this was indeed the case, as we had to wash off many of the pennies before we were able to roll them. The total amount was \$1.32!"

Financially, during the last 3 months of 2008, we had the best quarter ever in donations of cash, plus the outpouring of gifts for the new women's center. We praise God for His wonderful and faithful blessing. In addition, we've received some unique in kind donations for clients and the Mission itself, such as office furniture from our dental provider Employer's Dental Service that we will use in the new center, 81,000 pair of designer socks that we distributed to our clients as well as to 27 other ministries and agencies to give out to their clients, 100 pairs of new New Balance shoes, and kitchen equipment from a restaurant that had unfortunately closed down.

It ALL makes a difference down to "every last penny". So, we say "Thank You Lord" for touching the hearts of so many people who compassionately give to the Mission...like YOU...and the homeless woman!



Roy E. Tullgren III
Executive Director – Pastor

From Desolation to Restoration

Tippy Atkins graduated today. Tippy's graduation won't be announced in the newspapers and I am sure it won't be on television either. It was a small celebration, just close friends and family members, and of course her fellow students. It wasn't a big celebration, but it was the most joyous occasion I have ever witnessed in my life.

It was a graduation not from something, as much as it was to something... **a graduation to a new life with new friends, new hopes, and a new faith in Jesus Christ.**

Tippy is leaving the Gospel Rescue Mission Women & Children's Shelter after successfully completing all of her required courses in her substance abuse recovery program.

She will soon be starting a new career as a Recovery Support Specialist at La Frontera here in Tucson.



Top Photo: Lilly Mees, Tippy Atkins, Roy Tullgren
Bottom Photo: Dee Cardinale, Tippy Atkins, Sandy Kline

Therefore I exhort you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice – alive, holy, and pleasing to God – which is your reasonable service. Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God – what is good and well-pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:1–2

In her own words

Hello my name is Tippy Atkins: I am a 42 year old woman, mother of six children and parenting one. My life was tossed upside down by drug and alcohol abuse. I had allowed it to rob me of far too much.

I finally decided to come to Gospel Rescue Mission when I realized that I was powerless over the addiction I had to crack cocaine. I knew I had to reach out for help and humble myself and allow the power of the Spirit of God to do for me what I could not do for myself.

I wanted to live again, to laugh again, to feel again...and to walk in the light again. I wanted to be able to look at myself in a mirror again and not be repulsed by what I saw. I wanted to not be so afraid of life that I walked in death. I wanted to be in the land of the living. I knew that if I didn't do something to change, I was going to die! How will that make my children feel, my parents and brothers? This is crazy...this is not how I am supposed to be living.

I cried out for help and Jesus gave me the strength I needed to speak the words I needed to speak to allow Him to rescue me!

I began to see that I could do all things through Christ who strengthens me. I began to have a whole new outlook on life. With God in control and me in the passenger seat I began to know freedom from captivity. In this new freedom I began to be a help to others and not be a hindrance. I began to bring love into my environment and not hate, freedom and not bondage, laughter and not tears, joy and not sorrow...because I was bringing Jesus with me.

I feel closer and closer to God. The more I rely on Christ and deny the enemy I become stronger and safer in His hands. One of my favorite Bible verses is Romans 12:1-2 because it reminds me that it's not about me but the One I serve.

Current Women's Center
Administration/Cafeteria/Child Care
3600 sq. ft.



Dream Women's Center
5020 sq. ft. – plus 1420 sq. ft.
39% more space

Current Women's Center
Average room size: 192 sq. ft.



Dream Women's Center
Average room size: 415 sq. ft. — 116% increase

The Dream...

Never again saying, “There is no room in the inn”!

It has been 2 years now since the Gospel Rescue Mission Board of Directors voted to start the journey to make our dream of expanding our current Women's facilities a reality. Over the last twenty-four months we have seen God's hand again and again moving us closer and closer to the completion of our dream of a new Women's Transitional Home and Women and Children's Center...

Gospel Rescue Mission has been serving the homeless in Tucson since 1953. Yet here we are in 2009 and for several years now we have been turning away anywhere from five to twenty-five women every day coming to us looking for shelter and safety... many with children.

Saying no to One... is One to many

So, we stepped out in faith with a plan to address the issue of never having to say “No room in the Inn” to another women or child.

The Plan...

In August of 2007, the Gospel Rescue Mission Board of Directors voted to start a three step program to address our growing ministry needs.

Step One: Find a transition home for our women's center program graduates.

On April 5, 2008 we had a grand opening celebration at our beautiful newly renovated Transition Home. Over 5,000 sq. feet of living space with six spacious bedrooms, large dining area, wonderful kitchen, separate children's play area, giant sized living room, and over 2.5 acres of beautifully landscaped yard for rest and play.

Step Two: Purchase and renovate an existing motel or apartment complex large enough to expand to a shelter and rehabilitation center capable of serving one hundred women with their children.

