



## **Kevin**

### **The Uphill Battle of Hope**

**K**evin fell into a life of addiction at a very young age. His parents struggled with addiction themselves, and Kevin later fell into it himself.

His habit got him to make dangerous choices, eventually having him arrested for burglary. After many attempts at getting back on his feet through Crossroads Mission and Drug Court, he began to learn from his previous mistakes.

His strength, dedication, and newfound belief in God helped him gain the courage to continue the uphill battle for recovery.

**READ MORE ON PAGE 6.**

# Spring Traditions and Blessings



**Myra E. Garlit**  
M.Ed., LISAC, BHP  
Chief Executive  
Officer

*I often begin my updates with exciting news for the current edition of "News for Our Partners", and as always, this edition is no different! I'm pleased with how this Spring edition has come together.*

*As is tradition, this issue features our Easter celebration on Page 4. Crossroads celebrates Easter each year by honoring our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for His sacrificial death and glorious resurrection. We share a special message about His resurrection and a delicious, traditional ham luncheon and fun activities for the children. It's our heartfelt way of paying respect to the Savior and celebrating His gift of salvation.*

*The cover story highlights a remarkable young man named Kevin, who made the life-changing decision to enroll in our substance program at Crossroads Mission. Kevin is just one of hundreds of men and women who have chosen to give up drugs and embrace a life of freedom and hope.*

*Another exciting update, on Page 3, is the launch of the Crossroads Mission's Adopt-a-Street project by our Board of Directors and Management Team. We completed our first litter pickup, feeling tired but accomplished. It was a fulfilling experience to give back to the community that supports us so generously.*

*We are also grateful for the generosity of C. Candy Camerena, Attorney at Law, who made a generous donation to purchase mattresses for the Men's Shelter (Page 9). Thanks to Mr. Camerena's kindness, 34 mattresses and 100 covers were provided, bringing comfort and relief to the men in our care. Thank you, Mr. Camerena, for supporting the needs of the homeless. Your generosity truly makes you a hero in their lives.*

*Additionally, we want to recognize the ongoing support from the Volkswagens on the River and the Good Times Car Club. The Volkswagen club has been a steadfast supporter for several years, and this year's donation reached an incredible \$7,000 — what a blessing! Thank you, Der Yumans!*

*The Good Times Car Club also bought shoes for all 25-plus children in our Family Shelter, just in time for school, bringing big smiles and happy hearts. Your kindness truly makes a difference.*

*As I close this letter, I want to sincerely thank each of you for your steadfast support — whether through cash, clothing, food, or prayer. Your generosity and encouragement are truly appreciated.*

*God bless you all!*

*Myra E. Garlit*

## Crossroads' Employee Pride!



CEO Myra Garlit and Treatment Director Cesar Acosta presenting Sally and Carlos the Employee of the Year awards

**F**or Crossroads' quarterly training, CEO Myra Garlit and Treatment Director Cesar Acosta congratulate Director of First Impressions Sally Zeller and Men's Shelter House Manager Carlos Garcia for their dedication to their work with Employee of the Year awards. We are proud to have such amazing people as part of our staff, who help Crossroads Mission help those in need within Yuma!

# Time For Spring Cleaning!

It is time for some spring cleaning! Crossroads Mission has joined "Adopt-a-Street", where the goal is to help keep our streets clean and litter-free. Participants take care of roads throughout Yuma by picking up trash along their adopted street segment. It is a great way to show civic pride and engage with people within the community, and Crossroads has risen to the task of adopting, caring, and keeping South Arizona Avenue trash-free!

Cleaning is done twice every year. This time, the Board of Directors, CEO Myra Garlit, and the Management team all geared up in bright vests, brought trash bags, and got to cleaning any litter that was found on the street. From the Ark warehouse to the top of the hill, under the hot rising sun, Crossroads' staff came together to make the street cleaner.

