

Celebrating Our Last Year, Looking Towards the New Year

By Rick Barnett, Chairman, The Bridge



In the midst of what has been a challenging year, the Lord has blessed The Bridge Ministry. To celebrate and support The Bridge, two hundred supporters, volunteers, staff, and residents, came together on a warm October day at Calvary Monterey for the annual Bridge dinner.

Everyone enjoyed beautiful weather and outdoor dining with cuisine provided by local food trucks and The Bridge Culinary program.

After the scavenger hunt, raffle, live auction, and time to converse with one another, the program began inside. We began with two powerful testimonies, a visit from The Bridge Napa, but most importantly we celebrated the new graduates from all walks of life, freed from substance addiction, celebrating their relationship with Jesus Christ.



After such a celebration of past success I look towards 2022 and what to pray for. I heard a sermon taught by Dave Courson in Kings reminding us that when we embrace the words “But God,” we see the supernatural. We can trust that He wants that for us.

Our hopes are that we will not turn away those that are in need due to our space limitations. Simply put, apart from the needs of a new truck, we must complete the task of securing a larger space for Phase 1 men. It is sad to see a waiting list each month, knowing that we could help those who are in need if we just had more beds and larger community space. A larger men’s house and second phase home would be wonderful, allowing us to expand the women’s facilities as well as the men’s.

What role can you play? If you feel that you can help, I would welcome a call or an opportunity to meet with you. Your support is appreciated. May God Bless you and yours. Please call me at 831-747-0112.



Greg’s Story

By Greg Miller

I had gotten myself into a destructive pattern of drinking as my only form of amusement. My apathy for anything else could only be described as intense and profound. Intense, abject apathy commanded isolation. Boredom commanded more alcohol and, ultimately, a trip to the ER. From the ER I was admitted at the hospital for alcohol-induced heart palpitations and spent several days in a medically supervised detox when one of the attending physicians and behavioral health clinicians introduced me to the notion of The Bridge. At that point my decision was no more complex than, “Eh, why not?”

“Who needs a higher power?”

When I got to The Bridge I didn’t care one way or the other. I could have left at any time, or I could have stayed. Neither decision was appealing and neither decision was objectionable. I hated being a drunk. I loved getting drunk but not being drunk and certainly not being “a drunk.” I was aware of it, and I knew I could stop it. “Who needs a higher power?” I was uninspired, however, to make that commitment with any real passion. No previous attempts at recovery meant anything to me, and I never made any promises to myself or anyone else that I was done drinking.

I had fond memories of my walk with God as a younger man and was open-hearted enough to listen again to the familiar words and accept the genuine care of The Bridge personnel as well as the long-abandoned elements of discipline required for a conscientious

See **Grey’s Story** other side

Executive Director’s Corner Mike Casey



Our Recent Capital Campaign

I want to thank all of you who participated in our recent Capital Campaign. Ephesians 3:20 says, “our God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all we ask or think”. And in the case of the Capital Campaign, He certainly has. I am thrilled to report that our goal has been met and we are proceeding with the purchase of the Gatehouse. So sometime in early in 2022, The Bridge will be the proud owners of the men’s facility located in Pacific Grove. So that we can continue to do the work that God has set before us; helping to restore the lives of men and women in our community, returning them back to God, their families, work and this community.

Again, thank you to all of those who participated financially and prayerfully in our Capital Campaign. We ask that you continue to pray with us through this next season.

Blessings,
Michael Casey
Executive Director



We Don’t Throw It Out. We Upcycle It

What if you own a store with used items that just don’t sell? Second Chance faced that problem with some of its furniture and found a wonderful way to solve it. It’s not just fixing broken furniture. It’s completely changing it, making something else out of it that DOES sell. It’s called Upcycling. “Sometimes we have an abundance of various things, like headboards and footboards that are not great sellers,” said Michele Casey, head of Second Chance, that has a six-week cycle for items to be sold. With a sales rotation every week things are automatically discounted and if that doesn’t work, they’ll do a deal of the day sale.

