



The Bridge Annual Dinner

The 12th Annual Bridge Dinner was an event to

remember. From the perfect late-summer Monterey sunshine to a rousing live auction--and everything in between--the dinner was a wonderful experience.

Most importantly, we celebrated the graduation of 15 residents of The Bridge. Each has completed our one-year recovery program, building a new life in Christ and a bright future free from addiction. Our 2018 graduates are:

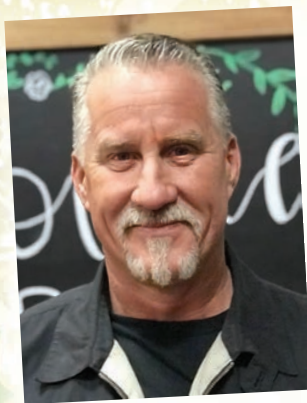
Tony Balma, Larry Callahan, Rudy Divin, LaMount Dunlap, James Harriss, Dwayne Hogberg, Ceiltis Reed, Jennifer Rubalcava, Ryan Salazar, Nicholas "Cache" Swanson, Ashlee Turner, Matthew Turner, Judy Villaneda, Chris Volz and John Zents.

Nearly 300 people attended the dinner, entering the transformed Sanctuary One with a warm welcome from Calvary's teen volunteers, who served the gourmet dinner with kindness and grace.

One of the highlights of the evening was a song performed by Kayli Rickard, a current resident of The Bridge, accompanied on guitar by Bob Langley. Kayli originally wrote the song for her mom, who had also struggled with addiction. "You're a healer," they sang to Jesus, "And your love is unconditional."

Indeed, it's true. And at the dinner, we celebrating that healing and unconditional love.

Thank you to everyone who attended, who donated, who helped and who shared our joy and gratitude as we celebrated together.



From Downward Spiral to Uplifting Recovery

Dwayne Hogberg was on a downward spiral. He'd lost his job as a superintendent of power equipment with a crew of 100 people unloading container ships at the Los Angeles Harbor. He was going through a second divorce. But it wasn't the job or divorce that was driving the downward spiral; it was alcohol, methamphetamines, and some jail time.

While talking to a lifelong friend, Dwayne expressed his desire to get out of addiction. His friend told him about The Bridge, where one of her family members had found help. "When I said I'd finally given up, my friend knew it would be a good place for me," he said.

It was. Dwayne was all in. "When I got to The Bridge, I dove in. I agreed to everything," he said. "I had nothing left. I'd been living in my car while working in a rental company repairing equipment. I was paying child support and still doing drugs and alcohol."

Once at The Bridge, Dwayne was determined to stay, even though living with other people and working at the Second Chance store came as a shock. "I couldn't believe I was working at a thrift store. It was so humbling. I had skills and had done a lot and here I was cleaning other people's stuff and sharing a room with other men. It was very difficult," he recalled. "But I knew I was going to do it. I made friendships. I tried to see where everybody else was coming from, what brought them here. I learned that I can do things that I didn't think I could do. I learned patience. I listened to other people's stories." He also fixed things at the church and the Second Chance stores, bussed tables at The Grille, and

See **Recovery** other side



Executive Director's Corner
Mike Casey

Enough Is Enough

As you may know about me by now, growing up, my life was completely dysfunctional. There was nothing "normal" during my high school years. But despite all the chaos around me, I loved English class. "English 38" was a film studies class. Our final project was to write, direct, film and edit a movie. My project was called *Death at Bodine Creek*. It was a fictional story about a drug deal gone wrong; in the end, everyone died.

During this class I developed a great love for movies--especially the classics, like *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Pygmalion*, *Citizen Kane*, and *Network*. Movies allowed me to escape the insanity of my young life, even if only for an hour or so at a time.

In *Network*, the character Howard Beale (played by Peter Finch), famously yells into a television camera, "I'm as mad as hell and I'm not going to take this anymore!"

Sometimes life imitates art.

Today, I am mad as hell. I am sick and tired of watching people die. This year, 72,000 people will die of opioid overdoses. Let me put it into perspective. Imagine an airplane, with 200 passengers and crew, falling out of the sky. Everyone on board perishes. It would be a tragedy: innocent lives lost, unanswered questions for families and loved ones.

Now image this happening every day--seven days a week--for an entire year. That is what it means to lose 72,000 people a year to opioids. Addiction doesn't discriminate. Just like in a plane crash, tragedy crosses social and economic lines. No one is immune.

This has to stop. You may wondering, "What can I do?" Your support of a ministry like The Bridge means such a great deal to us. Thank you for your help and friendship. This year, we have housed 37 residents.

We recently celebrated the 2018 graduation of 15 men and women from our one-year program.

That's 15 seats on the plane.

Behind the Scenes of The Bridge Culinary Program

Ah, Sunday mornings... fresh eggs, waffles and a gourmet brunch make every Sunday something to celebrate. The Grille at Calvary has become a place where friendships are born and where fellowship strengthens each of us to begin a new week.