South Arizona Avenue is home to Crossroads Mission. The shelters, warehouse, our detox

center, and all our educational services operate from that very street. Those in need can receive aid here. From food, shelter, or a new start from addiction, Crossroads Mission is a place that serves the community through God's guidance and glory. By cleaning the street, Crossroads shows its pride in serving the community and its people.



Men's Shelter Director picking up trash



Crossroads Mission's Board of Directors and Management Team clean South Arizona Avenue!

**Crossroads Mission is an official cooling station for the community, and we need your help!**

**Consider donating some water for those in need this summer!**



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**For more information, contact us at 928-259-5608**

# In Spring Time, Rejoice!

Spring is time to celebrate the end of winter and the beginning of the warmer seasons. It is also a time to reflect on new beginnings and how we can improve our lives. The best part of spring is Easter! This holiday is one of the most important in the year for Crossroads Mission. It is the day that Jesus rose from the dead after his crucifixion and burial. It is a moment that, despite the gloom of his death, is celebrated and considered a time of hope to Christians worldwide.

Crossroads Mission celebrated Easter on a bright and sunny Sunday morning. Even with the rising heat of spring, it was still cool and fresh to be outside. By nine in the morning, families and individuals started coming in from both the family and men's shelters to enjoy an event filled with fun.

There were activities for all ages to enjoy, but especially the children! They got Easter baskets filled with toys and treats to enjoy throughout the event. From dolls to toy cars, there was something

for all the boys and girls to pick from any age group! Their parents and guardians helped them into a room in the foundation building to choose their own baskets. They could even take a picture at the event with the floral backdrop that was set up for them.

After the children picked their baskets, The event was in full swing. People were lining up for some delicious snacks such as chips, popcorn, and shaved ice from our snack stand.

There were also many activities happening throughout the Easter event. Guests could enjoy the splash zone, where small kiddie pools with water and small toys were provided. Many families cooled off from the heat by splashing each other and playing with these toys! There was also a bubble pool, where one would dip a pool noodle in the shape of a wand. Dip it in soapy water and create huge bubbles to pop. A fun, cooling activity for all guests!

There were prizes that guests could win. Children and their

Guest at the Arts & Crafts table



Guests got to cool off and enjoy Easter with some delicious shaved ice treats



Many snacks provided for all to enjoy

# Easter Is Here

guardians could spin a wheel, and the number indicated a bin with a prize inside. From toy cars to plush toys, there were many things to win by spinning!

Even then, there were other fun activities where one could win, such as participating in a cornhole game. Score a certain number of points and win a prize! Families were cheering each other on as they threw the sacs and attempted to throw them in the hole to win. Many even had a competitive streak going to see who got the most points in the game.

Guests could also enjoy the arts and crafts booth to express their creativity! With paint tools, crayons, and coloring pages of bible verses and crosses, it made for a relaxing activity that even adults enjoyed!

By midday, guests got to enjoy a delicious meal prepared by the kitchen staff. It was a great time to come together in fellowship and community to enjoy a meal with each other, especially for a day such as Easter. There were

placemats that detailed the holiday and why it is so important for Christians around the world. Seeing families coming together for a time of celebration was amazing and heartwarming to see!

As the event came to an end after lunch, reflections on what Easter truly means were made. It is a time to remember the beautiful and selfless sacrifice our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ did for humanity to have eternal salvation.

Thank you to everyone who was a part of this amazing event. For those that kept Crossroads in their thoughts and prayers, we would not be able to provide these kinds of events without your help. God bless you and thank you for supporting Crossroads Mission!

Guest at the Arts & Crafts table



It was a great time for family reunification!



Cooling off from the heat with fun water activities for all to enjoy

# Kevin: The Uphill Battle

Kevin's life began to spiral at an early age. Growing up, Kevin did not have a strong support group or good examples around him. His parents struggled with addiction, and as a result was exposed to its hardships an early age. Unlike others that might learn to stay away from these

substances by seeing their family struggle, he describes himself as having to touch the fire of addiction to truly learn his lesson on why addiction is so dangerous.

