



## Veronica

### **A Journey Through the Fog**

**A**t just 13 years old, Veronica Baumgarner began a painful journey into addiction that lasted 15 years, lost in alcohol, drugs, and despair. As her mother took her son away in the height of her addiction, she spiraled and only survived on drugs and alcohol to numb the pain. She had no self-worth, no strength to continue on, she had hit rock bottom. However, God was not finished with her story, and reached through.

**READ MORE ON PAGE 4.**

# Blessings In the Heat



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

*Can you believe it! It's time for the mid-year News for Our Partners. This June edition is full of interesting and inspiring stories about the Crossroads Mission. This past quarter, we have attended or held several events like Celebrate the Child, Streetwise Skechers event, April baptisms, Mother's and Father's Day events, Easter Sunday at the Mission, Cinco de Mayo cultural meal and other newsworthy items.*

*In the month of April, the Mission co-sponsored the Celebrate the Child event with The Healing Journey at the Immanuel Southern Baptist playground. I want to thank the agencies and Crossroads Mission staff who participated. Free hot dogs, popcorn, and snow cones made many people happy. Julian, the DJ, kept the energy high as kids and adults played games and won prizes. It was a fun time!*

*Some of the other events include Streetwise car club, which took all the children living in the shelter to Sketchers for a new pair of shoes. Streetwise does this every year and you can guess that the children really love it. It was amazing to see their faces light up as they chose their shoes. What a blessing! We held the first baptisms of the year in April at the river, and a beautiful Easter Sunday celebration at the Mission that celebrated fellowship and the love*

*for Jesus Christ. During Mother's Day and Father's Day, Yuma Crossing Rotary Club came with gifts for those parents participating in our New Way and New Life programs. They also helped serve delicious meals to all of those who attended. We want to extend our gratitude to Yuma Crossing Rotary, who have been of service at these two events for more than 10 years.*

*As of this summer newsletter, we have started to feature our board members in each issue and on Facebook. In this issue, we're featuring Marce Achen, the board Chairman.*

*This quarter, if you turn to pages 4 and 5, we feature Veronica Baumgarner as the special guest and success story. She enrolled in the New Life Program in 2014, and now has 11 years of sobriety. You won't want to miss her story of victory over drugs and alcohol.*

*Don't forget to read how your donations help Crossroads Mission to serve so many people on page 11 with the statistics. Thank you! Thank you! During these summer months, all donations create a major impact to those we serve.*

*As always, thank you for your prayers! The Bible tells us that the "effectual, fervent, prayer of a righteous man, availeth much. James 5:1". Don't forget you can visit the Mission at [www.crossroadsmission.org](http://www.crossroadsmission.org) too and our other social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Youtube. God bless you!*

*Myra E. Garlit*

## Celebrating Children in April



**2** Crossroads Mission serving hot dogs to event participants and goers  
**NEWS for our Partners**

**A**pril is Child Abuse Awareness Month, and to honor this important cause, Crossroads Mission partnered with The Healing Journey to host a special community event on April 25th, 2025. The day was filled with delicious food, lively music, fun games, and prizes while sharing valuable information and support. Crossroads Mission staff, along with other community agencies, served meals, led games, handed out prizes, and distributed important health & safety resources for community members on how to keep children safe.

# Meet the Chairman - Marce

**M**arce Achen is the chairman at Crossroads Mission, currently on his second term. However, there is more to him than meets the eye. He grew up in construction, always working with tools and building things with his hands. He continues to construct and build with a higher purpose for the community and others, such as going down to Mexico to build houses for those in need every year with his family. He recounts not always knowing God earlier in his life, but after facing harsh times, Marce was able to find his faith and change his life. Now being sober for over 25 years, he uses his experience to help others as chairman, serving with empathy and understanding.

***"I come from the trenches, and I come from where I serve."***

Despite his dedication, he didn't initially plan on joining the board of directors. A friend from church asked him to join. Even though he didn't know much about being a member of the board, he decided to try. He recalls doing poorly on his first year but decided to give it another chance and after some time, another member of the board approached him with the offer of being a chairman. In that moment, he believed it was God calling him to serve in a bigger way.

