

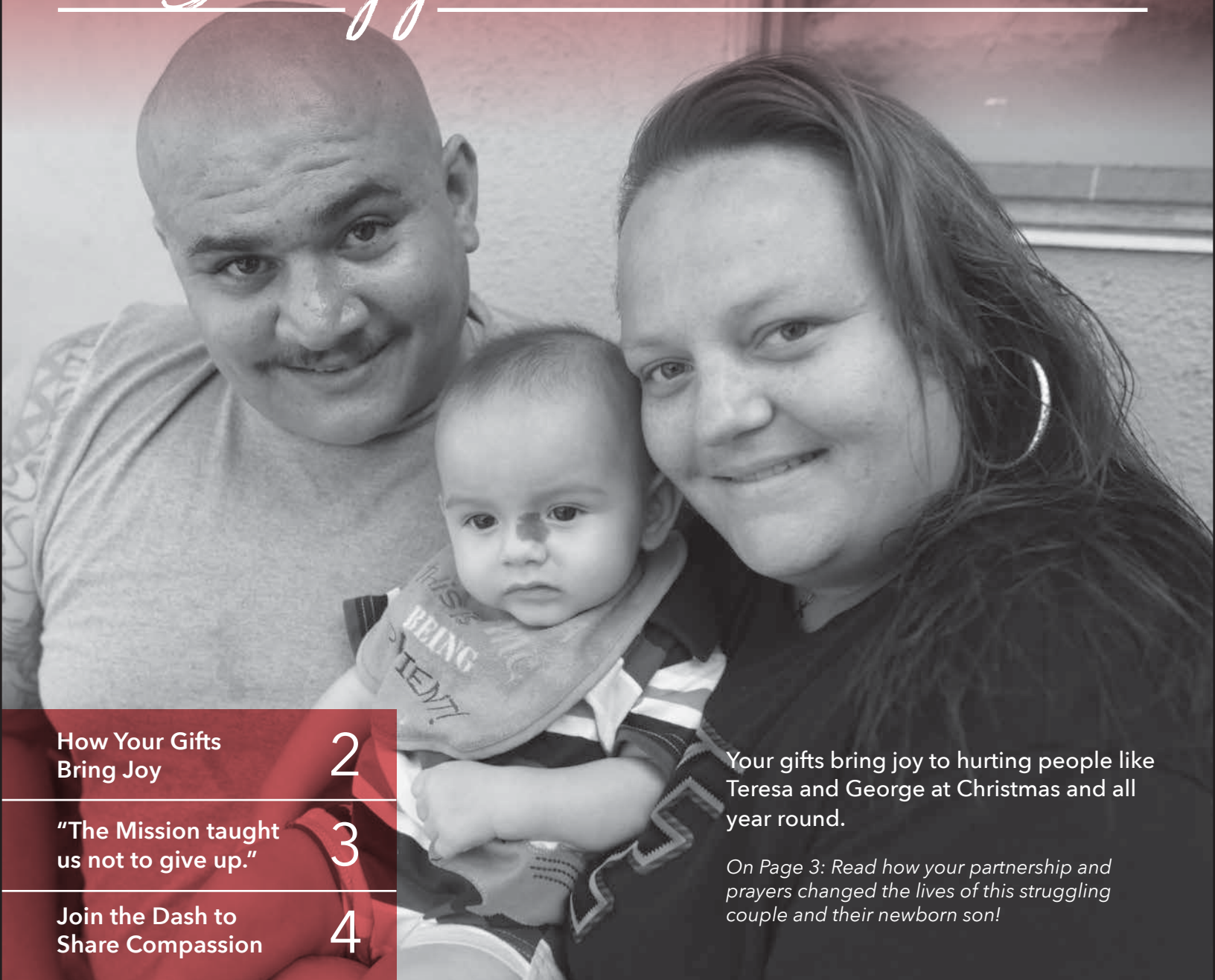
Sharing Hope

HOPE OF THE VALLEY
RESCUE MISSION

hopeofthevalley.org | (818) 392-0020

Providing Life-Essential Services to Those in Need

From *Struggle* to **STRENGTH**



How Your Gifts
Bring Joy **2**

"The Mission taught
us not to give up." **3**

Join the Dash to
Share Compassion **4**

Your gifts bring joy to hurting people like Teresa and George at Christmas and all year round.

On Page 3: Read how your partnership and prayers changed the lives of this struggling couple and their newborn son!



“The Mission taught us not to give up.”

When she was a little girl, Teresa was very close to her mother. But when she was 12, her parents' marriage fell apart and her mom stole away in the middle of the night. “I was a mommy's girl so I was really hurt.”

Though her mother came back for her, the emotional damage remained, and Teresa began numbing her pain with drugs and alcohol. In high school, she received counseling for anxiety and depression, but the conditions continued after graduation, leading to more self-medicating. “I'd be doing okay, have my own place, be working. Then I'd go downhill, she says. ***I'd have everything one minute and it was gone the next.***”

Eventually, Teresa found herself homeless. It was then she met George. He'd grown up in a gang-infested neighborhood, and wound up using drugs, doing time and, eventually, living on the streets. ***No one would have guessed that together, through your gifts, these two lost souls would find the help,***

courage and faith to turn their lives around.

