



# RESCUE REPORT

Changing Lives in Solano County...

...for a Brighter Tomorrow

## Walking in Circles

Sometimes Catrina feels as if she's spent most of her life walking in circles. When she was younger she moved between friends and family on the East Coast and her dad in California.

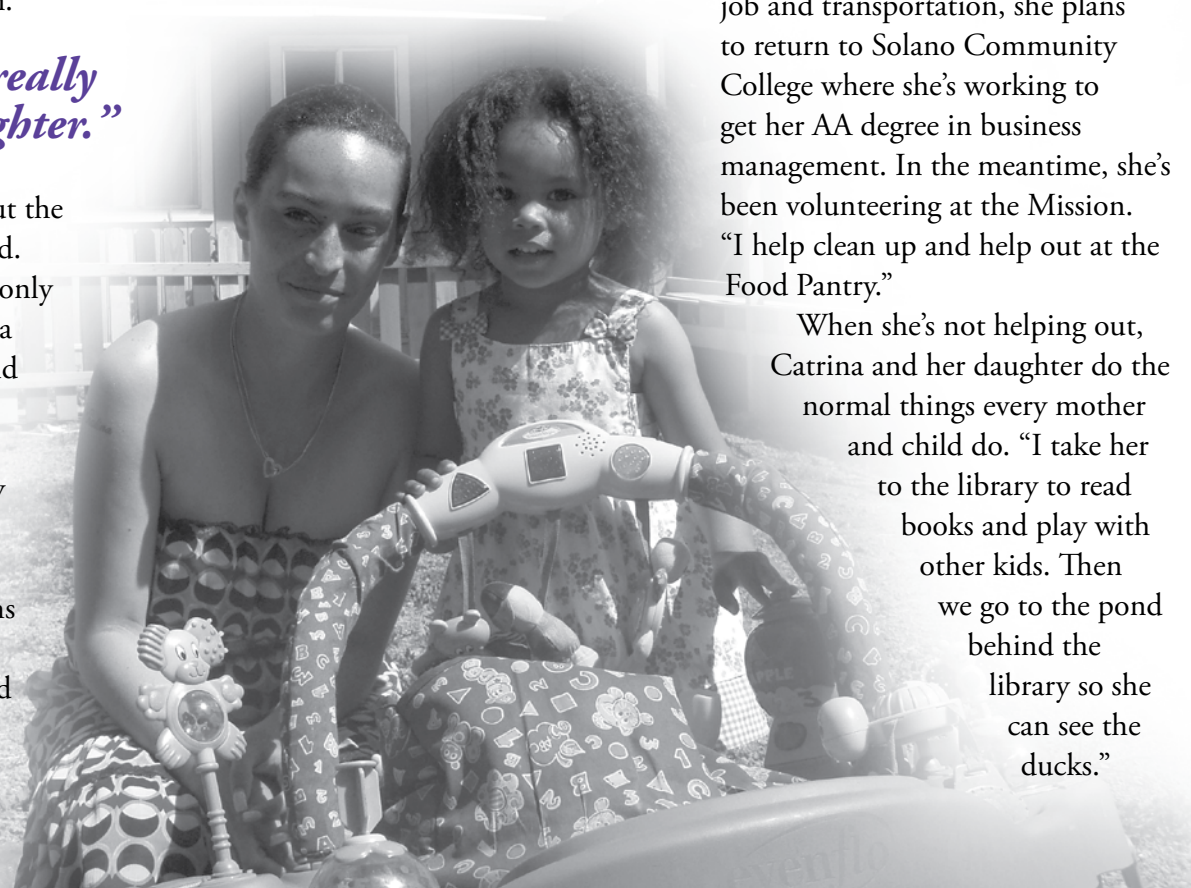
Before her daughter was born she went back East but returned to her father's home in Oakland two years ago. Problems with her dad led the little family to move in with a friend here in Fairfield. But the threat of violence to herself and her daughter put them on the move again.

*“Being homeless really affects my daughter.”*

Catrina found out about the Mission through a girlfriend. Mission SOLANO has not only provided a safe haven with a place to sleep each night and nutritious meals, but also health care for her and her daughter at our new weekly on-site clinic. “Me and my daughter have both been having these real bad coughs and colds. Every time my daughter drinks or eats food she's starting to cough like she's going to vomit. I'm

really worried. The doctor wants to get tests done to see what the problem is.”

Not only is her daughter's health suffering, but she doesn't understand why she can't live like she and her mom used to. Being homeless is harder on children than adults. She doesn't understand what happened to her toys and the room she used to sleep in. “I'm looking forward to finding a place of our own so we can settle down again.”