At Crossroads Mission, Marce is moved by seeing people helping others. That's what he loves the most. He says many people who come to the Mission at the end of the day are broken and struggling, just like he once was. He sees the Mission as something unique and out of the norm, not only being a place of healing and second chances physically, but also spiritually.

***"I see in the Mission a place that is willing to step out of the norm. So willing to serve the downtrodden... it really speaks to my heart. It always has, because that's where I come from."***

Marce tells us more about his personal life and his involvement in the community, working for the Yuma County Water Users and running a hydroelectric power plant. He lives in Winterhaven, California with his wife and kids. Aside from working for the city, he also runs a home inspection business and helps coach softball at his kids' school. Even with a busy life, he stays committed to helping Crossroads Mission grow.

Right now, he has the vision of Crossroads Mission being able to build the Center of Hope, a bigger and better men's shelter. It will not only provide a place to sleep, but also help people take steps towards a better life. He believes that most times homelessness is often caused by addiction or mental health issues, not laziness.

***"Homeless, not homeless, doesn't matter. I mean, we all have that crossroads at one point or another"***

The most important part of the Mission, to Marce, is sharing God's love. When people feel loved and cared for, they are more open to learning about Jesus and

transformation. For him, that's what makes Crossroads so special.

Marce understands that the topics of addiction and homelessness are uncomfortable, they are ugly and easier to ignore than to confront head on, but he encourages those that are fearful or scared of it to visit Crossroads Mission and see the good work being done.

**Watch Full Interview**



# Veronica: A Journey

Veronica Baumgarner began her struggles with substance abuse at an early age.

She began drinking alcohol at the age of 13, an addiction that would follow her for 15 years into her late 20s. She looked for anything she could get her hands on, both drugs and alcohol, just to feel numb and escape her own body. The environment

surrounding her before her healing journey was one of substance abuse and struggle. She was stuck in a toxic relationship with her firstborn son's father, both encouraging the other into using drugs and drinking together. Veronica would go to work only for the chance to get drunk or high, barely able to pay her bills and feeling like a failure to her son as more and more of her money was lost to addiction.

She remembers her life hitting rock bottom at the moment her mother took drastic action to protect her grandson. She took him away from her. Devastated, Veronica began to spiral further. She stopped going to work and began squatting in her apartment after being unable to pay rent. She only stayed alive to drink and use the same substances that had taken everything away from her.

Even in such a situation, Veronica's mom hadn't given up on her yet. That same year, she brought her back to Yuma and placed her into the care of Crossroads Mission's First Step detox center. It had been tough, more painful than she ever

imagined. Her diet consisted of Tootsie Rolls and water, as she couldn't keep anything else down. She now looks back on her time in First Step with gratitude for the pain she endured to free herself from the addiction.

***"I never want to forget the pain of what it is to be withdrawing from something that I've been so dependent on for so many years."***

After finishing detox, Veronica entered the New Life Program to continue her recovery. At first, she didn't want to stay, but her mother was clear: if she didn't recover, she wouldn't get her son back. It gave her the strength to stay and complete the 120-day recovery program.

It was not easy. She faced emotional battles and struggled through the recovery steps, but it paid off. She was able to be vulnerable about her struggles to others, consistently went to AA meetings, and worked hard



Veronica and her husband Beau

# y Through the Fog

to rebuild her life. Little by little, she started to heal. She found friendship, structure, and most importantly, a reconnection to her spirituality.

Veronica had struggled with her faith and religion. She grew up Catholic, but turned away after witnessing things that deeply hurt her. As she got older and her addiction grew, she replaced God with drugs and alcohol. When learning that Crossroads Mission was a Christian-based organization, she resisted. Crossroads Mission reintroduced her to God's love through daily devotions and Celebrate Recovery. Her heart began to soften. By the time she graduated from the program, she had reconnected with God and began building her relationship with faith from there.

