



Spotlighting Community Partners: San Diego Rescue Mission

Since 1955, the San Diego Rescue Mission has been a beacon of hope for thousands facing homelessness, hunger and hardship across San Diego County. The nonprofit's impact continues to grow. This year, the Rescue Mission has helped 1,774 people receive immediate shelter, supported 331 people in securing permanent housing, and celebrated a record-breaking 160 graduates from the life-changing, yearlong Mission Academy Residential Program.

The Rescue Mission has found that homelessness rarely has a single cause. The reasons vary widely. Many struggle due to the loss of a job or loved one, rising rent prices, health issues, or the challenges of single parenthood. The nonprofit addresses these complex needs through several key initiatives:



- **Emergency Lighthouse Shelters:** Located in National City and Oceanside, these 30-day emergency shelters offer guests a safe place to sleep, as well as hot meals, clothing, and weekly case management, designed to guide individuals toward stable housing and long-term recovery.
- **Mission Academy:** This transformative, yearlong residential rehabilitation program helps men, women, and single parents overcome the challenges that led to homelessness in the first place. Through a trauma-informed, holistic approach focusing on mind, body, and soul, residents rebuild their lives, find housing and bring stability and hope to their families.

- **Mobile Shower Ministry and Street Outreach:** The Rescue Mission's outreach team builds relationships with unsheltered individuals by providing hot showers, essential hygiene services, referrals to services and access to programs.

A powerful example of the Rescue Mission's community impact is partnership with the Chula Vista Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT Team). Every Wednesday, the Rescue Mission's Mobile Shower Ministry visits Chula Vista, offering unsheltered neighbors showers, clean clothing, hygiene kits, food, and a pathway to receive additional services.

With the opening of the South County Lighthouse, the HOT Team has direct referral access to the Rescue Mission's shelter, as well as Mission Academy, making it easier for individuals to transition from the streets into a structured support system.

"Our partnership with the City of Chula Vista showcases the powerful change we can create when we join forces to address homelessness," said Donnie Dee, President and CEO of San Diego Rescue Mission. "Working together, we're bringing hope, stability, and lasting change for our neighbors in need."

To learn how to contribute to the San Diego Rescue Mission, please visit the nonprofit's [webpage](#).