

UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteer Orientation:
December 3rd, 9–11 a.m.
Come join us as a volunteer! To register, please visit us online at LosAngelesMission.org/act

Christmas Street Event: December 23rd
It's time for the Christmas spirit on Skid Row! We'll be feeding 3,500 of our closest friends and neighbors and providing gifts for all!



CREATING A LEGACY: Eat Your Greens!

Researchers at Texas A&M University recently found that adults who want their children to eat more greens should remove any other delicious “competition” from their child’s plate. By serving a veggie first and alone, when a child is at their hungriest, they’re more likely to eat the healthy option put before them.

Good parents and grandparents want what’s best for the children they love—from the inside out. This includes physical and emotional health, as well as providing a generational legacy of faith.

Another way you can give your best is by creating an estate plan that will bless your loved ones and the ministries you care about, like Los Angeles Mission.

It can also help to:

Mitigate unnecessary taxation. Certain assets carry higher tax implications than others. Consider leaving lesser taxed items like life insurance for your heirs and retirement assets to a nonprofit organization.

Eliminate potential stress and create peace. An up-to-date will allows you to put your financial house in order. This can help your loved ones avoid unnecessary emotional or relationship strain.



► To request a FREE copy of “The Greatest Gift You Can Give Those You Love”

- 1. Check the box on the enclosed reply card and return it today
- 2. Contact Randy Hess at the Los Angeles Mission at (213) 629-1227, ext. 357, or rhess@lamission.net
- 3. Or, bless your family today with a God-honoring will at www.christianwill.org/lamission

Yes, Herb. I want to provide meals and care this Christmas season to homeless and hurting people living on Skid Row.

I’ve enclosed: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$_____

☐ \$_____ I’d like to help provide Christmas gifts to the hurting teens living on Skid Row. \$20 provides a gift of warm pajamas to a teen attending our Annual Christmas Dinner.

☐ I want to become a Meals a Month partner and give a monthly gift of \$_____. My first gift is enclosed. (Please check the box in the Giving Options section.)

☐ I would like to receive my FREE copy of “The Greatest Gift You Can Give Those You Love.”

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____ APT _____
CITY _____ @ _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
EMAIL _____

Please make your check payable to: Los Angeles Mission and mail to: P.O. Box 60127, Los Angeles, CA 90060-0127 **THANK YOU!**

Change lives this holiday season and beyond

Christmas is a special time at the Mission, but it is also a crucial time.

Our services are stretched to the limits as we help more and more struggling individuals who come into the Mission from the cold and need a hot meal.

That’s why there is no better time to become a Meals a Month partner than the month of December. Help us budget effectively and provide our services for all of 2017 and beyond. Join us today!

► It’s easy to sign up—fill out the form below, or visit us online at LosAngelesMission.org/give. If you prefer, call Nuria Mora at (213) 629-1227, ext. 334. Thank you!



Meals and care
HOW YOUR GIFTS HELP

AUGUST	FISCAL YTD
36,272	65,857
MEALS SERVED	
10,202	20,043
NIGHTS OF SHELTER	
11,169	21,943
CLEAN SHOWERS	
10,266	18,508
CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED [PIECES]	

The Los Angeles Mission exists to provide help, hope and opportunity to men, women and children in need.



Many thanks to American Airlines, City National Bank, Go Country, The Goldwin Foundation, Honda, the Johnny Carson Foundation, LATLC (LA Trial Lawyers’ Charities), Russ Reid and Wells Fargo Bank for sponsoring our 80th Gala.

STAY CONNECTED

Keep track of the latest Mission news, make safe online donations and more.

LosAngelesMission.org



Los Angeles
Mission
The Crossroads of Hope

303 E. 5th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013
losangelesmission.org



On page two
The importance
of December
Our View

News from the Los Angeles Mission

On page three
Bringing Christmas
to Skid Row!
Meals for 3,500 of our neighbors

On page four
Make your
gifts count
Leave a legacy this Christmas

DECEMBER 2016

CROSSROADS

LosAngelesMission.org



Los Angeles
Mission
The Crossroads of Hope



“They took a broken, lost, down-and-out woman and gave me hope, joy, love, God and a better future.”

~LASHONNAE MELTON
ANNE DOUGLAS CENTER GRADUATE

Reviving hope,
restoring the future

Three Mission graduates share their inspiring stories of transformation and healing.

Read how Micheal, Christian and LaShonnae found hope—see inside.

CHANGE LIVES—
PROVIDE MEALS
AND CARE
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON
Learn more on page 4!



Herb Smith
President/CEO

Steve Kennedy
Senior Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

The importance of December

This month is such a vital time of the year at the Mission.

Our services are stretched to the limits so that as many people as possible have hot meals to eat and shelter from the cold weather. And it's also the time of year when we are focused on starting the New Year off right by providing our full range of services to struggling families and individuals in our community.

We depend on all our donors to give the amount God puts on their hearts each year. We simply could not provide the services that make hope and healing possible for thousands of people each year without you!

Your gift, no matter the size and no matter how early or late in December, is so important. We are incredibly grateful for your support that continues to change lives.

Thank you for partnering with us. Merry Christmas and happy New Year!

Did you know?

This year marks 80 years of the Mission transforming lives in Los Angeles. **In our last fiscal year alone, we have served 375,000 meals through your generosity.** Thank you for partnering with us!