***"The Mission really set the groundwork for my spirituality."***

Veronica's story didn't end with recovery, it began there. After

graduating from the program, she began working at Nazcare and helped others as peer support. She moved in with her mother and regained custody of her son, later having her own apartment and eventually getting married to her husband Beau. She recounts it as a sweet story, as she had met her husband in the New Life Program and started dating after graduating.

Today Veronica and her husband have been married for 7 years and have two more beautiful children together, children who have never seen their parents drunk or high. Her firstborn also has a loving relationship with his stepfather. Together, they teach their children about God, guiding them with spiritual values. Even though she struggled in faith, Veronica chose to raise her children with grace, patience, and a deeper understanding of love in spirituality.

As of June 2025, Veronica is celebrating 11 years of sobriety. She's been a stay-at-home mom for 7 years, but that hasn't stopped

her from helping others. She's started a newfound career as a relationship coach and writes a column in the local newspaper.

Veronica reminds us that no matter how far we fall, we are never beyond the reach of grace and recovery. With faith, support, and courage, healing is always possible. Even in our darkest hours, God never let's go.

***"If you're there and you don't want to be there, just stay. Just stay 'till the end. I mean, what have you got to lose? Literally everything."***



Veronica at the Yuma Wellness & Care fair

Watch her Full Testimony



Veronica and her family

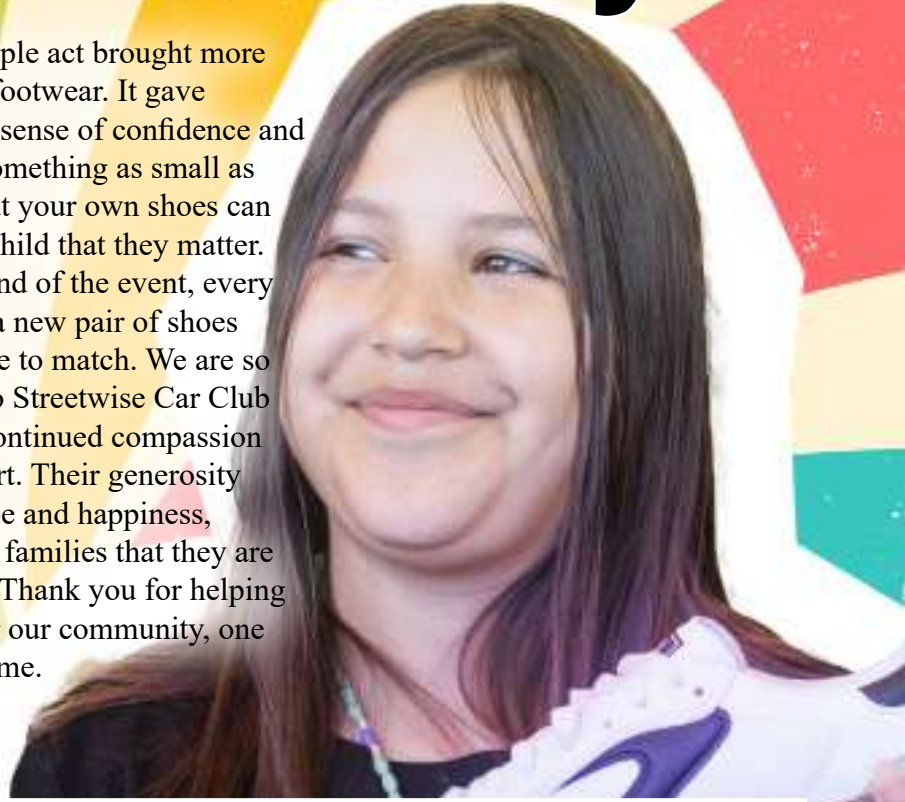
# Streetwise Shoe Day!