***“I have to touch the fire and make sure that it really burns... in order for me to learn my lesson.”***

By middle school, he began to dabble with drugs and dove even deeper in high school. He used many different substances just to escape how he felt inside and began to use even more dangerous substances. From opiates to heroin, his addiction grew stronger as time went by. To support his habit, he began to steal. Eventually, he went to prison for burglary.

Even when he was given chances to change, like being in a Drug Court program, he still struggled. Kevin's connection with Crossroads Mission began when he needed a place to stay during the Drug Court program.

At first, things were going well. He worked multiple jobs and started building some stability. He was married to his wife, but he made mistakes and broke the rules, which led to him being asked to leave. This was not the end of his story, though.

Over the years,

Kevin returned to the Mission several times. Each time, he struggled with relapses and setbacks. However, he noticed something important: Crossroads Mission continued to welcome him back and support him. Every time he tried again, he learned something new.

***“Every time that I attempted to get help, I learned a little more and a little more,”***

Through this process, Kevin began to grow. He started to understand responsibility and what it means to be a better person. A better man. The Mission and the community around him played a big role in his recovery. They gave him the support and guidance he needed to break out of the cycle of addiction and become sober.

Faith also became an important part of Kevin's life. While at the Mission, he began to explore his relationship with God. At first, he was unsure and even a little shy about it. But over time, his faith



Kevin and his family during Christmas

# Battle of Hope

grew stronger, helping him realise that God's love is unconditional and that he was deserving of it.

***"God is love and everybody's deserving of love."***

Today, Kevin's life looks very different. He has built a stable and meaningful life for himself. He has remarried his wife, has a child, and owns a home. He works hard to be a good father and a man of integrity. He helps others the way he would want to be helped and has pride in his convictions.

Kevin's change has also affected his family. His sister and mother both struggled with addiction, but they have now changed with Kevin's support. His sister is working as a real-estate agent and raising her two children, and his mother, after years of addiction, is now sober. Kevin is proud that he could help lead the way for his family to find a better life.

Even with all his progress, Kevin stays humble. He admits he is not perfect, but now feels a

sense of responsibility when he makes mistakes. He sees this as a blessing because it shows how much he has grown.

***"I'm still no saint, but at least I have conviction now."***

Kevin leaves a message for others who are still struggling. He wants people to not give up.

***"100%. If I could do it, you guys can do it. Don't give up on yourself."***

He encourages people to take life one day at a time and to keep trying, even after setbacks. These should be lessons for the next attempt in recovery. Take it slow, and wait for results as they come. It can be slow, but worth it.

Kevin's perseverance is an inspiration to many. From his family to other friends that are struggling, and to the strangers he encounters on the streets daily. Being sober and connecting with God can truly make a difference.



Kevin and his wife during New Year's



Kevin and his daughter at Disneyland

Watch his Full Testimony



Kevin and his family at an event

# This Year's Hoedown!

This spring, we look back on the immense amount of support we received on our annual Country Lovin' Hoedown, an evening of good food, great music, and a shared purpose. The event brought together friends and community members for a night of fellowship, fun, and charity. All in support of Crossroads Mission's vital work.

During the event, Crossroads Mission's CEO, Myra Garlit, reminded everyone of the power of the community. She spoke passionately about the impact Crossroads Mission has on those experiencing homelessness and addiction, and gave an update on the construction of the Center of Hope men's shelter. There was a moment of prayer for the project's completion and to thank the Presenting Sponsor *Bensel Jewlers*; our Cowboy Sponsors *Allo Fiber, Chippewa Dance Fest, and Misenhimer, Aivazian, & Tennant, P.C*; our Wrangler Sponsors *Nicklaus Engineering Inc., Yuma International Airport, and Mitchell's Merchant Patrol*, and every single person that came to support the event.