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*“I'm so grateful for the help we've found here!”*

As soon as the family finds an apartment and Catrina can get a job and transportation, she plans to return to Solano Community College where she's working to get her AA degree in business management. In the meantime, she's been volunteering at the Mission. “I help clean up and help out at the Food Pantry.”

When she's not helping out, Catrina and her daughter do the normal things every mother and child do. “I take her to the library to read books and play with other kids. Then we go to the pond behind the library so she can see the ducks.”



## A Message from Ron Marlette

### A New Heart. A New Start.

The purpose of Easter is to celebrate Christ's victory over death and the promise of new life – the promise that through His sacrifice and resurrection we may become a new, redeemed people, restored to a loving God. That opportunity is also what our New Life and Next Step House Programs are all about.

These programs work for two reasons: first, they give individuals like Catrina and Pam, whose stories you'll find in this issue of Rescue Report, the opportunity to truly build new lives; to be physically and mentally released from the destructive grip of alcoholism or drug addiction or homelessness through recovery, rehabilitation and education.

Second, these programs add a new dimension to peoples' lives – a spiritual dimension that is often missing or has been lost. Jesus promises that He can touch the pain in their lives and give them a living hope for their tomorrows, as well as a new heart and new start for today!

Thank you for your support that changes so many lives!

Ron Marlette  
Executive Director

# Fill Your Bus With Toys!

Our annual Christmas toy distribution was held on December 24, 2008. Five days earlier we had only 500 toys. However, we knew that God always supplies what we need and more.

Our special event coordinator Suzy Schneider suggested that we launch the "Fill Your Bus" toy drive.

Two days later we received a call from a Marine. He represented Toys for Tots and asked if they could be part of the first Mission SOLANO "Fill Your Bus" toy drive! Our bus

was filled to capacity by the end of the first day. The second day they called again and asked if we had another bus they could fill with toys. They did

it! We were amazed at the faithfulness of God once again.

We were able to give 3-5 toys each to over 1,300 needy children and provided another 2,000 toys for other



local non-profits to distribute. In total, we distributed almost 8,000 toys to needy children this past Christmas season!

## Happy Holidays!

The holidays can be difficult for many people, especially the homeless. A hot meal and a smile often go a long way toward making the holidays a little brighter for those in need.

With your help, Mission SOLANO provided plenty of comfort



and cheer at our Christmas dinner. Our volunteers

helped us serve more than 8,000 meals to needy people this Christmas season through our food distribution program.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time. Your generosity helped bring joy to those who are often forgotten.

# Celebrating New Life!

When Jesus met Mary Magdalene after she had seen the empty tomb and was hurrying to tell the disciples, His first word to her was, "Rejoice!" Jesus wanted everyone to rejoice in His resurrection, not mourn His death. His call to Christians was, and still is, to celebrate new life.

We try to live out that message every day here at Mission SOLANO. Just as Christ rose in victory over death and sin, we encourage those

who come to us to rise above poverty, homelessness and addictions.

Because of the outpouring of love that moves our donors to share their resources, we bring those in need the message that their past is forgiven and their life is worth living.

As the Easter season approaches, we pray that you will continue to help us by supporting the Mission with your time, your gifts and your prayers.

To find out how you can help visit our website at [www.MissionSolano.org](http://www.MissionSolano.org).

# "I'm Really Thankful for the Mission!"

Pam has been dealing with mental illness since she was 22.

She moved to Fairfield with her parents in 1978 and lived with her family while her father, who owned an electrical contracting firm, worked on several projects in the area. But when her father

retired he moved to Costa Rica and she hasn't talked to him in over three years.

When Pam started having mental episodes in 1982, people thought she was on drugs. "There are a lot of myths about mentally ill people. I'm not violent. But I was hearing voices. I was just in my own little world."

Her three children, including 13-year-old twins, live with her mother in Sacramento.

Though she misses them, she knows that her children are well taken care of. "That's all I care about. I don't have to worry about them getting hugs or kisses or anything."

But lately, there's been no one to care for Pam.



The psychiatrist she had been seeing for over 20 years died about a year ago, and since then Pam has had several "episodes."

*"I was eating out of a trash can and living in a tent."*

"I came to the Mission for the first time a few years ago and stayed for three nights. But I was asked to leave because I was having a mental breakdown. For a long time, I was out on the street. I lived down on the end of the park by Solano College in a tent for almost a year. I was always alone and afraid. I had decided that if anyone

came into my tent to harm me, I would cut my wrists. A lot of people live that way because they don't like the rules in a place like the Mission, but I like the structure."

