

Save the Date:

- TODAY: Payday
- June: National PTSD Awareness Month
- June 26: International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- June 27: National PTSD Awareness Day
- July 4: Holiday
- July 11: Payday

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Heartland Express

June 27, 2014

Detox client helping homeless

Just two years ago, Joey G. was homeless, addicted to alcohol, scared and alone.

"It got bad, really bad," Joey says telling story after story of seizures, uncontrollable bleeding, temporary paralysis and frequent hospitalizations.

"I was either going to die or something was going to change," he says.

Fortunately, change was on its way ... in the form of Kar Woo or "Mr. Woo" as he's known around town.

Woo, president of the local nonprofit Artists Helping the Homeless, had been called by a local hospital to pick up Joey and take him to treatment.

Woo drove him to Heartland Center's Medically Monitored Inpatient Detoxification program,



Joey G. at work with Artists Helping the Homeless

where Joey was able to withdraw from alcohol safely ... and finally.

Joey credits Heartland Center, Mr. Woo and Alcoholics Anonymous' 12 Steps with saving his life. Mr. Woo also helped him find his calling.

Joey first started out as a volunteer for Artists Helping the Homeless and now works full-time for the group, which receives about 200 calls each day requesting aid for our community's homeless. Joey G. and his "Be the Change" van drive homeless men and women to treatment

programs, meetings with parole officers, doctor's appointments and more.

And on those drives, Joey tells his story.

"When we share our

testimonies with people, we have the ability to change people's lives," says Joey. "It's not about me anymore. My purpose is to be of maximum service to God and everyone around me."

"Sobriety has given me a brand new life," Joey adds. "People trust me now. Mr. Woo gave me a company credit card ... My mom gave me the garage code and said you're welcome here anytime. I was asked to be the best man at my brother's wedding. Those are the miracles of sobriety."