

Second Chance Thrift Store

A Ministry of **The Bridge**
LIFE RESTORED

Surprise!
You'll Learn Things
You Never Thought
You Could Do



As one of the youngest residents at The Bridge, if someone told Kayli Rickard that she'd eventually work as an online sales coordinator for both Second Chance stores, she wouldn't have believed it. But then, as Kayli found out, God works in amazing ways.

After getting addicted to meth at 15, in and out of outpatient programs, drug court, juvenile programs, and in jail for eight months, Kayli heard about The Bridge and was totally convinced this was for her. Although she was only 19 she just knew. "It was more like a tug on my heart. This was where I was supposed to be," she recalls.

Assigned to work at the Second Chance stores while in Phase Two was another enormous change in her life because of the challenges she overcame. "I'd never worked in retail before, let alone getting paid. It was definitely a growing pain, but it really taught me you just got to tread through it. I learned many good job skills that I never knew before or that needed more refreshing." For Kayli, communications was the "big big" one as she describes it because it wasn't one of her strong points. "Communication is something I still have to work on, like not being rude or to communicate effectively so you're actually being heard. That's really a big part of what I've learned."

Working at Second Chance also gave her the opportunity to learn completely new work skills. For instance, she'd never done anything on the computer before. "I grew in areas I could not have imagined. Now I'm kind of overseeing the whole online sales, which is new for me, and I love it, but I still have a lot of learning and growing to do." Kayli gets plenty of

See **Surprise** other side

Why Are All These People So Happy?

Vanessa Estrada dug herself into a deep addictive hole. She'd lost her first apartment, her job, her car, and while in jail was sentenced to a program that gave her three rehab options, but because The Bridge was the closest, she chose it, that is until Pastor Mike told her that it was a year-long program. She called her Mother to tell her she wasn't going to do it, however her Mother told her she and her Dad were praying for her go to The Bridge. "God had other plans. I was picked up the next morning to go The Bridge," Vanessa said.

Recalling how she felt when she first entered The Bridge Vanessa says, "I still had a hardened heart. I was in a bad spot filled with shame and embarrassment." Also, The Bridge was very different from a previous rehab she'd been to. There, residents didn't cook or clean up for themselves. It wasn't a faith-based or working program. For Vanessa, The Bridge was, "Whoa, this is a little much to handle. Why are all these people so nice and smiley and welcoming and I'm not feeling that way. I'm feeling pretty bad inside so why are these people so happy?"

Three months later Vanessa knew that those around her were

See **Happy** other side



Executive Director's Corner Mike Casey

It's Happening - A New Bridge in Napa



Some things happen by chance. This one didn't. Pastor Rob Rainey, senior pastor of Calvary Napa, and his wife, Jessica, hoped to start a recovery ministry at their church as both had been in recovery programs themselves. But how to get it started didn't seem to be happening....that is, until they attended a conference at Calvary Monterey and found out about The Bridge. "When we saw the guys at The Bridge, we knew right away we wanted Pastor Mike's help to start a recovery ministry of our own," he recalls. And after finding out about how The Bridge was set up, what it achieved, and meeting some of the residents, they realized, "We wanted to be a carbon copy of The Bridge because it was so healthy, so vibrant and successful. We knew there was no need to reinvent the wheel. We wanted to do what they're doing, have the same name, bylaws, and structure."

This was about a year and a half ago. Since then Pastor Rainey has pulled together a significant team of people with the mindset to make this happen, such as working out articles of incorporation and dealing with all the technical and legal aspects. As for how Napa Bridge residents will learn job skills, Pastor Rainey says, "We're kicking around a number of ideas from roasting coffee to building tiny houses or starting a thrift store. Initially we'll have the residents do the basics of maintenance around the church, community service, odds and ends."

Getting the word out about Calvary Napa's Bridge is going full force. One of their team members who has a law enforcement background is networking with the local law enforcement community to let possible residents know this wonderful option will soon be available. Pastor Rainey points to another possibility. "The Monterey Bridge can send us residents and we'll send them residents. Oftentimes people in rehab want to get out of their hometowns," he suggests.

"We hope to open as fast as we can because the need is immense," Pastor Rainey anticipates. With a start-up fund, a team assembled up and working, plus the tremendous support of the Monterey Bridge, it looks like the "chance encounter" they had with Pastor Mike and The Bridge is making it happen.

More Than a Successful Appreciation Dinner

"*Exceptional, unique, and successful*" is how Rick Barnett, Chairman of the Board described The Bridge's recent Volunteer and Donor Appreciation Dinner. More than 100 donors, volunteers, and community leaders were joyfully thanked for their participation. "We had the opportunity to show attendees how their involvement made a difference. Those who came saw the vision of The Bridge and the care it provides for the men and women in the program," said Barnett. They also saw the progress The Bridge has made, for instance in the women's program. Recently five women have graduated and are "back to their families, jobs, and society with a whole different viewpoint of their lives," as Barnett described it, and there are more women on the waiting list. Another new aspect that made this event even more unique was the attendance of Bridge alumni, some of whom came with their families to see how the Bridge had progressed.



