

# VALLEY RESTART SHELTER NEWSLETTER



## | Feature Story

### What We Choose to See

The other night I decided to watch the 1989 Tim Burton version of Batman starring Michael Keaton. I remember when it first came out. It was like nothing I had ever seen before. Every one of my senses felt alive. From the infamous line, “Wait ‘til they get a load of me,” to the confident strut of Bruce Wayne. I was hooked and my love and fascination for Batman began that day.

When I rewatched it, I expected to have that same feeling. The excitement, the awe of all the “special effects.” What I didn’t anticipate, was the laughter that would escape my lips. The same allure it held for me all those years ago, was not quite there any more. Sure, the infamous line still hit, but I just didn’t see the movie like I once did.

And that got me thinking...

How many times have we looked at something with a certain lens, only to see the same thing completely different, when our point of view changes.

Perspective has a way of doing that.

I see it often in how people view homelessness.

From a distance, it can be easy to form an opinion. To think we understand the situation. We begin to believe the picture in front of us tells the whole story.

But much like that movie I once saw through the eyes of a child, what we see at first glance is rarely the full picture.

Because behind every situation is a story. Behind every assumption is something we may not yet understand.

And sometimes, what needs to change isn’t what we’re looking at.

It’s how we’re choosing to see it.



### EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

#### MAYRA JUAREZ

*Mayra has been with us for over two years now. In those two years, Mayra has consistently shown heart and passion for her job at Valley Restart. We are so honored to have her with us. We couldn’t imagine VRS without her!*

### Looking for Sponsors

Promote your business and support a great cause—purchase ad space in our Comedy for a Cause program! See last page for details.



Diana Gathercole-Hagy  
Executive Director



Monthly Highlights

# Easter Egg-stravaganza Celebration



Following our Easter traditions was an amazing experience for the children and residents at Valley Restart Shelter. This year, our donors and volunteers truly came through once again. The staff and I are incredibly grateful for your generosity—because of you, these events are possible. We would like to extend a special thank you to:

- Delmy Villarreal for donating two wonderful piñatas
- Carol for the baskets filled with chocolates and candies
- Cynthia's Sweet Treats for the beautiful box baskets
- Hemet Christian Assembly for the make-up and baskets with toys
- Hemet Rotary for your generous contributions
- Claudia Madrigal for the goodie bags
- Four Seasons Women's Group for the baskets, toys, and candy.

## Without YOU, there's no US!

## Stay in Touch

- \* @ValleyRestart
- ✉ valleyrestartshelter@gmail.com
- ☎ (951) 766-7476
- 📍 200 E. Menlo Avenue

*“Together, small steps create big change.”*

\* [www.ValleyRestartShelter.org](http://www.ValleyRestartShelter.org)

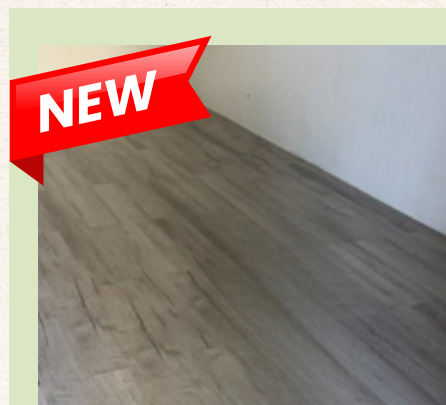
A heartfelt thank you also goes out to our church providers for bringing treats to our residents throughout the week.

The children and families enjoyed an exciting egg hunt, delicious nachos, and a joyful time together. Planning these events is so rewarding—there's nothing like seeing families come together to color eggs share treats, and create lasting memories.

Each event is thoughtfully planned to create meaningful holiday experiences that our residents can cherish as they transition into permanent housing. Words cannot fully express our appreciation to everyone who helped make this holiday so special.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or donating to future events, please feel free to reach out: [dkraus@valleyrestartshelter.org](mailto:dkraus@valleyrestartshelter.org)

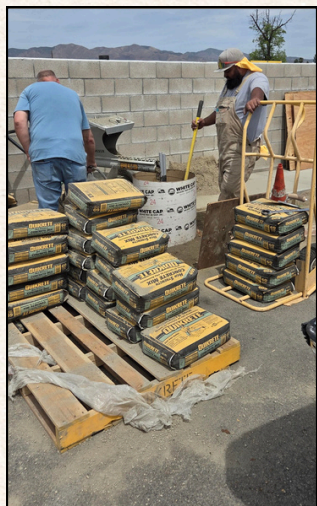
Written by: Diana Kraus



*A HUGE thank you to YouthBuild for all your hard work. This month they installed new flooring, last month they repainted several rooms. Your hard work has been MUCH appreciated!*



# Excuse Our Mess While We Grow...



You may have noticed that things have looked a little different around our campus lately—and that’s because we’ve been busy building something important.

Right now, we are in the process of expanding our site to include six new pallet shelters, creating space for 12 additional beds dedicated to seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities.

While construction can look a little messy from the outside, what’s happening beneath it is something meaningful. Every trench dug, every line connected, every step forward is part of creating a place where more people will have safety, stability, and a chance to rebuild.