As the hot summer months approach, pedestrian life becomes much harsher. Heated sidewalks, roads, and bus stops become unbearable. It can be especially hard on families that rely on public transportation or lack a vehicle to drive everywhere. In many cases, children go without proper shoes, wearing pairs that are too small, worn out, or full of holes. However, we are honored to have a wonderful community behind us that extend a friendly hand to help those in need at our family shelter. We thank our generous friends at Streetwise Car Club, April brought joy, comfort, and hope to many children at Crossroads Mission.

Each year, Streetwise C.C returns with their Skechers shoe donation, and this year was no different. Children and their families gathered with excitement, choosing brand-new Skechers in a variety of styles, sizes, and colors. For many kids, it was their first time choosing a pair of shoes just for themselves. Shoes that fit, felt good, and looked great.

This simple act brought more than new footwear. It gave children a sense of confidence and dignity. Something as small as picking out your own shoes can remind a child that they matter.

By the end of the event, every child had a new pair of shoes and a smile to match. We are so thankful to Streetwise 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.



Streetwise members and shelter families outside of Skechers with their sneakers and shoes



Streetwise showcars outside of Skechers Outlet



Families picking out shoes

# First Baptisms of 2025

At Crossroads Mission, April is a sacred month. It is filled with both reflection and celebration, a time when we remember the betrayal, crucifixion, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Though marked by sorrow, this month is also a powerful reminder of His unending love, mercy, and victory over death.

On April 12th, twelve individuals from our shelters and recovery programs made the life-changing decision to be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, making them the first baptisms of 2025. These group baptisms take place during the spring and summer months for anyone in our programs who desires to take that next step in faith. On this day, participants were brought to the Colorado River, just below the Ocean-To-Ocean Bridge. A peaceful and beautiful spot where they declared their new life in Christ. They are given a message of hope by Fabian, inspiring them to make their families their

ministry and to help guide them into the light of God.

With their arms crossed over their hearts, each person stepped into the water, 3 women and 9 men ready to leave their old life behind and rise again renewed in the Spirit. Baptism is not just a symbol; it is a public declaration of faith and an act of obedience to God's Word. It represents dying to the past, being washed clean, and being born again through the grace of Jesus.

We give all glory to God, who continues to move powerfully within our Mission. His love transforms lives, and we are honored to witness these moments of surrender and renewal. We also thank all those staff, donors, volunteers, and those who pray for us, who make our work possible and walk alongside us in ministry. God bless those who have been baptized. May they walk boldly in their faith, knowing they are made new in Christ.



Newly baptized individuals standing in the Colorado River



Everyone is excited to be baptized

# Mother's & Father's Day

Celebrating days like Mother's Day and Father's Day can be a struggle when faced with homelessness and addiction treatment. Painful memories of broken relationships between parents and child are reopened. Crossroads Mission believes in the restoration of family. Mother's and Father's Day are not only days of celebration, but a day on which the community can come together, relax, and in many cases restore connections. On both days, family members were invited, a wonderful sight to see in new beginnings and old ends.

A wonderful Mother's Day gathering took place on a Sunday morning in May. The dining hall was filled with colorful decorations, flowers, and the delicious aroma of a meal that included pork chops, potato salad, green beans, cupcakes for dessert. Volunteers from the Yuma Crossing Rotary bustled about, ensuring everyone had a seat and

a meal to match. The highlight of the day was the purses, free hats, and gift bags for all mothers that were generously donated by the community and the Yuma Rotary Club. Every lady got to pick the purse of their choice that was filled with toiletry items, custom jewelry and makeup.

Father's Day in June was equally memorable, with delicious hot dogs, macaroni salad, and cupcakes. Fathers spent time with their loved ones and enjoyed each other's company. Like the women, men too got gift bags full of toiletry items donated by the community. It was amazing to see how many families became part of this celebration as we almost ran out of seating!

We thank every person who helped make these events happen. Your donations made all the difference on their special days. We hope to continue to celebrate and uplift shelter and program guests with your help. God Bless you!