God directed us to start the process to purchase the Wayward Winds Lodge located on Miracle Mile directly north of our new women transitional home. In order to move our women's shelter to this location, we had to apply for an exception to current zoning through the city of Tucson which took a little over 16 months.

Praise God, on September 12, 2008 the City of Tucson gave us their approval to move forward.

On December 9, 2008 Gospel Rescue Mission was awarded a one million dollar matching grant to help with the purchase of the motel.

As of this date we have received \$514,975.75 toward the 1 million we still need to purchase the motel.

Step Three: After the acquisition and remodeling of the new Women and Children's facility on Miracle Mile, we will move the administration offices that are currently at the men's facility to the new property to allow for the expansion of the men's shelter.

We have witnessed God overcome many obstacles already to make this dream come true, but there is still much for us all to do.

Now is the time to call upon God's people to unite to complete this dream. We estimate that it will cost 4 to 4.5 million dollars to complete this dream. We are about halfway there!

Amazing things can happen when God's people unite to accomplish His good works. Please prayerfully consider making a donation today ...

Send your donation to Gospel Rescue Mission 5 to 25 Fund and we will praise God together as He completes this dream.

¹² He will rescue the poor when they cry to him; he will help the oppressed, who have no one to defend them.

¹³ He feels pity for the weak and the needy, and he will rescue them.

¹⁴ He will redeem them from oppression and violence, for their lives are precious to him.

Psalm 72:12-14

The DREAM is Becoming the REALITY

Thank you for the tremendous prayer and financial support towards the purchase of the *Wayward Winds Lodge* for our new Women and Children's Center. **The Dream is becoming Reality at the end of March!**

It's not too late to make a donation for the million dollar matching grant. You can mail your gift in the enclosed envelope or make it online. You can also follow the matching grant progress on a daily basis on our web site www.grmtucson.com.

Once we close on the property, we will update everyone on the next steps we will be taking to develop the property to serve the needs of the women and children. Praise God, as everything has been falling into place as He's directed it all to go and thank YOU for your support in this special project!

Current Women's Center
17 client rooms



Dream Women's Center
38 client rooms
21 more rooms – 123% more rooms

Current Women's Center
Lot size: .78 acres



Dream Women's Center
Lot size: 2.36 acres — 300% increase

Volunteers make the Difference!

As part of the New Year, we all seem to make “new year’s resolutions” – lose weight, grow your hair long (or even stop coloring it). Many of our resolutions start off with good intentions and then as we get busy with our lives, they seem to retreat down to the bottom of the “to do” list. How about starting out this year with a NEW New Year’s Resolution – volunteering with us at Gospel Rescue Mission. As of last year, 2008, Gospel Rescue Mission received well over 1,836 hours of service entirely given by volunteers within our Tucson Community. Several volunteers formed groups that help in the Distribution Center like one of our church supporters, Chapel in the Hills. A few groups have taken on preparing a meal once a month at our Women & Children’s Center, even coming up with themes for the meal (Mexican, Italian, Classical, Red Hatters, etc). Many of our volunteers stop by every few month as community outreach groups helping with painting the Men’s Center, or cool coating the roof of the Business Office. We are also fortunate to receive the personal hand-to-hand support by individuals like Jim Richardson from Christian Legal Aid, and Mary Campista who helps in the kitchen. We are very fortunate to have individuals come to the Mission weekly to help in our Career Development

Center. There are volunteer discipleship teachers like Lenore Thompson from North West Bible



Church. One of our volunteers, Ruth Lindsey, works from home for whatever special needs we have. Ron Syverson picks up coin canisters at local businesses. How about Tom Berresford, who teaches budgeting classes, and Sharon & Ray Shanton who respectively volunteer at GRM shelters as Monthly Chaplains. There are so many ways to partner with GRM as a volunteer and being a volunteer means you are part of a VERY special family. Please give me a call (Suzanne Williams, Ext 209) so that I may sign you up for a tour of the Mission. I would be delighted to show you all the wonderful things the Lord is doing here as we ALL are partnering with Him to serve those He loves so much.

Volunteer at GRM for a NEW New Year’s Resolution!



Condo

The Mission has received a bequest of a condo. A faithful donor, Ms. Dolores Wernette, went to be with the Lord.

“Crème De Le Crème!” 1st floor unit on a corner. Absolutely impeccable condition. Light neutral colors, nice North facing patio to have your coffee in your ez chair. Close to spa and two pools. Stackable washer & dryer. Master bedroom has private bathroom. Great location and close to bus lines and shopping. HOA includes 2 pools, spa, water, garbage, exterior maintenance and landscaping.

If you are interested in purchasing the condo, please contact the Gospel Rescue Mission at 520-740-1501.

Discover the Benefits of Giving Wisely

Have you ever wished you could support the Gospel Rescue Mission and increase your income at the same time?

Well you can. At the Gospel Rescue Mission, we call it creative giving.

In fact, just one “creative gift” can return an immediate tax deduction to you, plus lifetime income for you and a loved one, plus long-term financial support to the Gospel Rescue Mission.