Couples, friends, and families could be seen dancing with one another as *Bobby G and the Time Machine* played live music during the evening. After dancing, a delicious meal of tri tip, rice, beans, and tortillas was served, alongside a great dessert.

Various testimonial speeches were given by both staff and volunteers who had benefited from the impact of Crossroads Mission, its community, and the power of God's love. These testimonies show that not only was the event a day to have fun, but a time to see the real-life impacts of Crossroads Mission in the community.

Later in the evening, anticipation was in the air for the announcement of the raffle

winners. Beautifully crafted gift baskets filled with items and gift cards were handed out to lucky guests, bringing excitement to winners. The charity auction was also a great highlight of the night. Generous attendees bid on incredible items, such as a large flat screen TV, gaming set, and many more wonderful prizes.

To those who attended, donated, bid in the auction, and to all our amazing sponsors, we thank you. Your generosity and compassion is actively changing lives. For those who couldn't make it, there's still time to be a part of recovery, transformation, and change at Crossroads Mission through donations or through prayers.



Couple dancing together on the dancefloor



Music so good, guests crowded the dancefloor!



Basket prizes were all the rage that night!

# Thank You Candy Camarena!



Management Team with Candy Camarena's mattress and mattress cover donations

We want to thank Candy Camarena, Attorney at Law, for his kindhearted donation. This time, he truly came to our aid! He heard our need for new beds and donated 34 mattresses, as well as 100 mattress covers to our Men's Shelter. This donation is a true blessing to Crossroads Mission. His thoughtfulness and compassion for others has helped increase the quality of beds in our shelter. Before his donation, the beds were old and worn. Now, the men that come through our doors get to sleep with dignity over a new, clean mattress, all thanks to Candy Camarena! God bless you!

# The Annual Softball Tournament!



Yuma County Sheriff's Office team congratulating TLCR players after their game

This March we had the awesome annual softball tournament held by Crossroads Mission and Drug Court. Here, Drug Court, The Yuma County Sheriff's Office, Crossroads, and other recovery agencies compete to be number one in the tournament. The moves were fast, home runs were hit, and families gathered to support their favorite teams, but overall it was a community-building exercise to work together for the betterment of members in our community struggling with homelessness, addiction, or both. We thank all the teams that came and participated in this tournament. We hope to see you again next year!

# Thank You Der Yumans!



Der Yumans with Kitchen Coordinator Pamela Rainey, presenting their donation

The Der Yumans did it again! Their annual Volkswagens on the River event raised an amazing \$7,000 for Crossroads Mission. The event, a combination car show, VW fan festival, and this year accompanied by an awesome air show, has become a community favorite. Der Yumans continue to donate all the event proceeds to the Mission.

We could not be more grateful for their kindness and compassion. The Der Yumans and their Volkswagen on the River event donations have been a blessing for many men, women, and children in our shelters and for those that seek out our services. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and we hope to continue working together for many years to come.

# Thank You Good Times Car Club



Good Times Car Club members and families outside of Skechers outlet

Good Times Car Club has once again blessed Crossroads Mission! Every year, this amazing group donates shoes for the children in our Family Shelter. Families meet at the Skechers outlet and pick out shoes for each child. This simple act brought more than new footwear. It gave children a sense of confidence and dignity. Something as small as picking out shoes can remind children that they matter.

By the end of the event, over 25 children were able to receive a new pair of shoes and a smile to match. We are so thankful to Good Times Car Club for their continued compassion and support. Their generosity brings hope and happiness, reminding families that they are not alone. Thank you for helping us care for our community, one step at a time.



Picking out shoes was the best part!

