

Welcome to the Celebration of God's Provisions at the Rescue Mission of El Paso

Thank you for joining us in giving thanks to God for the resources God has provided to complete this building. When we started construction on February 12, 2010, we had about \$250,000 in the bank to pay for projected construction costs of \$1,800,000. Our Board concluded that if the vision we had of providing better accommodations of the poor was from God, then God would provide the funds to make that vision a reality.

The \$250,000 that we did have came from the estates of two of God's saints who left their worldly possessions to help people in need at the Rescue Mission. Since the typical month at the Rescue Mission has more needs than available supplies, we had no other financial reserves and no history of ever having raised the amount of money needed.

We had hopes of receiving a grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank ("FHLB") since they advertised that they wanted to support permanent, supportive housing programs for the poor. The second floor of our project meets their definition of permanent, supportive housing. The FHLB accepts grant applications only at designated times each year. I had previously applied twice for a grant from the FHLB and had been rejected both times. I applied again in April of 2010 knowing that if we were rejected again, it would be another 12 months before we could reapply and knowing that there was no other grant source which could make up the funding gap. In short, the project would have been put on ice for a full year if we were rejected again.

In July 2010, the FHLB notified us that we were awarded \$420,000 toward the second floor construction. But, before we could access that money, we were required to spend \$330,000 of our own money on the second floor and we had to find a bank which would be willing to give us a construction loan of \$250,000. Since we had banking relations with four different banks in El Paso, I didn't think the loan would be much of a problem. But, now we were in the midst of the Great Recession. I called every banker I knew and was turned away by each one. Then a friend from Coronado Baptist Church suggested I contact City Bank Texas and he set up a meeting for me with Bob Kotarski, its president. After having been through the process several times, I already had my two-inch stack of paper ready for him. Bob took two weeks to study the paper stack and then notified me that our loan request was approved. The \$250,000 loan was actually worth \$670,000 because without the loan approval, the FHLB would have withdrawn its grant.

Just this week I received a bill from our plumber for work they have provided on the second floor. Once that bill is paid, we will have fulfilled our obligation to spend \$330,000 of funds that we have raised on the second floor and the next \$420,000 in second floor construction will come from the FHLB!!!

Where are we now? The first floor is almost completed. The two large rooms on the first floor will house our guests who need medical attention. In a typical year almost 100 people will arrive at the Rescue Mission who have just been discharged from a hospital. Some of these people are under

hospice care and their last days on earth will be spent at the Rescue Mission. In the past many of these patients had to stay in our crowded dormitories as there was no other space available.

Once the first floor bathrooms are operational, we will move the people in the over-crowded men's dormitory to the new medical areas and then we can continue the second floor expansion over the existing building. While it would have been more economical to have bull-dozed the existing building and started from scratch, that would have meant evicting close to one hundred guests who had no place else to go. So we decided to build around our guests. Now we need to move our guests to the new section because we cannot allow anyone to be living underneath the new construction.

When it is all finished we will have a medical unit with 15 beds and a doctor's examination room. The existing bathroom of the men's dormitory will be razed and a new bathroom will be built which is 4 times the size of the existing bath. The current men's bath was constructed in 1985 at a time when we might have 20-30 men in the men's dormitory. With the current crowded conditions, our guest to toilet ratio is 30:1. The new facilities will reduce the ratio to 5:1 when the dorm is full.

The first floor also includes a new laundry facility. Currently the men must schedule a time to do their laundry and all the washing machines are on the women's side of the Mission. We have 2 washers and 2 dryers for all the laundry needs of our guests. The new expansion will increase that number to 12 washers and 12 dryers.

As you enter the second floor, you will walk into a large family room which will be 20' x 40'. This space will provide a meeting area for Bible studies, AA meetings, and arts and crafts sessions.

The second floor living area is surrounded by a series of apartments. The structure is very similar to a college dorm except the rooms are larger and are built for just one person. A large bathroom is just a few steps down the hall. The single rooms will rent for \$395 per month and that price will include all utilities and food. A few double-occupancy rooms will be available and they will rent for \$250 per person. The only restriction that the FHLB has placed on our use of the property is that all residents must have an annual income of less than \$16,800. The apartments will house a total of 36 residents.

The far end of the second floor which will be over the first floor main entrance to the Mission will provide housing for families. The rooms will be larger and bathrooms will be built within the rooms.

When it is finished the Rescue Mission will have 200 beds and an additional 18,400 square-feet of living space which means we can share the love of Jesus with more people in need.

How Can You Help Now?

We still need money for the renovation of the old men's dormitory. It will be cleaned out to the bare walls and the old bathroom removed. All new windows will be installed and the walls will be insulated for the new refrigerated air system which will require new ductwork. The cost of the renovation of the men's dorm will be \$180,000.

With your help, it will be completed on schedule.

Also, we need to furnish all the rooms.

Here is a list of items you may wish to sponsor:

Bunk bed	\$ 695
Single bed	245
4 drawer chest	295
Armoire	325
Bedside table	145
Oak chair	125
Twin mattress	<u>95</u>
Total	\$1,925

Or you can sponsor an entire room for \$15,000 and we will put your name on the door!