"I got arrested for walking into a Motel 8 to take a bath. It was hot and I just wanted a place to take a bath and get clean. I didn't take anything; I just took a bath and was on my way out."

"When I was incarcerated, they stopped my SSI check."

*"I feel secure here."*

A local police officer told Pam about Mission SOLANO. "I feel more secure here. I'm really thankful for the bed and the food." Pam has also taken advantage of our new medical clinic where she's seen regularly by the doctor and has her prescriptions written. The Mission is also helping Pam save a part of the money she receives every month. "It is also very spiritual here," Pam says. "And that's really helped me a lot."

## Making the Holidays Brighter

Not only does our financial support

come from individuals, we are also blessed with many who volunteer their personal time. Mission SOLANO always wants to be able to provide as much help as possible for those in need, but without the help of our volunteers, we could not do as much as we do. This past Thanksgiving season, not only did we serve over 36,000 meals, but we also gave away over 500 food boxes filled with all the necessary Thanksgiving dinner fixings to our community's neediest. We want to thank all our volunteers for making the holidays special. If you would like to know how you can volunteer your time, please call 707-422-1011 or visit our volunteer page on our website at [www.MissionSolano.org](http://www.MissionSolano.org).



## Thank You

KUIC and Mission SOLANO thank all the Mission friends

and 95.3 KUIC listeners

who helped to provide more than 14,000 meals and care through our Feed the Hungry Radio-thon this past November. A special thank you to Fairfield Hilton Garden Inn for hosting our event. To all those who sponsored meals for our phone bank, answered phones and donated, we offer our warmest thanks!

## Visit Our Website



Mission SOLANO has been around for over 10 years. Many things have changed since then and technology is one of them. From typewriters to computers and nowadays one can nearly do everything with a simple cell phone. All these things have made it easier for us all and we want to do the same for you to know about who we are and what we do. If you have not gone to our website at

[www.MissionSolano.org](http://www.MissionSolano.org), we invite you to do so today. Here are some of the reasons to visit us online:

- 24/7, 365 – Whether it's two in the morning or five in the afternoon, you can visit or contact us from the privacy of your own home or office.
- Keep You Informed – Stay up-to-date on all current and past events, stories, statistics and current needs.
- Cost-Effective – While our most cost-effective way to communicate with our supporters is through the mail, our website costs us nearly nothing to maintain, which allows more of your donations to go directly into ministry.

# A Warming Influence

As temperatures dropped an event took place at Mission SOLANO which will help make the colder months warmer for those in need – several warm winter coats and jackets were delivered to be distributed to our community's neediest men, women and children!

This is the second year that Mission SOLANO has benefited from this project called "Helping to Warm Our Communities." The project began as a coat collection in Richmond in 2004 and in five years has resulted in over 3,000 items being distributed to various non-profit agencies and shelters in Contra



Costa, Alameda and Solano Counties.

While both the Project Coordinator, Alix M., and the company for which she works and where the coats are collected wish to remain anonymous, the Mission is extremely grateful for

the hundreds of donated coats and jackets we have received over the last two years.

Of her company and fellow employees who support this great project, Alix says, "Since this project began, there has been full support from my organization's management and this event wouldn't be the success it is without the wonderful team members at several Bay Area locations who assist with the drive each year. I'm very proud to work for a company that supports efforts to benefit our communities and of course, grateful to the personnel who, year after year, bring smiles to so many!"

## A Toy Run That Keeps the Dream Alive

On December 5, 2008 we held our annual Toy Run. After delivering 237 toys to the children of Mission, one of the local bike clubs, Iron Riders,



with the financial support of Big O Tires, John Colet Construction, Unity Hall and other anonymous donors, stayed and finished building the playground at Mission SOLANO's Community Outreach Center in memory of late Councilman Matt Garcia.

Matt loved the work the Mission does and the

community is "keeping the dream alive" by supporting the things that he loved and lived for: **support youth, stop crime and strengthen our community.** Matt was very passionate about these three things and his family and friends have committed themselves to his legacy.

## Here's my special Easter gift to give people in need a new start and a new life. Enclosed is:

- \$17.90 for 10 meals and care
- \$26.85 for 15 meals and care
- \$53.70 for 30 meals and care
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as much as possible

- Bill my credit card
- VISA  MC  AMEX  DISC

CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

Donate online at [www.MissionSolano.org](http://www.MissionSolano.org), or call 707-422-1011.

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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Mission SOLANO  
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Fairfield, CA 94533-0084



Please return this completed form with your donation. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law. You will receive a receipt.