



# CENTRAL COAST Rescue Mission

An Outreach ministry of



May 2015

Changing Lives for Good

## Washed Ashore to the Central Coast Rescue Mission

The insanity of my alcoholism began when I was in seventh grade. As soon as I took that first drink of beer, I immediately knew how much I loved the taste and the feeling it gave me.

Fast forward to high school graduation: because of drinking I threw away a full scholarship to play at Purdue University, to play in the Rose Bowl, and to catch passes from future Super Bowl MVP Drew Brees. Instead of being a guaranteed starting true freshman playing in the big game, I was drowning myself in a bottle of alcohol.

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My biggest fear soon came true - I crossed the line into full blown addiction. Rock bottom approached fast. At 28 years old I was broke, overweight, out of shape, and a horrible dad. I was physically, morally, and spiritually bankrupt. My mother was paying every expense imaginable and every last penny I could scrounge went toward alcohol.

The day I got dropped off at the Salvation Army as opposed to living under a bridge somewhere, was the hardest day I've ever had to endure. All my hope was gone and I continued to spit at anything or anybody that tried to help me.

That began a cross country binge, a death defying epic journey from Indianapolis to Portland to Chico, then finally being washed up onto the shores of the Central

Coast of California. I believe it was God who washed me ashore, because now, I am here at the Central Coast Rescue Mission. I thank God every day for the roof over my head here at the mission, the clothes on my back, food in my stomach, and most importantly my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

No matter what happens from this moment on, I know that God will not forsake me - that's amazing and I have peace now.

Now twenty years after that first drink, I am in good standing with my family and I have a positive outlook on life. In the best of times or in the darkest times, I will always rely solely upon God. ~ Conor

*Thank you for supporting the Central Coast Rescue Mission and providing hope for men like Conor.*



*There was no shortage of happy tears when Conor was able to reunite with his daughter and his mom in March.*

# The Mission's Volunteers – Hearts of Gold

## Why did you start volunteering at the mission?

**Tim:** We had been donating to the thrift store for years, without knowing it was the same organization. After making the connection, we started volunteering at the mission.

**Judy:** We have a heart for people in poverty. We used to have a food pantry out of our garage and hand out food with our children to the homeless.

## If you had one thing you could give to people who come to this outreach, what would it be?

**Tim:** It would be openness to receive the Gospel. The things they are going through are temporary; the bigger picture is spending eternity with the Lord, where there will be no more pain, no more suffering. Jesus met the physical needs of people and then went onto address the spiritual.

## Is there one moment that stands out as really impactful since you've been volunteering?

**Judy:** One Wednesday, a lady came up [to the toiletry bin] and needed something for discoloration on her skin. I reached my hand in the big box, and the first thing I pulled out was exactly what she was asking for.



*Tim and Judy have really helped to make the Wednesday food pantry at the mission a time and place of ministry.*

## An Opportunity to Work Again

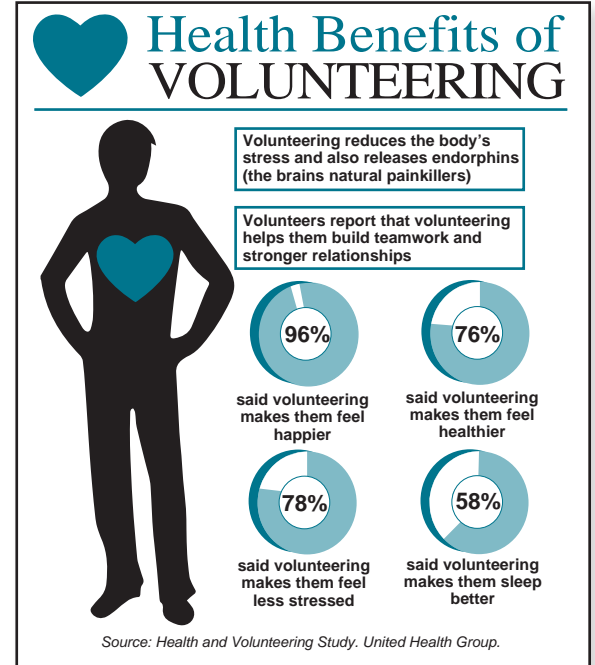
Carlina is one of 18 brothers and sisters. She is grateful for her involvement at the Central Coast Super Thrift Store through PathPoint's employment services.



*We're grateful for our partnership with PathPoint to be able to work with wonderful women like Denise (left) and Carlina.*

Coming from a large family, she is used to working and loves interacting with the other employees. She loves that she can openly praise God for leading her to work at the thrift store.

Also referred by PathPoint, Denise is glad that three years of unemployment are over. She is so thankful to be working and contributing again, especially because she is helping to take care of her mom.



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