Calvary's delectable brunches are created by a team led by head chef Zach Taylor, Grille manager Dave Stamm, and two talented men, Pete Kuck and Austin Kava. Pete is the kitchen lead, and Austin is his right-hand man, assistant to the lead. Together, Pete and Austin cook not only for hundreds of hungry parishioners but also for the men in The Bridge program, six nights a week.

This is all part of The Bridge Culinary Program, which provides vocational training to Bridge residents. In addition to Sunday brunches and weeknight dinners, the program runs a thriving catering business with clients ranging from local businesses to private weddings.

Pete Kuck:
Future Arborist

Pete has been in the culinary program for six months. He had been working at the Second Chance thrift store when he was asked to help with the Grille's taco bar. His *pico de gallo* was a hit



See **Culinary** other side

Holidays at Second Chance



Drive by the Monterey Second Chance store and you'll see a big Santa Claus standing in front to welcome shoppers. Stop to say hello to him and he'll sing you some Christmas music and welcome you to take photos of him with your children and friends.

Stop in and celebrate this beautiful Christmas season with us.

We also invited two elves to come and visit--one to our Pacific Grove store and one to the Monterey store--from December 1 through December 24. They said they so enjoy watching people try to find them. They're very good at hiding but we're sure you'll find them! There will be weekly prizes for finding the elf in each store.

We will also have gift cards available at a special holiday price. Through December

24th we will offer discounted cards at our Monterey location: a \$10 gift card for \$7, a \$25 gift card for \$16, and a \$50 gift card for \$35. In our Pacific Grove store, you can get a \$10 gift card for \$8, a \$25 gift card for \$17, a \$50 gift card for \$37. Cards may be used at either location!

Stop in and celebrate this beautiful Christmas season with us. Look around... you'll find gifts for everyone on your list.

Culinary *from other side*

and he moved into a culinary role.

Pete had completed two rehab programs prior to entering The Bridge: one live-in, 45-day program, and one outpatient program.

Are you looking for a culinary experience to remember? Learn more, or schedule an event, at www.bridgeculinary.org.

The Bridge program is a year long, much more intensive than many other programs. "Over time it reveals itself," said Pete, "why it's a year-long program. At three months, I was just getting started. At six months, I realized I had learned so much."

"The main reason the Bridge appealed to me is it's a working program and not government-funded," Pete explained. "The fact that it's privately run shows me that people who are running it really care."

Pete, who has just finished eight months of the program, plans to become a certified arborist. He has worked with a local arborist and looks forward to a time when he can say, "Climbing trees is my profession."

Pete's from the Monterey area, and his family has been very supportive. "My parents... they did everything right," he said. And now Pete is committed to creating a future based on

the principles he's learning at The Bridge.

Austin Kava:
"I was blessed beyond belief"



Assistant to the lead Austin Kava works side-by-side with Pete. Austin's path has taken him from six years in the Marines, from which he was honorably discharged in 2015, to his current role at The Bridge, with a goal of working as a personal trainer after he graduates.

Austin is humble as he explains how he graduated from The Bridge in September 2017: "Everything was going so well... I was blessed beyond belief." But months later, he fell back into addiction. Austin re-entered The Bridge in April 2018.

"I think that God can deliver you," he explained when he talked about his experience. "You need to learn the people, places and things that are bad for you, and know when to flee."

Austin works in the kitchen, where he says the best part is learning to cook for a healthy lifestyle.

"I want to serve the Bridge however I can" he said. "It's the biggest blessing to do this all over again."

really have a personal relationship with Jesus. It's very deep. It means more to me than anything. It's number one for me."

Dwayne now works for Monterey Peninsula Engineering. "I love the job and I am able to see my two sons and two daughters. The Bridge was what I needed," he explained. "It definitely took me down the road of Christianity to recovery."

Recovery *from other side*

helped set up dinners at weddings that The Bridge Culinary Program catered.

But for Dwayne, it was his connection to Jesus that totally changed him. "I grew up Lutheran but when I was 17 that was pretty much it, however I'd always believed. Now I

Second Chance Thrift Store

A Ministry of **The Bridge**
LIFE RESTORED

105 Central Ave.
Pacific Grove
831-717-4479

2311 N. Fremont St.
Monterey
831-324-0143

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

www.secondchancePG.com

Donation Programs



The S.H.A.R.E.S program has been replaced by the eScrip program. To sign up

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!



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 from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. Choose charity: **Bridge Restoration Ministry, Pacific Grove, CA.**

Thank You for your support.



www.thbridge.org | 831-372-2033

P.O. Box 113 | Pacific Grove, CA 93950

FAITH • FAMILY • COMMUNITY



RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 27
Monterey
CA 93940

Wants & Needs



- IT Volunteer
- Volunteers
- Mentors
- Storage space for Second Chance