However, some items just don’t sell – like headboards and footboards. Upcycling works well for hard goods like furniture, headboards, and footboards. By upcycling, a headboard becomes the back of a bench, for example. “We did a small version of this many years ago but haven’t done

See **Upcycle** other side



RESTORATION MINISTRY
SECOND CHANCE THRIFT
THE CULINARY PROGRAM

Greg's Story *from other side*

walk with the Lord. For the first time in years, I started setting little goals for myself. This was happening simultaneously with my brain and body chemistry recovering from their assault when I recalled my favorite verse from back in my early 20s. Revelation 3:20 "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me." I began to pray again, earnestly, thoughtfully, and daily for the Lord to come back into my life. I joke that He let me twist in the breeze for a few weeks before bringing me on board, but the truth is that though I spoke the words, my heart wasn't ready. But then something happened. I knew it the second it occurred. I'd been brought back on board and my first prayer was my personal expression of gratitude to The Bridge and the men and women who had saved my life by bringing me back to God.

While at The Bridge I worked primarily in the kitchen preparing meals for residents, Sunday morning restaurant service, and occasionally special events at the church. I learned to soften my proclivities toward impatience and dismissiveness. I learned to accept imperfection in myself and embrace the contributions of others. I learned forgiveness and recognized that I have been the recipient of forgiveness more than I ever cared to acknowledge.



Upcycle *from other side*

it for several years. We just got started again and now are turning some of those headboards, footboards, and broken tables into usable things like benches," Michele mentioned. "We're trying to do something different rather than just throw things away."

"A lot of people throw away furniture and things that just have something minor wrong with it," noted Chris Macquarrie, who is a major part of the upcycling that Second Chance now does. As a carpenter for over 40 years and resident of The Bridge he was there when they needed his skills. "My Dad was a contractor, and we did a lot of interesting stuff, but I never did anything with furniture," he said. "When I got here, Michele had some pictures posted that she wanted to do herself and she kind of nudged me towards it. She had the idea of cutting a footboard in half and using it for the sides of a bench." Chris successfully made her idea into something that sold, and they've sold about 14 of them. "A lot of people throw away furniture and things that just have a broken foot or a crack or something falls out so we fix it up and get it on the floor. I have all the tools I need and a little workshop. It seems to be working out pretty well. It makes me feel really good that you're seeing something sold that would not have been sold and just trashed," he said.

Second Chance is letting people see the projects they have in the upcycling process so they will know that that bench used to be an old brown ugly headboard and now it's not only made into something useful but also a completely different color. Second Chance uses Dixie Belle chalk paint, a wonderful paint because you don't have to sand items before you paint them. After the painted item is dry, it is buffed off to get a smooth finish. They're now carrying Dixie Belle chalk paint in the store so when people buy an upcycle product, they can easily paint it in a color they choose.

"We're in the process right now of trying to develop upcycling further," said Michele. "We can't redo everything here or use all our salvage but just like with Eco, we want to put to better use some of our excess items so that items that would have gone to the dump can be used for another purpose. You'll be amazed what can be done with a piece of furniture that couldn't be sold but now is something people want to buy."

Wants and Needs

"Please scan the QR code or go to our website at <https://www.tbrm.org/wantsandneeds> to see the current needs of The Bridge Restoration Ministry."



SCAN ME

The Bridge
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STORE HOURS: Mon, Wed, Sat 9-5 and
Tues, Thurs, Fri 10-6

Website: secondchancepg.com

Donation Programs



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simply go to escrip.com and create an account and select The Bridge Restoration Ministry at 225 Central as your charity. You link the account to your Lucky's shopping card and benefit the Bridge by shopping for groceries or shop at hundreds of popular merchants at eScrip's online mall!



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happy shopping!**

**Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year**
From all the men & Women, Staff and
Board Members of The Bridge

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