

Country star performs at homeless shelters



<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/columnists/story/2022-07-28/steve-cade-tour-country-music-homeless-shelter>

1/12

7/28/22, 11:14 AM In between performing at a country club and Petco Park, Nashville artist sings at a homeless shelter - The San Diego Union-Trib...
Nashville singer Steven Cade entertained residents of San Diego Rescue Mission on July 25 on his 2021-22 Giving Guitars tour. (Courtesy photo)

BY DIANE BELL | COLUMNIST

JULY 28, 2022 5:30 AM PT



Country singer Steven Cade performed the national anthem for opening day of the races in Del Mar last Friday, and he'll sing it again to kick off the Padres game on Aug. 2.

In between, the country singer and past winner of the Durango Songwriters Expo has pursued his passion of singing to the homeless. He put on a free concert for residents of the San Diego Rescue Mission.

You see, Cade once was homeless. It was after the Carlsbad High graduate and his wife, Kellee, and their two kids moved about four years ago from San Diego to Nashville, Tenn., to be closer to the heart of country music.

The homelessness was brief. While he got on his feet and scraped together enough money for rent, his family relied on the kindness of others and took refuge on the sofas of people who took them in.

"It is the worst feeling in the world when you're a dad and don't have the means to support your family," he says.

Although his family was without a home for only about two months, it was enough to open a window in his heart to the world of homelessness. He shares his story when he visits shelters.

"We've been there," he says, "and you can bounce back, and you can achieve and do great things." He is living proof.

Cade has written multiple songs, won four San Diego Music Awards, has toured the country and has opened for or been featured with such artists as Carrie Underwood, Eric Church, Darius Rucker, Frankie Ballard and Shania Twain.

His modern country song "The Best Thing" is nominated for a 2022 Josie Music Award at the Grand Ole Opry ceremony on Oct. 23, and he has been nominated in the artist category.

The songwriter spent his early life in Houston, Texas, growing up near Mickey Gilley's honkytonk bar, the birthplace of "Urban Cowboy." His music took on a distinctive style that infuses traditional country with elements of pop and rock.

"We don't often have a celebrity performing," says Karen Moyer, San Diego Rescue Mission's marketing director. "He was so genuine in the way he tells his story ... He encouraged them."

People experiencing homelessness often feel like they don't matter, explained mission CEO Donnie Dee. "One of the ways for them to feel seen and heard is when musical artists such as Steven take the time to visit and entertain them. It shows them that people do care."

Cade had contacted the shelter after giving a concert at a country club in Lomas Santa Fe on July 21. He asked if he could drop by Monday morning to sing some songs after breakfast

But Cade did more than perform. He gave the center a Taylor GS Mini guitar and directed them to a YouTube instructional video he had recorded on how to play it.

Moyer says Cade's listeners were moving to the music, clapping and drawn in by his friendly, easy-going manner. One fellow confided to Cade that he, too, had been a musician with Nashville connections.

"We use music as healing therapy here at the mission," Moyer explained.

That is Cade's goal, too. "I want to inspire the homeless to pick up a guitar. Music can help people and distract them from the challenges they face in life."

He released a song, "Better Me," in January about walking miles in different shoes trying to be a "better me."

Cade has been a director of music in several churches over the years, including The Village Community Presbyterian Church in Rancho Santa Fe, Grace Point Church in Carmel Valley, Legacy Church in Tierrasanta and Coastline Church in Carlsbad. But the music he writes for release isn't Christian music — rather, it's what he describes as modern country with a message that connects with basic human needs.

No matter what they do, people — athletes, authors, architects, carpenters, social media influencers, entertainers — need to stop chasing a dollar and think about how to help their communities on a consistent basis, he says.

"They need to use their platform and influence to raise awareness. Time is the most precious resource you can give."

Entrepreneur and philanthropist Brent Yates helped inspire Cade to embark on his Giving Guitars tour and helped sponsor it.

Yates wrote a soon-to-be-published autobiography, "Gravity of Up: Unlocking Your Potential So No One Can Hold You Down," and he motivated Cade to think about how to use his life experiences to help others.

Cade calls the 54 shelters he has visited so far only the beginning of a nationwide effort. He knows of 11,000 homeless centers in the United States. "I don't know if I can do them all, but I will try. I have the passion for it."

Meanwhile, he has performances with a full band slated for other audiences at 9:30 p.m. Friday at Moonshine Beach, 1165 Garnet Ave., and 10 p.m. Saturday at Moonshine Flats, 344 7th Ave. downtown.

HOME

CONTACT

DONATE

PRESS

TEAM

MISSION

TESTIMONIALS

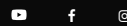
More

GIVE TO INSPIRE

Steven Cade and his family travel to homeless shelters across the United States of America, giving guitars to people in need. "Music is a gift from God, and using these instruments to inspire is what we are setting out to do." -Steven Cade

"I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " -Acts 20:35. NKJ

stevencade.com



Social Media Links
For Steven Cade



© 2024 Instruments for Inspiration All Rights Reserved.