It may look like construction. Dust. Wires. Disruption. But what we see is something else entirely. We see opportunity. We see restoration. We see 12 more lives that will have a chance to restart. Growth isn’t always clean—but it is always worth it.

Diana Hagy

## One Small Step For Progress, One Giant Leap For Valley Restart

This month, we took a meaningful step forward as we broke ground on our transitional housing project.

What may look like a simple moment—a shovel in the dirt—is actually the beginning of something life-changing. Each trailer represents more than housing. It represents stability, dignity, and a chance for someone to move forward.

Pictured is Bruce taking that first dig with our golden shovel, symbolizing the start of a new chapter—not just for our organization, but for the lives that will be changed through this project.

We’re not just breaking ground—we’re building hope.

Diana Hagy



# Celebrating Earth Day



Dear Reader,

This April has been filled with meaningful and hands-on activities for our residents and children at Valley Restart Shelter. On April 15th and 22nd, families came together to paint pottery and decorative stones, creating beautiful pieces that reflect creativity and care for the environment. Following these activities, we planted seeds in honor of Earth Day, reminding everyone of the importance of growth, sustainability, and nurturing our planet.

It was a day full of engaging experiences that encouraged both children and adults to become more conscious of their role in protecting the Earth. Through these activities, we emphasized that we all share one planet, and each of us has the responsibility to contribute to its well-being.

As a shelter, we are committed to doing our part. Once a month, a volunteer collects the cans and takes them to a recycling center where they are redeemed. In addition, we promote clothing recycling to reduce waste and support sustainability efforts.

Looking ahead, we are excited about future initiatives, including the potential installation of solar panels and electric charging stations, as we continue working toward a greener and more environmentally responsible community.

Together, we are planting the seeds for a brighter, more sustainable future.

Written by: Diana Kraus



# My Story



My name is Katrina. I'm a mom to three girls. I'm writing to tell you a little about myself and the new beginnings that are coming my way.

Before I came to Valley Restart, I was in a home with my little family. We were happy and so forth, then one day in June 2025, all that came to an end and we became homeless. We stayed in three motels until we couldn't afford it anymore. I came to sign up for the shelter, to be added to the waiting list, and got interviewed the same day.

I came in the shelter on November 24, 2025. Since I've been here, I have learned how to budget my money, start a savings account, become independent again, work on getting into a place, and am currently working on getting my driver's license.

When we came to Valley Restart, my children were doing online schooling, now they are in person and receiving awards, becoming independent and achieving much in classes. My littlest one learned how to feed herself, become independent, learn how to say some stuff, and come out of her shell.

My caseworker Diana K. has helped me a lot with setting goals, along with the other caseworker they have here. Her name is Claudia. The staff here are helpful as well. If you have any questions, then you have Bruce who makes sure things get taken care of and makes sure things get solved. The rest of the staff that work in the office like Tina, are very respectful. Then you have the main boss, Diana H., who is caring and will make sure you are okay. She will give you some amazing advice and will go out of her way to get you things you need if you don't have it or if they don't have it. They all have helped me and my girls with anything and everything they can.

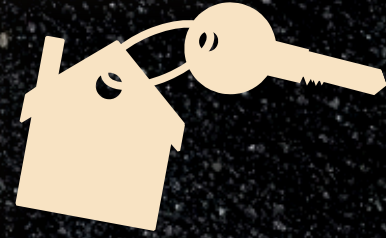
Valley Restart isn't just a shelter, it is also like a program that helps you get back on your feet. From showing you how to be independent again, to helping you look for a job and getting one. They also help with housing and getting you situated into the place you get to call home. I also can't forget to mention Thomas, Corina, and Mayra, who I was able to work with in getting into my new home for me and my girls.

I am very grateful for Valley Restart because of them. I get to move forward with my life and not worry about being homeless. My girls and I were able to reconnect our relationship with God and also able to get baptized and my two little ones got dedicated to the church. So many more things we were able to do that we weren't able to do. Thank you Valley Restart for helping me get back on my feet and be a better mom to my girls along with showing this it is okay to ask for help when we need it. This is the best place to be if you are needing a place to stay and willing to get the help you need to become independent again.

Thank you again Valley Restart. I hope you like my story and this encourages anyone who is willing to take a chance and willing to get the help to take back your life. Again, remember it's okay to ask for help and accept it.

VALLEY RESTART SHELTER PRESENTS...

# COMEDY FOR A CAUSE



SUPPORTING FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESS IN THE HEMET-SAN JACINTO VALLEY

HEADLINER-  
**JUSTIN FOX**

FEATURING:  
**GUEST TBA**



SPECIAL MUSICAL GUEST-  
**JESSICA SYLK**



TICKETS - LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE  
RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE + SURPRISE DOOR  
PRIZES THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT

**\$60** V.I.P. TICKETS  
(INCLUDES DINNER, DRINKS, & VALET PARKING)

**\$30** GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS

JUNE 5, 2026  
7:00 - 9:00 PM

200 E MENLO AVE.  
HEMET, CA 92543

SCAN  
FOR  
TICKETS



**PACKAGE 1**

**\$200**

Quarter page sponsorship

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT**

**PACKAGE 2**

**\$500**

Half page sponsorship

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT**

**PACKAGE 3**

**\$1000**

Full page sponsorship

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT**