

# CROSSROADS

Los Angeles  
**MISSION**  
The Crossroads of Hope

April 2009

[www.losangelesmission.org](http://www.losangelesmission.org)

## It's Not Too Late to Help...

### Annual Easter Dinner Just Days Away!

**W**e are just days away from our **Annual Easter Dinner**. **Thousands** of hungry and homeless men, women and children will come to **celebrate Easter** with us. **You can help** make this an Easter to remember here on Skid Row! **Hope** begins with a meal! **Just \$1.86 helps provide** a nutritious, **hot meal** for a hungry person. Visit our website at [www.losangelesmission.org](http://www.losangelesmission.org) to make a gift online.



**HOPE  
HEALS  
2009**

*Easter Dinner*

# Changing Dance Partners

Read how **David Valle's** life and behavior has been transformed and how he found the **self-discipline** and **responsibility** that had been lacking from **his** life.

**B**efore I came to the Los Angeles Mission, my life was an example of irresponsibility; as a father, as a husband and as a grown man. Things were quite simply out of control. My children refused to speak to me and my wife finally asked me to leave because of my cocaine addiction. Everything collapsed like a stack of dominoes. I had been dancing with the devil for years, but the party was coming to an end.

My sister allowed me to live with her for a while, but I continued in my addiction and started selling as well as using drugs. My sister told me that I had a choice; I could sleep in my car or she would assist me in getting into a program that she knew about. That program was the Fresh Start Program at the Los Angeles Mission.



David upon arriving at the Los Angeles Mission

I agreed to go to church with her the next Sunday where I met Tim Law, the Executive Director of Men's Ministry at the Mission. He encouraged me to come down and check it out and see if I was interested. The following week, I came to the Mission and decided that this was the place I could find help.

After only three weeks, I found a relationship with Christ and haven't been the same since. There was no doubt in my mind that I would finish the program, even though I had never completed anything in my life. I learned about self-discipline and about responsibility,

two of the biggest things that were missing in my life. After finishing the program, I am now looking forward to attending Bible School and learning more about the God who saved me.

I will be eternally grateful to the Los Angeles Mission for providing the program that changed my life and I am also grateful to all of you who are reading this that donate to the Mission. You don't even know me but you gave me the opportunity dance again; this time, not with the devil, but with my Lord and Savior. God bless you.



David upon completing the Fresh Start Program at the Los Angeles Mission

# Perpetuating Your Philanthropy



Los Angeles  
**Mission**  
The Crossroads of Hope

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Tax ID# 95-3134049



our generosity is critical to the work we do. We derive 76% of our total revenues from families and individuals like you. Thanks to you, we can effectively address many of the needs of Skid Row. And when we receive funds from bequests, it is invariably when we need them the most. They again remind us that our loving God is in control and meets our every daily need.

Where do these bequests come from – and are there people who are thinking about naming us in their will but “never get around to it.” Statistics tell us that many donors die without remembering the organizations they cared about during their lifetimes. According to recent surveys, 60% of Americans die without a will, and 20% of those who have a will have not updated them. When we lose donors, we lose ground. Instead of widening the support we receive, we are compelled to spend time and resources replenishing our base.

Our hope is that you prepare your estate plan using a basic will or living trust, provide security for your heirs, and then consider remembering the Los Angeles Mission. We plan to be here for generations to come. And, unfortunately, the issues we face will not go away, any more than poverty will be totally eliminated. Your support will help us to remain strong and viable.

A simple statement in your will or trust is enough. "I leave the Los Angeles Mission the sum of \$ (Fixed amount)" or "I leave the Los Angeles Mission (Named percentage)% of my adjusted gross estate." Tell us if you want your gift to be used in a specific program or for a specific purpose...or if you want your gift preserved through our endowment. We'll use the income from your gift to fund our overall programs.

If you have been giving us \$500 a year, a gift through your will of \$10,000 should generate \$500 a year for-

ever! And don't forget, we can accept and use old and unneeded life insurance policies, excess IRA and company retirement accounts, and annuities and securities. Perpetuate your philanthropy through your estate planning. For more information, contact our **Planned Giving Department**, at **(213) 629-1227, ext. 421**. You can also request information through our web site at **www.losangelesmission.org**.



The information in this article is believed to be accurate and is provided for general informational purposes only. The Los Angeles Mission is not engaged in rendering legal or tax advice. The application of any laws discussed herein may vary from state to state. Consultation with independent counsel is recommended for individual applications.

# Communication

# Options

**A**s you know, our constant mission is *“to provide hope and opportunity to men, women and children in Los Angeles through meeting their spiritual, physical, educational and social rehabilitation needs.”* We hope you realize how vital you are to us. The success of our ministry depends largely on your support, and we’re committed to using each and every dollar you send in the most efficient way. If you would like to make an adjustment in the way we communicate with you, just go to our website, **[www.losangelesmission.org](http://www.losangelesmission.org)**, and indicate your preferences. Your feedback is welcome, and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

If you prefer to contact us more directly, you may call **(323) HOMELESS**, or send us your email message at **[nmora@lamission.net](mailto:nmora@lamission.net)**.

