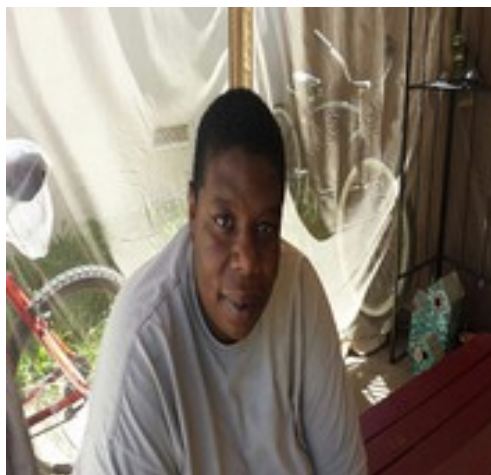




House of Miracles

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Larita Miller A.K.A. Zion

"I was born Oct. 29, 1982 in Los Angeles, California. When I was 5 years old I moved to St. Louis, Missouri with my godmother and her daughter. I had a good upbringing and my godmother worked two jobs to support us. I graduated from Lafayette High School at the age of 18. I enrolled at Florissant Valley College and completed one and a half years while working part time at McDonalds and a local motel. I moved out of my godmother's home at the age of 21. The influences of the street caught hold of me and I started selling and using drugs. My life was consumed for approximately five to six years before I realized I needed a way out. I began to save my money so I could purchase a bus ticket and return to California.

I spent two years being homeless in Santa Barbara, had several encounters with law enforcement and spent six months in jail. The Restorative Policing team referred me to WillBridge. I have been inside for a year and working my program. Today I am in a healthy, happy living environment. In April WillBridge hired me as the Resident Manager for the Mission Street House. Sept. 2014 I plan to continue my college education in Web Design."

7th Annual Inter-Faith Homeless Foot Washing



It was a clear warm morning with a slight ocean breeze blowing as veteran volunteers were in motion setting up for the event. As the van rolled up an assembly line appeared rushing 335 pairs of sneakers/hiking boots to the stage for distribution. New volunteers received on the job training and quickly fell in line with the routine of the day. One hundred and eighty five clients lined up outside of the Veterans Memorial Building anxiously waiting for registration to begin. The energy in the air was that of excitement and anticipation for the days events. The rustling of lunch bags could be heard as they were being filled with: chips, cookies, hotdogs, fruit, a granola bar and water. The Community Resource Center was in action in the courtyard with local social services and government agencies ready to assist clients with their specific needs.

A special **THANK YOU** to all the Volunteers, Private Donors, The Raintree Foundation, local Churches & Businesses - Your support and financial contribution was the foundation for the success of the event.



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Shout Out to Amazing Youth



The sock drive is a great way to help local people in need
Harry

I really liked doing the sock drive because I LOVE helping people in need. I hope we can do it again next year.
Rosy

It felt good giving socks to the homeless because I know they really need the, because when I have volunteered before I have talked to them & they have said that they need socks —
Tommy



Crane Day School 6th Grade

The sock drive was really fun to do & it was awesome because we helped a lot of people get socks. After we saw how many socks we collected, it felt really good to know we were helping a lot of people - Olivia

I think the socks drive will help a lot of people & now they won't have cold feet
Katie

Doing the sock drive felt good because we were helping other people. I felt like we were making a difference & starting a change
Khadim

Marymount of Santa Barbara

Muffins were being cut, orange juice poured, serving trays prepared, and 8 tables set. The amazing 4 (Elizabeth, Leila, Emilee & Erynn), along with parents Christy and Jill, zigzagged through the table and chairs with ease serving the homeless guest of the day. Their beautiful smiles and gentle spirits let each person know they were special as soft chatter and laughter filled the room.

I felt a sense of love and compassion coming from the people who helped and volunteered at this event. When helping I couldn't think of anything or anybody else that would be more important than the people coming in and being so grateful for what they were receiving. I usually have a lot of things to think about and to do to help myself, but taking time to devote even just an hour to help others and not think of myself was a heartwarming and humbling experience. I have never felt more welcomed by the volunteers and more gratitude from people. Leaving that day I wanted to stay longer and help more, but leaving also put everything into perspective, it made me see all the people working together and everybody helping each other. It was an overwhelming feeling of compassion, and it's an experience I will never forget. - Emilee Escamilla



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