



# PRESS RELEASE

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## For Immediate Release

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### Local Mission Experiencing Record Numbers of Women and Children Seeking Shelter

REDDING, Calif. – In the last five years, the North State has experienced more than a 500% growth in homelessness for women and children. Five years ago a busy night at the shelter would have been 8 women and children. Those numbers are a distant memory and the reality of the increase was evidenced last night as Good News Rescue Mission experienced a monumental number of women and children seeking safe shelter from the cold winter weather. The current capacity in the women’s shelter is 50 guests, last night there were 71 women and children.

Committed to meeting the needs of those seeking help, the Mission has had to reorganize the overnight shelter structure and women and children are now also being sheltered in an overflow room. Executive Director Cesar Partida states that “The Mission has never turned anyone away in our almost 50 year history due to lack of space and is currently looking into a permanent solution to answer the dramatic growth we are experiencing.”

Speaking to the rising need Sharre Whitson, Director of Community Relations states “The Mission is asking the community to come alongside the growing number of women and children that have found themselves in their most desperate moment of needs. Support comes in many forms, prayers, provision through your monetary gifts, as well as practical items including clothing for women and children, as well as blankets and towels for their overnight stays.”

For more information, please contact Cesar Partida, Executive Director at 530-242-5920 or Sharre Whitson, Director of Community Relations at 530-227-2474.

### ABOUT THE GOOD NEWS RESCUE MISSION

The Good News Rescue Mission was founded in Redding in 1964 by a group of concerned Christians in our community. For thousands of men, women and children, the Mission has provided food, shelter, clothing, and spiritual hope through the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Since 1995, the Mission has expanded services to include the New Life Drug and Alcohol Recovery programs for men and women, transitional housing for graduates of that program, work search, free dental services, our Second Chance Ranch near Shingletown, California, as well as the Job Training and Academic Center.

By the Grace of God and through your generosity the Mission provided the following in 2012:

- 71,604 Safe Nights of Shelter
- 168,016 Total Meals Provided
- 54,666 Clothing, Furniture & other Household Items
- 5,444 Academic Center Hours

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