That’s right...you benefit, your family benefits and the Gospel Rescue Mission benefits. If that isn’t creative, we’d like to know what is.

How is this possible? By taking advantage of incentives the IRS provides. Financial advisors call these creative techniques “planned gifts,” because with thoughtful planning, you can turn personal giving challenges into win-win solutions for you and for us.

So, whether you want to make a gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime, or a gift that gives you guaranteed income for life, you can make it happen.

----- ✂

Yes! I desire more information about Giving Wisely

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Ph _____ Evening Ph _____

Email _____



Community Ministries Update

Community Ministries was established in 1997 to help meet the needs of the working poor of our community. Everything that is donated to the Mission: clothes, shoes, linens, household goods, appliances and furniture goes for Mission needs first. All donated items above the needs at the Mission are donated to the community.

Never has the demand been greater on the goods and services offered here at Community Ministries than in recent months. We have seen the numbers grow from 327 families served in January of 2008 to 857 families served in December of 2008. That's a growth of 162%.

I shared with you the numbers, but we see their faces and hear their stories giving us a sense of the struggles they face. The stories are compelling and depressing, uplifting and frustrating. One cannot help but be moved by the very human struggles of working hard without getting ahead and by the all-too-often frequent setbacks.

- **The downturn in the economy effects families more than just in their pocket book.**
- **The incidence of domestic violence is up.**

Not only are the women who come to register for assistance alerting us to what is going on in their homes, but a number of women are being referred to us by other agencies. These women and their children have left homes with only their clothes on their back. They come here to shop for the basics: clothes, shoes and toiletries.

Then there are the men who come with the first words out of their mouth being: "I've never done this before, but I can't be too proud to help my family." You can immediately tell from their countenance that this is a painful experience for them. These men come here for the basics: food and clothes for their kids.

We also give them names of agencies that can help with rent and utility assistance, agencies that help with day jobs, and in many cases, help them to set up appointments with agencies assisting home buyers facing foreclosure.

I think of the grandmother who came from Marana 4 days after her granddaughter ran away, because she didn't know where to go or what to do after having made her report to the police. A friend told her to come to Community Ministries because we help people. She came here crying and told us her story. She told us of a daughter in prison and a runaway granddaughter and a fear that was consuming her. We prayed with her, she made a decision for Christ and she started crying all over again, this time tears of joy. She related that as we had prayed she felt as if something had come into her taking away the pressure she felt on her chest and lifted the burden on her shoulders. Because she had a picture of her granddaughter, we made posters for her to start putting everywhere. We kept in touch with her until several weeks later she came in and told us that her granddaughter had been found.

How do you begin to minister when the need is so great? We start with prayer. We thank the Lord daily for all the donations He provides through our generous donors. We pray that we be wise stewards of all these provisions and distribute them in a fair and equitable manner. We pray that God will open the eyes of our heart to that one person who may have come for things... but whose heart the Lord has prepared to receive Jesus. As we have prayed for these families, some have come to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior.

Thanks to a donation from Jim & Terry Davies, 100 men, women and children in our restoration programs were blessed with brand new pairs of *New Balance* athletic shoes. Jim & Terry won the shoes in an internet contest and realized that they couldn't possibly use 100 pairs of shoes, so they donated them to the Mission! In order for our residents to receive a pair, they needed to turn in one of their used pairs of shoes to give out to others in need in our Community Ministries outreach to working poor families. So, shoe blessings were extended to 200 people total!





326 W. 28th Street
Tucson, AZ 85713-2848
(520) 740-1501
www.grmtucson.com



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

**ASSOCIATION
OF GOSPEL
RESCUE
MISSIONS**

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TUCSON, ARIZONA
PERMIT NO. 946

For information on local resources for recovery visit www.tucosnrecovery.org

This site is hosted by Stan Hamnett, Program Director at Men's Center.

Donations

Donations of automobiles, household items, clothing and food may be dropped off at either shelter 7 days a week. For large appliances, call Community Ministries, M-S, 10:00 AM to 11:45 AM and 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM, 740-1501 Extension 229, or email donations4grm@grmtucson.com, **(Please make sure we have your phone number)** to schedule the donation pick-up truck. The Mission does not operate a thrift store. So, in kind donations are distributed free of charge to those in need. We also accept donations of products & materials, such as cleaning supplies, construction materials, computer software, office equipment, etc.

Donation Drop Centers

- **Community Ministries at 338 W. 28th Street**
- **Women & Children's Center at 1130 W. Miracle Mile**
- **Men's Center at 312 W. 28th Street**

Cell Phone Donation

Do you have an old cell phone? Donate your cell phone to Gospel Rescue Mission and we will recycle it. We have a recycler who makes a donation to the Mission. Don't forget! We can use your old cell phones.

United Way

A THANK YOU to financial partners that have designated your gifts from the United Way and Combined Federal Campaign to Gospel Rescue Mission. If you have not given yet, but plan to give our United Way code is #1069, City Employees #9778TE, Pima County #9788PE, CFC #70657. Thanks!