Luis, Father staying at Crossroads Mission



Family shelter women receiving gifts



Father and son at the event



Yuma Crossing Rotary members with Myra Garlit during Mother's Day

# An "Egg-cellent" Easter!

Easter Sunday is a very special day for Christians. It's the day we remember that Jesus rose from the dead after giving His life for all of us. This miracle shows His deep love and reminds us of the hope and peace that comes from following Him. While today's world celebrates Easter with fun things like colorful eggs and bunnies, we at Crossroads Mission work to balance both the fun and the true meaning of the day.

Our Easter celebration began with a prayer service at the Men's Shelter chapel. Our Chief Executive Officer, Myra Garlit, opened the event with a special prayer. She thanked God for the food, the staff who worked hard to put everything together, and most of all, for Jesus and His sacrifice.

After the prayer, the parking lot turned into a joyful place filled with games, laughter, and celebration. We had fun activities for both kids and adults. Children got Easter baskets full of candy and toys. There was a big inflatable water castle to jump

around in, balloon fights, and even a fishing game where kids pulled out little prizes from behind a curtain.

Grown-ups joined in the fun too! One of the most exciting moments was musical chairs. People cheered and laughed as they competed for prizes. It brought out a wonderful sense of community and joy. Our kitchen team also served a delicious meal of hot dogs and pasta salad for everyone to enjoy.

One of the best parts of the day was the Easter egg hunt. Children searched all around the parking lot for colorful eggs to put in their baskets. Parents and families watched proudly and took pictures, making sweet memories together.

Even though the eggs, games, and candy are fun, the most important part of Easter is remembering why we celebrate it. Jesus died and rose again because He loves us more than we can imagine. His sacrifice gives us hope and shows us how powerful love and faith can be.

We also want to thank all the

people who donated items for this event. Thanks to your kindness, we were able to give out baskets, food, and gifts to families who needed them. Your support means so much to program participants and Crossroads Mission guests. Thank you for believing in Crossroads Mission and in our goal to glorify God in all parts of life.



Mother and son enjoying the Easter event



Kids having fun and keeping cool with a water balloon fight



Little girl enjoying the bubble dispenser

# A Cinco de Mayo Fiesta!

Crossroads Mission was honored to celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a flavorful fiesta for our guests and participants. The day was filled with delicious food, joyful fellowship, and a celebration of culture. Our staff served fresh chicken and beef tacos, spicy hot sauce, and sweet Horchata water. All lovingly prepared by our amazing kitchen team. They moved through the dining hall with care, helping guests find seats and serving each meal with kindness.

We're grateful for moments like these that bring people together. We thank God for His love and for guiding our mission each day. And we thank our staff, volunteers, and donors who make these meaningful events possible. Your support helps us continue spreading hope, culture, and community to those who need it most.



Crossroads' staff serving food during the event



Guests and program participants enjoying a delicious Cinco de Mayo lunch!

## Thank you , From the Heart!



PR Director Sassa Culver and Adelina Francisco of Sunset Health

The American Heart Association and Sunset Health partnered together in such a special way. They have gotten together to donate 263 grocery cards for the senior citizens staying in our family and men's shelters that have a value of \$20 each. That comes to a total of \$5,260!

These grocery cards mean so much more than just a trip to the store. For many of our senior guests, it's a step toward independence, routine, and restored dignity. This gift is a beautiful reminder that when we work together, we can create lasting impact and real change for those who need it most. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our seniors at Crossroads Mission!

**What Your Gifts Made Possible:**

DEPARTMENT	MAR	APR	MAY
<b>Kitchen</b>			
MEALS	17,561	16,349	15,386
<b>Family Shelter</b>			
BED NIGHTS	2,662	2,320	2,373
INDIVIDUALS	115	106	112
CHILDREN	28	28	31
<b>Men's Shelter</b>			
BED NIGHTS	3,441	3,373	3,373
INDIVIDUALS	189	180	180
<b>Drug &amp; Alcohol Stabilization Unit</b>			
ADMITTED	48	49	54
COMPLETED	30	20	31
<b>New Life Recovery Program</b>			
ENTERED	24	15	23
GRADUATES	6	11	11
<b>New Way Homeless &amp; Transition Program</b>			
PARTICIPATING	61	49	49
<b>Career &amp; Academic Center</b>			
STUDENTS	116	101	118
HOURS STUDIED	655.50	689.25	723.25
<b>Giving</b>			
CLOTHES	1,401	1,384	1,091
FURNITURE	24	11	58