Catering is Up and Cooking

The Bridge Culinary Program has been busy as its catering program becomes known throughout our area. An article in *The Edible* magazine about where to locally get great food let readers know the Catering Program is up and cooking. "We've gotten some events from them," said Chef Zach Wilson, the Culinary Program's head chef and the major impetus behind getting the catering going.

The Pebble Beach U.S. Open this June offered the opportunity for the Bridge Culinary to show its expertise to those who preferred renting a house instead of staying in hotels and eating in restaurants. "For four days, we catered a house for the people staying there," said Zach. "It was breakfast and dinner every day with a welcoming dinner and a brunch the last day. It was a lot of fun. We combined doing prep work at the Grille and then last-minute things at the house. One night we did a pasta dish. We cooked the pasta and roasted cauliflower here at the Grille, so everything was ready to go. When we got there it was just a quick saute and fix."

The Culinary Program is also doing a lot of barbequing such as at a Shoreline Community Church BBQ for 450 people and a recent BBQ for 110 for Montage Health. Coming up, there's the Monterey Car Week August 9 -11 that will include the Program's skills at some events – maybe even another BBQ. In addition, the Culinary Program's Wednesday Lunch Program is going strong. "We're expanding it," Zach noted. Those who want a lunch brought directly to their office can order boxed lunches online with a weekly selection of salads, sandwiches, plus a vegetarian option.

As the Culinary Arts Program grows its catering program, we're anticipating a lot more delicious news.



Valentines Day 2019

- Crab Agnolotti**
Stuffed Pasta with Crab, Ricotta, Herbs and a Red Pepper Beurre Blanc
- Crispy Prosciutto and Romaine Salad**
Artisan Hearts of Romaine, Crispy Prosciutto, Tomato, Fresh Mozzarella, and Balsamic
- Black Berry Braised Short Ribs**
Slow Braised Beef Short Ribs, Black Berry Balsamic Glaze, Whipped Potatoes and Roasted Vegetables
- Or
- Mustard Crusted Salmon**
Crispy Salmon, Dill Mustard Beurre Blanc, Wild Rice Pilaf and Roasted Vegetables
- Or
- Wild Mushroom Ragout**
Crispy Polenta, Wild Mushrooms and Tomato Ragout, Roasted Vegetables
- Chocolate Mousse**
Dark Chocolate Mousse, White Chocolate, Raspberry Coulis

A Menu Sampling

Surprise *from other side*

help and advice. "I have Michele if I have questions. She is so knowledgeable in all areas of the stores and has helped me tremendously. It's been challenging for me to lead other people and tell them what to do. I'm more of the person who gets told what to do and does it. But this is definitely a good thing because that's an area I need growth in. I don't think God would have put me in that position if it was something bad for me."

Kayli's life is also changing in other ways. She will begin Monterey Peninsula College in August for a possible career in psychology. She's not sure which direction she will take, maybe as a counselor or drug counselor, but says "It's something in that realm. It could also be that I'm involved in some kind of ministry. But I hope to get my own place and would just love to go to school and be where God needs me."

Happy *from other side*

"really genuine people sharing their lives with me, sharing the Lord, what the Lord had gotten them through. And they were being honest. They weren't telling me, 'Oh life is just great, it's just sunshine and flowers.' They were sharing with me the deep deep struggles they were going through, but with the joy and peace in their hearts that Jesus has gotten them through this and continues to do so. The Lord worked in their lives." That was when Vanessa said, "Okay, I want this, too. That's when I gave my life to the Lord and was willing to have a change of heart and a real desire to get to know God and learn everything I could about Him. I'm still learning each day."

Having graduated in May, Mike and Michele asked her to stay as a house manager and Vanessa is ready to take on that leadership role as well as working full time since she began the Worker's Phase at the Second Chance stores as customer relations/administration support.

Vanessa wants to encourage others to come to The Bridge knowing that some might have the same feelings she had but that the people she's met and experienced mean a lot to her. "They are genuine people who sincerely want to help and encourage you. They want to see you succeed and ask for help."



Over 30 years, the Yellow Brick Road Benefit Shops have donated more than \$6 million to Monterey County nonprofits, including The Bridge. To help continue this philanthropy, they need more volunteers. Please call (831) 626-8480 or visit www.YellowBrickRoadBenefitShop.org.

Second Chance Thrift Store



A Ministry of **The Bridge**
LIFE RESTORED

105 Central Ave.
Pacific Grove
831-717-4479

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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, happy shopping!

13th Annual Fundraising Dinner
Going Home
The Bridge LIFE RESTORED
FAITH • FAMILY • COMMUNITY

Home
Next Exit

Friday, October 18, 2019

Register Online → TBRM.org/banquet

Calvary Monterey Monterey, CA
3001 Salinas-Monterey Highway
Reception & Raffle begin at 5:30pm
We'll see you there!

The Bridge
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