

*"And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love.
Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." — 1 John 4:16*

Tuesday Night News:

We love everyone who comes to La Mesa. Some have been coming for many years while others may be visiting for the first time. Everyone is welcome at La Mesa!

Each week, between 10-25% of the people are experiencing La Mesa for the first time. It is such a joy each week to see the many new faces! We have had some new cooks serving, praise Jesus for bring more laborers to the harvest! We have some newer guests wanting to help serve in other ways. Others are just coming to check it out. Regardless of the reason, we are always glad to see you!

No matter how many times you have been or if it is your first time, we hope you experience the love of Jesus in this place and feel welcome. He is connecting us all and providing ways for us to gather together. He tells us in **Matthew 25:35** "*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*" We pray that everyone would feel and share the love of Jesus at La Mesa!!



Rising Costs and Homelessness

Rising food prices along with rising gas prices and everything in between has gotten everyone's attention especially those who are homeless or near homeless. Requests come in daily to La Mesa from individuals looking for help. Even the large service providers are contacting La Mesa to see if we have any solutions for their clients. More and more people are living in their vehicle as their once \$650 a month rent payment is now \$1000 per month and beyond what they can afford. Large families are struggling to stay together looking for any assistance to make it another month. Many landlords are no longer accepting Section 8 or VASH (veteran) vouchers so they can charge more per month which is higher than what the government is paying. Apartments are going up everywhere but none of them are affordable for the low-income families.

Finding an affordable place to live is next to impossible. La Mesa Ministries is doing all we can to help those who are struggling. We offer financial management classes to assist those with security deposits and furniture. We offer help in finding shelter and a safe place to stay. We provide housing searches for those who don't have the ability to search on their own. We even drive individuals around looking for affordable housing. The average cost of a 1-bedroom apartment in Phoenix and Mesa is \$1435. That means in order to qualify the tenant needs to earn at least 2.5 times the monthly rate which comes out to \$20.73 per hour. Those making minimum wage (\$12.80) can only qualify for a monthly payment of \$890 per month. Those apartments unfortunately don't exist or if they do, they are in extreme disrepair. Individuals would be lucky to find a bedroom to rent in someone's home for \$650 per month. The homeless and working poor are in a crisis when it comes to housing. So why are we telling you all this information?

La Mesa wants you to know that we can't just sit by and do nothing. La Mesa Ministries is working on developing a plan to help ease the problem. This is not an overnight solution, and it will take a lot of funding and planning and partners. As we get closer to developing our plan we will be reaching out to the community because community is what can solve homelessness. All of us working together including those we serve to bring about a solution. More details to follow!

HOPE HAPPENS HERE.



**Won't you please
Help Hope Happen Here?**

Support La Mesa with your one-time gift
or a monthly \$34 donation.

Every donation qualifies for an
Arizona State Tax Credit.

Connect LaMesa to your Fry's Food Store card
or your Amazon Smile account.

**Go to our web page at:
www.lamesaministries.org/support-us
to find more information.**



A Look at The LaMesa



FROM THE KITCHEN...

- ✦ March 8:
Lasagna and Dinner Roll, Fruit
- ✦ March 15:
BBQ Beef Sandwiches, Potato Salad,
Veggies, Fruit
- ✦ March 22:
One of Sammie Jo's Specialties, Fruit
- ✦ March 29:
Chicken Tacos, Rice and Beans, Fruit



805 N Country Club Dr, Mesa, AZ 85201
Phone: 602-620-2266
la|mesa ministries
MESSENGER

Office: 480-590-4622

Email: info@lamesaministries.org

Donate at: lamesaministries.org

*Tuesdays Wednesday, and Thursday by appointment from
9am to 2pm. Tuesdays 10am to 6pm.*