**Honorary Gifts:**

A Gift In Memory Of:	Kindly Given By:
Harvey R. Campbell	Judy Cuming
James Collins	Beverly & Colleen
Margaret Dewitt	Father Jogn Friel
V.J. Galloway	Neal Hoy
Guenter Geldmacher	Marge
Linda J. Grossberg	Jerry Kane
Miton K. Guerreiro	Marisa Guerreiro
Margaret C. Jones & Jones	Kent Russel Hansen
Barbara Lewert	Richard Lewert
Bobbie Martin	Wesley Martin
Carlos Martinez	Trenton Martinez
Zarah Mohindra	Savita Mohindra
John Moore	Rachel Moore
Laura Murphy	Eamon Murphy
LaVewra Rumpel	Peggy Russell
Brenda Sandoval	Frank L. & Frank M. Sandoval
Marion Freehan	Betty Labrecque

**Memorial Gifts:**

A Gift In Memory Of:	Kindly Given By:
Sharon Buxton	Jerrie and Matthew
Laura Murphy	Edmund P. Murphy

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.

# Water needed!

With summer coming, Crossroads Mission fights off the heat for the community. Our 2nd Chance thrift store is open to anyone wanting to escape the heat and drink some water, which will be available in the store. However, we also would need your help to supply those in need. How can you help? Organizing a water drive! Help us keep others cool with organizing a water drive to provide men, women, and children hydration during these hot Summer months. Drop offs at Crossroads Mission's main campus!

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



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

## NUMBERS TO KNOW

**MAIN PHONE NUMBER: (928) 783-9362**

\*Operator on duty 24/7

**Chief Executive Officer**

**Myra Garlit (928) 783-9362, Ext. 101**

**Major Gifts & Development**

Financial Stock & Property Contributions,  
Planned Gifts & Charitable Trusts

**Azucena Solorzano**

**Development Director**

**(928) 261-9836**

**Finance & Cash Donations**

**(928) 259-5608**

**Kitchen & Food Donations**

**Kitchen Coordinator**

**(928) 328-1718**

**2nd Chance Thrift Store**

**Donations Pick-Up Line (928) 726-0491**

**Cashier's Station (928) 328-8626**

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**(928) 783-9362, Ext. 107**

**\*First Step Center - OPEN 24 HRS.**

**(928) 328-8082**

**Career & Academic Center**

**(928) 328-8236**

**Newsletters & Website**

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**(928) 328-8621**

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## 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 the 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. You can organize a food drive, or donate from your business. Over 450 meals are served each day.

## Board of Directors:

Marce Achen, **Chairman**

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



### ADD US TO YOUR WILL

You can leave a legacy by adding a codicil to your will to designate a portion of your estate.

Crossroads Mission is a 501(c)3, Private Nonprofit Organization serving the homeless, needy and poor of Yuma County without regard to race, color, national origin, religious background, age, sex or handicap. (Alternative format and reasonable accommodations available upon request.) We depend on the contributions of concerned individuals and organizations. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. We are an accredited member of the Citygate Network and are accredited by the Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability. We partner with the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (Arizona Complete Health, Indian Health, Banner Health, United Healthcare), WACOG, Yuma Community Food Bank, and FEMA. We do not solicit door to door. Please report any impostors to us immediately. News for Our Partners is a quarterly publication for the friends and supporters of Crossroads Mission. We welcome comments about the content of the newsletter. If there are issues or concerns you would like for us to know about, please contact Azucena Solorzano at [asolorzano@crossroadsmission.org](mailto:asolorzano@crossroadsmission.org), (928) 328-8013.



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