## What Your Gifts Made Possible:

DEPARTMENT	JAN	FEB	MAR
<b>Kitchen</b>			
MEALS	14,603	14,256	15,023
<b>Family Shelter</b>			
BED NIGHTS	2,210	2,662	2,341
INDIVIDUALS	109	115	96
CHILDREN	24	28	24
<b>Men's Shelter</b>			
BED NIGHTS	3,454	3,441	3,398
INDIVIDUALS	185	189	199
<b>Drug &amp; Alcohol Stabilization Unit</b>			
ADMITTED	36	48	43
COMPLETED	24	30	17
<b>New Life Recovery Program</b>			
ENTERED	17	24	14
GRADUATES	5	6	6
<b>New Way Homeless &amp; Transition Program</b>			
PARTICIPATING	64	61	63
<b>Career &amp; Academic Center</b>			
STUDENTS	97	116	111
HOURS STUDIED	698.75.5	655.50	873.50
<b>Giving</b>			
CLOTHES	1,851	1,401	1,460
FURNITURE	45	24	39

## Memorial Gifts:

A Gift In Memory Of:	Kindly Given By:
Bob Toner	Shirley Bush
Danielle Babcock	Judy Babcock
Delans E Smith	Ellynore Smith
Eugene Williams	Merrilie Jewell
Heath Jabs	Wendi Harvey
Howard Short	Mary Peterson
Inez Sout	Linda Hadlock
James R Watson	Margaret Dewitt
Jason and Jose Ricardo	Brenda Sandoval
Jim Mishler	Ruthann Mishler
Joshua Michael Aivazian	Margaret Jones & Jones
Loren Lyle	Edith Lyle
Miguel A. Leyva	Maria Leyva
My parents	Leigh Fox
Rick Eddy	Susan Eddy
Shirley D.	Jane Luchene
Stuart Kenda Adkins, and Jesus Christ	Michale Adkins
Walter and Mary Mays; Steward, Bobbi, Sam Grossbert	Linda J Grossberg

## Honorary Gifts:

A Gift In Memory Of:	Kindly Given By:
A precious soul Bill	Mary Jo Kammerer
My three sons: Jim Anthony, Greg and Chris	Darwin Lane
Rachit Kumar	Satish Kumar
Vikaas Kumar	Veena Kumar

Our deepest sympathies are with those who have lost loved ones. A memorial gift to Crossroads Mission is a special way to offer hope to the needy in the name of a friend or family member. Every effort is made to assure that all names are correct. We apologize for any errors that may have occurred.

## Congratulating Staff: Toastmaster Miguel!



Miguel Burciaga in red & white, alongside other awarded Toastmasters

Congratulations to Crossroads Mission's Warehouse Coordinator Miguel Burciaga for winning District 5 second place trophy in the 2026 Toastmasters Spring Conference for the tall tale category. We could not be prouder to have a more amazing speaker be part of our staff! Crossroads Mission wishes him success in all future endeavors as Toastmaster. Go Miguel!



**Crossroads Mission is committed to glorifying God by helping those at their crossroads of life.**

**NUMBERS TO KNOW**

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*Welcome to gospel-powered life transformation*

**Ways to Give**

When you donate to Crossroads Mission you are helping transform the lives of people experiencing homelessness, poverty, hunger, and addiction. You can make a difference by giving:

- **CASH** Cash donations help keep the lights on and the free programs free. Give securely at [crossroadsmission.org](http://crossroadsmission.org), or use this QR code. Donate in person at any of our locations.
- **ASSETS & IN-KIND** From cars and RVs to furniture and clothing. It all helps! We may be able to pick up your donations. Call 928-726-0491.
- **SHELTER NEEDS** Items such as towels, new socks, new underwear, coats for the winter, laundry soap and toiletries are always needed.
- **FOOD DONATIONS AND DRIVES** We are able to keep our food costs down because we do our best to utilize all of the food we get donated. Over 450 meals are served each day.



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**For every dollar you donate to Crossroads, only 4 cents are used for administrative costs.**

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**VISIT OUR LINKTREE**

This QR code will take you to a place where all of our current events and promotions are linked

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