Continued from cover

Reviving hope, restoring the future

Feeling the love and giving it back

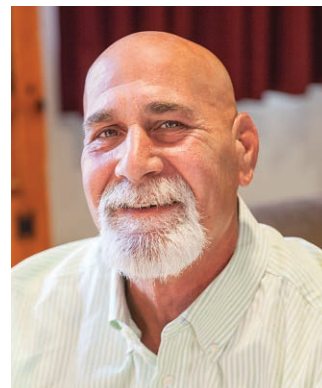
When I got out of prison, the Mission was my only stop. My lawyer volunteers at the Mission, which is why he suggested I come here to get my life back on track.

I felt so much love in the first five minutes of being here; I knew I had to stay.

I have always been a firm believer in Jesus Christ, but I wanted to learn more. The Mission absolutely has that for us here. Now that I've graduated from the program, **I volunteer here and do the landscaping. I want to make it look good for the donors and the volunteers that come here.**

I am currently taking welding certification courses so that I can work at my stepson's welding business. The life I have now would not have been possible without the Mission.

I want to thank all the donors. It gives me goosebumps when I meet them—they have big hearts and are helping people that they probably won't ever meet. Keep doing what you are doing.



“I don't think I could ever repay the Mission for what they've done.”

~MICHEAL BENANTI
MISSION GRADUATE

From darkness to light

My life before coming to the Mission was very dark. I had a stroke three years ago at the age of 28. It paralyzed me on my right side. I was doing methamphetamine, weed and alcohol.

My cousin told me about the Anne Douglas Center. No matter what emotions I was feeling while going through the program, I always had someone to talk to. I am so grateful for that.

This time of year is so joyful at the Mission. The Christmas spirit is truly in the Anne Douglas Center. It is so nice not being lonely at Christmastime and having loved ones around you.

The Mission took a broken, lost, down-and-out woman and gave me hope, joy, love, God and a better future. I obtained my GED here, and I plan to start taking business courses. I also moved into my own place in September.

For the donors, thank you. I am one of your success stories.



“The Christmas spirit is truly in the Anne Douglas Center.”

~LASHONNAE MELTON,
ANNE DOUGLAS CENTER
GRADUATE

Giving and receiving hope

Before the Mission, I was a chef, working in Orange County. Unfortunately, I was the master of self-sabotage. My life would be going great and then doubt and guilt would creep in. Then I'd turn to drugs and alcohol to cope.

I came to the Mission because I had lost everything and I was living in my car. I fell to my knees and prayed to God to help me. And clear as day, I heard a voice say to go to the Los Angeles Mission.

Thanks to the Mission's partnership with The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, I was able to express myself. I opened up to God and felt the strength and love of our Heavenly Father.

After graduation I worked at the Mission for three years and now work for a facility contracting company. **None of this would be possible without the help and support of the donors.**

As Christmas approaches, I am forever reminded that it is better to give than to receive. I can only do my part volunteering at the Mission, offering a kind hand and understanding heart to those who will come after me. Merry Christmas!



“None of this would be possible without the help and support of the donors.”

~CHRISTIAN LOFLAND
MISSION GRADUATE

Help us bring Christmas to Skid Row!

On December 23rd, we'll be spreading Christmas cheer across Skid Row! At our Annual Christmas Dinner event, we'll serve 3,500 friends and neighbors delicious meals and also provide gifts to our guests.

“For many people, including children and families, this time of year can be lonely. This event expresses love in a very tangible way,” says Ivan Klassen, Director of Community Partnerships at the Los Angeles Mission.

The Mission is so grateful to have our friends at Toyota sponsor the event. They have been a faithful sponsor of our Annual Christmas Dinner since 2010, and also send nearly 200 volunteers to the event.

“Not only do the team members enjoy giving back to friends and neighbors of the Mission, they are gratified to share this experience of goodwill with family members as well,” says Barbara Genovese, the Social Innovation Administrator at Toyota.

While we have many volunteers for the day of the event, we are encouraging anyone who would like to help by sending an extra gift that will bless the teenagers on Skid Row. Every extra \$20 you give today can provide a pair of warm pajamas for a teen who may not have a pair to wear each night. See the response form on page 4 for more details.

▶ **If you would like more information, please contact Ivan Klassen at iklassen@lamission.net. God bless you and merry Christmas!**



Our wonderful volunteers from Toyota help make our Christmas Dinner event a special day. And so does Santa!



CHANGE A LIFE THIS CHRISTMAS. GIVE TODAY!

This Christmas...

Give the gift of hope

'Tis the season of giving, and there are so many ways to give to the Mission that not only bless our ministry, but also provide hope to those who need it most this holiday season. It's a great way to leave a lasting legacy of hope and compassion in the name of someone important in your life.



Angels Courtyard

This Christmas, honor someone you love by donating a bronze plaque in their name for our Angels Courtyard. This beautiful plaque will feature their name and can also include an uplifting message or Bible verse to encourage our guests.

▶ **For more information, contact Le'Neisha Revels at (213) 629-1227 ext. 400.**

Adopt-A-Meal

Your organization or volunteer group can make an impact on the lives of 500 people by being a part of our Adopt-A-Meal program. Your group can choose to provide a meal and take charge of the entire event, including the decorations. It's a great way to bless our students and guests who are in need of a hot meal and encouragement in their lives.

▶ **To take part in this wonderful ministry, please call Nuria Mora at (213) 629-1227, ext. 334. Thank you for giving!**