



## Christian's Testimony & Culinary Final Experience

I was 20 years old when my substance abuse started and my addiction continued for the next ten years. There was some effort during that time to end my addiction. I went to six programs

to try to end my problem. None of those programs had the lasting effect that was needed. My addiction took a tremendous toll on my life, and eventually led to being incarcerated. While I was in jail, I got ahold of a book by Pastor Mike Casey from The Bridge, it resonated with me and stirred up an interest in taking further steps. There were other people filling out applications and the time so I did too. At the time the program was full, and I couldn't get in. I had to wait and keep checking to see if any spots had opened up. Eventually after about two weeks a spot opened, and I was able to get in.

I have been in the program since October of 2021, when I first entered the program, I wasn't aware that there was a culinary program. Some of the guys in the program suggested that I look into it. It was a nerve-racking experience for me because I had no prior background in cooking and didn't know my way around a kitchen. I got past my nerves and decided I was going to give it a shot. Little by little I started to learn. I started to get the hang of things and really get good at my craft. The culinary program is 12 weeks long and includes online lessons and testing these newly learned skills in hands-on practical tests. To finish the culinary program, each student must plan, create and prepare a meal and pass the final exam. I started the meal with a spicy Cajun caviar dish for the appetizer. For the main course I made patty melts, Charleston red rice, and scallop potatoes. And then finished off the meal with a bread pudding inspired dessert. I'm happy to say that I passed my final. The culinary program proved that I can step into something new and master it. It was a wonderful experience for me.

When it comes to what I am going to do with my newfound culinary skills, my wife's family has a deli that may be useful in the future. But for now, I know these culinary skills will come in handy at home, since I live with a bunch of picky eaters. As of now, I have a couple months left in The Bridge program. The program has had a drastic impact on my life. I have no desire to live the way I did before I came to The Bridge. The Bridge has done what those other six recovery programs could not. I am beyond thankful for that. Upon graduation, I plan on getting back into construction and taking it a day at a time from there.

### Executive Director's Corner Mike Casey



## Partnership with the Pacific Grove Adult School



One of our recent graduates, Greg Miller, has taken it upon himself to assist current Bridge residents in acquiring their high school diploma, and/or GED. Currently, we

have six residents in this process. Some are going for their Hi-Set or GED. This has been made possible by the wonderful staff at the Pacific Grove Adult School. This has certainly caused a newfound excitement for many of the residents; being able to pick up where they left off before their lives were put on hold because of their addiction. This opens up many possibilities for education and/or job opportunities for our residents. On behalf of the Bridge, we would like to thank the Pacific Grove Adult School and their staff for all of their hard work helping our residents achieve their educational goals.

## Banquet

After each year The Bridge along with its many supporters and volunteers celebrates new milestones in bringing Jesus into the lives of dozens of new graduates, freeing men and women from the addiction of drugs and alcohol. 2022 was epic!

The "new life" stories shared by Bridge Members are examples of how the Ministry can help forge a future for those who were previously lost in a life without hope.

At each annual banquet, I am asked "how can I help" by one or more of the evenings guests. We are all moved by seeing the life change of our graduates. Here are some "asks" that might give you an idea for 2023.

### 1). Mentors

We need them to spend an hour or two each week with 1 or 2 of our Members, to listen and encourage

### 2). Volunteers

There are opportunities on May levels from helping at Second Chance to Culinary, etc.

### 3). Contributions

This can take on many faces...financial to products and services required. Landscaping, skilled trades, equipment needs and of course one time and monthly support.

You can make the difference in the lives of these men and women and their families. Contact Mike and/or Michele Casey on being available. You will be blessed as we will be for your participation.

May God bless each of you as we March on to 2023.

Rick Barnett  
Board Chair



**Merry Christmas!**







## What's Happening at Second Chance?

We just closed out the previous location on North Fremont after 7 years. We look forward to a fresh start at a new location. With a boutique feel, this store has a new personality featuring clothing & more!

Between Pacific Grove and our new location,

we will be able to offer a bigger selection of clothing.

Hannah is the lead supervisor at our new location in Monterey. She is a previous graduate from our program and has been on staff since 2019. She has a passion for clothing, and it shows.

It was a group effort between Second Chance staff and residents who worked really hard to get everything ready. Two residents in particular, Justin and Paul, worked really hard and used their handiwork, and did a fantastic job.

We can't wait to see you at our new location! 443A Lighthouse Ave Monterey, only 1/2 mile from our Pacific Grove location!

Over the last couple of months, with opening a store, closing a store, and moving things around we are excited for the new year and being able to expand our 3 ways to shop!

- 443A Lighthouse Ave Monterey (new location)
- 105 Central Ave Pacific Grove
- Shop online [secondchancepg.com](http://secondchancepg.com)

## You Can Help

For men and women struggling with addiction, The Bridge Restoration Ministry's exists to provide a safe, structured, supervised discipleship in a residential setting for those who have made a decision to change their lives. The Bridge's purpose is to restore those individuals back to God, family, work and community.

Did you know that you can help with this important work by including TBRM in your estate plan?

You can provide lasting support for The Bridge Restoration Ministry, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, by creating a charitable legacy. There are several ways to accomplish this meaningful goal. You may add a bequest in your will, designate The Bridge as a beneficiary in your insurance policy or retirement account, create a Charitable Remainder Trust or make periodic gifts in your lifetime. Several of these options can create a tax advantage for you and your estate.

If you would like to know more about this supportive type of giving, please consult with your financial adviser or estate planner to learn about the best ways to achieve this objective.



### Yellow Brick Road

We are pleased to announce that our organization has recently been awarded a generous grant from the Yellow Brick Road in Carmel to support our work. This gift is a big tribute to our fine programs!

Over its 30+ years, the Yellow Brick Road Benefit Shops have donated nearly \$7.2 million to Monterey County nonprofits. To help continue this philanthropy, *they need more volunteers.*

Please call (831) 626-8480 or visit [www.yellowbrickroadbenefitshop.org](http://www.yellowbrickroadbenefitshop.org).



105 Central Ave.  
**Pacific Grove**  
831-717-4479

443A Lighthouse Ave.  
**Monterey**  
831-324-0143

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

**Website:** [secondchancepg.com](http://secondchancepg.com)

## Opportunities to Serve

### Volunteer

Service. Passion. Love

### Mentoring

Volunteer Opportunities

More info at - [tbrm.org](http://tbrm.org)

## Donation Program



Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to The Bridge whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. Choose charity: **Bridge Restoration Ministry, Pacific Grove, CA.**

**Thank you for your support,  
happy shopping!**



**The Bridge**  
LIFE RESTORED  
RESTORATION MINISTRY  
Faith • Family • Community  
P.O. Box 1131 Pacific Grove, CA 93950  
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