We also invite you to volunteer at the Mission or schedule a tour in order to see firsthand how your support is having a direct and profound impact on individuals’ lives.

*Thank you, and God bless.*

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## Make A Difference In Hurting Lives!



Los Angeles  
**MISSION**  
The Crossroads of Hope

For information or questions please call the **Los Angeles Mission** at **(213) 629-1227** and select from the options below:

How to become a volunteer: **Ext. 301**

How to make a financial gift: **Ext. 334**

To make a gift-in-kind donation: **(323) 981-7171**

To arrange for a large gift-in-kind donation pick-up: **(323) 981-7171**

Inquiries regarding mailing list and donor relations: **Ext. 334**

Information about the Urban Training Institute: **Ext. 387**

Information about the Anne Douglas Center: **Ext. 522**

To make a monetary donation online, visit our website at **[www.losangelesmission.org](http://www.losangelesmission.org)**

# Go Skid Row!

W

e were surprised and pleased to learn that the Los Angeles Mission Learning Center has the highest GED success rate of all the service providers that **Belmont Learning Center** works with across Los Angeles! We were also recognized for our work with foreign language students.

Our hats are off to all those who worked so diligently to teach and learn. Ending homelessness requires a job. This is a crucial component in the endeavor to end homelessness. **Go Skid Row!** Bet you never expected to hear that as a cheer!

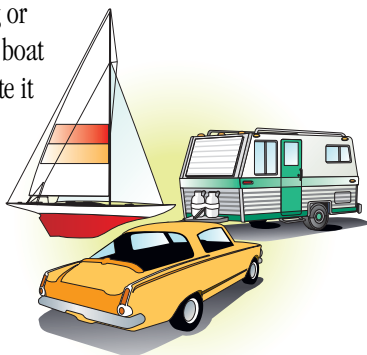
Our **Hope Heals 2009** campaign will be bringing you more updates on the skid row you didn't know. Stay tuned.



## Did You Know?... Your Old Car Could Make A Valuable Difference!

**A**re you thinking of selling or trading in your old car, boat or RV? Why not donate it instead? As a charitable donation, your contribution will make a **valuable difference** to the Los Angeles Mission!

Call **1-888-452-5700** today and make sure you check with your tax adviser about the benefits an auto donation can represent for you ... **and, of course, be sure to specify that you want the net proceeds of your gift to benefit the Los Angeles Mission.**



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The Los Angeles Mission is proud to be a member of the following organizations:

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A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.



# Speech Pathology Services

**What does it take to mend a life that's been shattered to the core?  
Certainly more than an occasional meal, more than a ticket to a bed for  
the night, more than the crevice in which you abide, and thus hide...**

**M**y profession is that of a speech-language pathologist. As such I seek to help individuals with disorders of motor speech, voice, hearing, language (reading, writing, listening, verbal expression) memory, cognition, and swallowing disorders. Communication is what makes us unique, allows us to learn, paints our personalities, defines our relationships, characterizes our views, documents our history, and basically allows us to interact on this planet. Disturbances in that communication process can inhibit intellectual growth, cause cessation of professional skills, and destroy the one thing that makes you uniquely human: the ability to compose and express thought.

I am an assistant professor in the Communication Disorders Department at California State University, Long Beach. In 2007 I was asked by Anne Douglas to help her husband Kirk with his speech. I considered it a privilege to assist this courageous man and assumed the responsibility readily. Little did I know where this would lead me. I was asked to attend a luncheon in October honoring Anne Douglas and her work in the area of substance abuse. It was at this luncheon I met Pastor Tina Babcock and Barbara Reardon of the Anne Douglas Center. They asked me to come and tour the facility which I did, and before I knew it I had gone through orientation and become a dedicated volunteer!

My grandfather was an unsuccessful client of the Los Angeles Mission for years and eventually died. My extended family has dealt with substance abuse problems. I have led a speech practice group for post substance abuse, head and neck cancer patients for 22 years with the American Cancer Society. This problem is close to my heart.

I am assisting, as a volunteer speech pathologist, both staff and students of the Anne Douglas Center. The problems I see are not addressed in my textbooks, not clearly defined in research papers. They are disorders that come from years of drug and alcohol abuse or traumatic brain injury often unreported and rarely studied. There are also problems with communication acquisition which may have led to the years of abuse out of frustration, anger, humiliation, and degradation. There are disorders which are easily attended to by regular physician and dental care. The bottom line is there is hope and help for these individuals. Students and faculty from CSULB have helped me staff speech and language screenings at the recent Los Angeles Mission End of Summer Block Party, and we hope to have a full student intern program in the future.

I have found that there's no question profound enough for the answers provided at the Anne Douglas Center. There is no view of the human condition broad enough to encompass the expanse of circumstance apparent in women who seek the Anne Douglas Center. There are no words eloquent enough to express the eternal gratitude of those who touch and are touched by the staff and students of the Anne Douglas Center.

**Betty L. McMicken, Ph.D.**

*Retired Professor, CSULA • Assistant Professor, CSULB*

*Department of Communicative Disorders • Cal State University, Long Beach*



*from left to right: Jeannette Allen and Marialice Freeman with Betty L. McMicken, Ph.D.*