“Teresa's dad took us in and we started coming to Hope of the Valley for AA meetings,” George says. “Then we found out Teresa was pregnant and we started life-skills classes.”

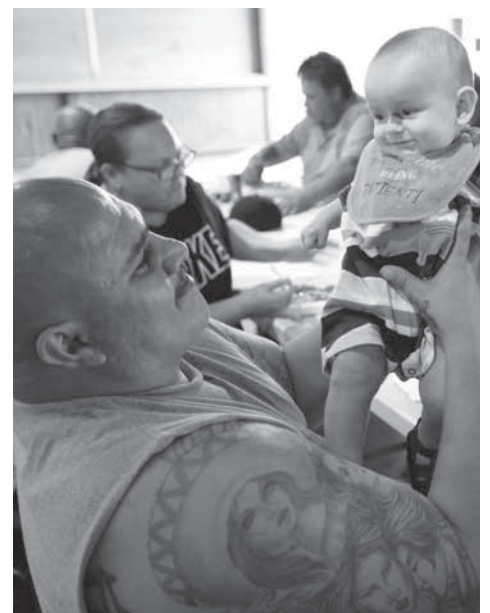
“They've helped us grow into mature parents.”

Meanwhile, through Bible studies and spiritual counsel, Teresa has grown stronger in the Lord, and George, who was an atheist, has come to Christ. ***“After our son was born, our faith grew even stronger.”***

Teresa's relationship with her mother has now been restored, and she and George continue to live with her father so they can care for her stepmother, who suffers from dementia. They're also training to be peer mentors at the Mission. ***“Before, I didn't care about anybody except myself, but now I***

want to help people,” George says.

The couple plans to marry and create a secure, God-centered environment for their son. This Christmas, as they celebrate with family, they'll also celebrate the joyous new life they found here... because of your compassion. ***“Hope of the Valley has taught us how to be responsible... and we're going to continue growing strong as parents and productive human beings.”***





Your gifts bring joy to hurting people.

Your generous contributions are not only blessings in themselves, but they're multiplied exponentially by the countless gifts they allow the Mission to share with those who are hungry, hurting and homeless.

The food, shelter and clothing we provide are gifts that fulfill the most basic human needs. Guidance, education and job training are gifts too – and when accepted with commitment and dedication, they can lead to lives filled with promise and purpose.

Yet the greatest gift we offer inside our doors is the message of God's love and grace, which can transform lives for eternity!

This issue of *Sharing Hope* is all about sharing gifts – a subject that's especially appropriate during the holiday season. Yet God's work, the Mission's outreach and our partnership with friends like you is focused on giving all year long!

Of course, none of our ministries would be possible without the gifts you first give to us. And I'm so very grateful for your selfless giving, which brings joy to our hurting guests at Christmas and every day of the year. God bless you this holiday season and always.

Ken Craft
Founder and CEO

P.S. Once again we'll be holding our annual Drumstick Dash event on Thanksgiving morning, and we need volunteers! If you can help, please contact us at volunteer@hopeofthevalley.org or (818) 392-0020!

endHUNGER... offerHOPE

10,860 MEALS BY CHRISTMAS

A single nutritious meal is often the first step toward a new beginning for those who are hungry, homeless and struggling with life's challenges. Most importantly, *it's an opportunity to share God's love – the greatest gift you can give!*

It costs only \$2.05 to provide one meal for a hungry person, at the holidays and all year round!

- ✉ GIVE NOW using the enclosed reply card and envelope.
- 📄 GIVE ONLINE anytime at hopeofthevalley.org.

Gift Cards are Great!



Gift cards to local merchants like those listed below are great for buying food for the holidays, gifts and year-round necessities for our guests, facilities and programs. Simply drop them by or send them to the Mission at **11076 Norris Ave., Pacoima.**

Walmart • Target • Office Depot • Lowe's • Costco



THE Blessings OF YEAR-END GIVING

Many Mission partners choose to make an extra financial gift by December 31 to maximize their tax deduction for the current calendar year, while helping the Mission assist those in need well into the year ahead. Your generosity will touch countless lives!

- 📄 Give online at hopeofthevalley.org.
- ✉ Add your special holiday gift to the reply card and send it today!



*Join the Dash to
Share Compassion!*

Move your feet so others can eat! Join us Thanksgiving morning for the 4th annual Drumstick Dash. It will be a day to remember. A day to show compassion for families, seniors, vets and others in our community who are in desperate need this Thanksgiving. And there's still time for you to register!


What: 5K/10K Walk-Run

When: Thursday, November 22

Where: CBS Studios Lot

Register now or find out more:

 drumstickdashla.com

 (818) 392-0020

 rowan@hopeofthevalley.org



Select the perfect gift with

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

Make your #GivingTuesday gift now by shopping our Christmas Gift Catalog. It's full of ways to bring the joy of help and hope to people like George and Teresa (See Page 3).



\$25
provides
nourishing
meals




\$50
provides
safe shelter



\$100
provides
education
and training

 Shop online at [hopeofthevalley.org/
GiftCatalog](http://hopeofthevalley.org/GiftCatalog).

 Or, add your special holiday gift to the enclosed reply card.

These Christmas gifts are representative of the needs of those we serve. Donations may be used to support the area of our ministry with the greatest need.