

*“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*

# Ministry News

## Relationships Count!

At La Mesa our focus is on relationships. Though we don't focus on numbers too much, there are a few interesting numbers we track and wanted to share!

- ✓ We have gathered together 439 times since we launched in 2014!
- ✓ We have served over 56,000 meals between the two locations.
- ✓ Almost 34,000 have attended worship.
- ✓ We have had 33 baptisms.

We love all the ways this ministry reaches people and look forward to continuing to share the love of Jesus with this community!



## **TO DYLAN** **SHOUT OUT!**



**FOR JOINING THE  
PRAISE TEAM IN TEMPE!**

**Did You Know?**

**THAT OUR LONG TERM PLAN  
AT LA MESA IS TO HAVE  
5 LOCATIONS!**



## 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/giving/](http://www.lamesaministries.org/giving/)  
**to find more information.**



# Who Are the People We Work With?

He was an uber driver when we first met him. He was homeless and sleeping in his car. Eventually he lost the car and was on the streets with no income. We helped him get into a shelter but after a few months, and the week before Christmas, they released him because the rooms were no longer available. He has a criminal past, all related to his homelessness. He is bi-polar and struggles constantly with his condition. The courts ruled him mentally unable to appear in court and all his city charges were dismissed. There was an existing charge in the County which prevented him from getting a housing voucher. La Mesa was able to get the charges reduced with a plea deal and he now has a voucher. Places that accept vouchers are hard to find so for the time being he is sleeping in a portable tent shelter provided by La Mesa where he stays in a family member's backyard.

She came to our office with her walker even though she is 81 years old and blind. She is struggling with her blindness and her memory is not treating her well. Her social security income doesn't cover the rent and a family member has to cover the difference. The family member is no longer willing to subsidize the apartment, so she needs to find a new place to live. She needs to be in assisted living, but she has no available health records. La Mesa set up doctor appointments to get a proper diagnosis that can be used for assisted living applications. She needs documents from the social security office and La Mesa is working on that as well. Her daughter lives in New York and she needs a heart transplant and is on kidney dialysis. Her son has an extreme case of Bi-polar and wants nothing to do with his mother. She loves La Mesa, and she tries to donate clothing every week when she comes for our meal.

He grew up in Carefree, Arizona on a ten-acre ranch. The family sold the farm and moved to Kingman, Arizona. There was no work in Kingman so he went back to Carefree and went to work with a framing company building custom homes. He got laid off and lived on unemployment until it was all gone. He started using heroin once he was laid off and ended up on the streets of Phoenix. He keeps himself cloudy with drugs so he doesn't have to deal with the fact that he is homeless. He had been staying sober for the most part when he asked La Mesa to help him get his voucher back that he lost. We made some calls and were successful in getting his voucher reactivated. We tried to reach him to give him the good news but found out he was arrested and was in Maricopa County jail for the last 4 months. He was released last week.

Everyone's story is different, yet La Mesa's commitment remains the same.

## *HOPE HAPPENS HERE!*

### *from the* **KITCHEN...**

- ✦ February 7 - Mesa:  
Breakfast Casserole - Biscuits
- ✦ February 9 - Tempe:  
Beef Tacos, Rice & Beans
- ✦ February 14 - Mesa: TBD  
Chicken Enchiladas, Rice and Beans
- ✦ February 16 - Tempe:  
Sloppy Joes, Veggies & Chips
- ✦ February 21 - Mesa:  
Cowboy Stew
- ✦ February 23 - Tempe: TBD
- ✦ February 28 - Mesa:  
Sammie Jo's Special Surprise
- ✦ March 3 - Tempe: TBD

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**MESSENGER**

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Donate at: [lamesaministries.org/giving/](http://lamesaministries.org/giving/)

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