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## **Mothers & Babies are Homeless Too**

Nicole, a homeless mother, and her son have hope this Mother's Day

**San Diego, Calif.** -- Like many San Diego moms, Nicole is looking forward to Mother's Day when she will enjoy a special meal and extra time with her son, Andrew. The San Diego native will be in the company of her "family" – other homeless mothers and children at St. Vincent de Paul Village who, like Nicole, are working to regain their lives.

Articulate and focused, Nicole, a bright-eyed 36-year-old blonde, came to St. Vincent de Paul Village in June 2007 to break the cycle of addiction and homelessness. At the Village she is able to work through Father Joe Carroll's unique programs at "The University of the Human Spirit" while her son is nurtured in Children's Services.

"Through Recovery Services at the Village it was a turning point for me when I admitted my powerlessness over my addiction," Nicole says. "I freed myself to focus all that attention to areas where I did have control. I invested more energy into taking care of myself. I started to take responsibility for my own well-being as well as responsibility for my son, Andrew. The bond that we have has made me a stronger person," she says.

"I am empowered when I look inside myself today," Nicole says. "I like to ask myself, 'What do I think? What do I feel? What are my options?' With these three questions I'm figuring out what is true for me."

Since coming to the Village Nicole has become actively involved in the program as a member of the Village Council, a Chore Monitor, and she participates in the choir. Nicole looks forward to the future and expects to spend another two years at the Village working through Father Joe Carroll's life changing programs before moving in to her own place.

While Nicole focuses on regaining her life, her 3-year-old son Andrew is cared for in Children's Services. He receives an array of vital services including medical and dental care, licensed childcare, therapy, and participation Project SAFECHILD – an early intervention program for families of children under the age of 5.

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Father Joe's Villages® is a San Diego-based nonprofit that helps homeless neighbors in need regain their lives through a unique life-changing program that is nationally recognized and modeled for its effectiveness. Our groundbreaking approach to rehabilitation, known as the "University of the Human Spirit," addresses the underlying causes of homelessness to break the cycle and help thousands of people become responsible, self-sufficient, productive citizens and pass their newfound independence and life skills on to their children and families. When we help one person, we help generations of families and communities.

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