

**UPCOMING EVENTS/  
SAVE THE DATES**

**8/11**  
**End of Summer Art & Education Fair**  
We will be providing a nourishing meal and much-needed backpacks filled with school supplies for over 1,000 grateful kids.

**9/8 & 10/6**  
**Volunteer Orientation**  
If you'd like to volunteer at the Mission, it's important for you to attend an orientation session. To register for the next orientation, please visit us at [LosAngelesmission.org/act](http://LosAngelesmission.org/act).

**10/6**  
**Anne Douglas Center Honors Evening**

**10/25**  
**Legacy of Vision Gala**  
Please join us for the Los Angeles Mission's Annual Gala at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. For more information, contact Ivan Klassen at [iklassen@lamission.net](mailto:iklassen@lamission.net) or please call (213) 629-1227 ext. 325 for more information and sponsorship opportunities.

*For information on more upcoming events at Los Angeles Mission, please call (213) 629-1227 ext. 400.*

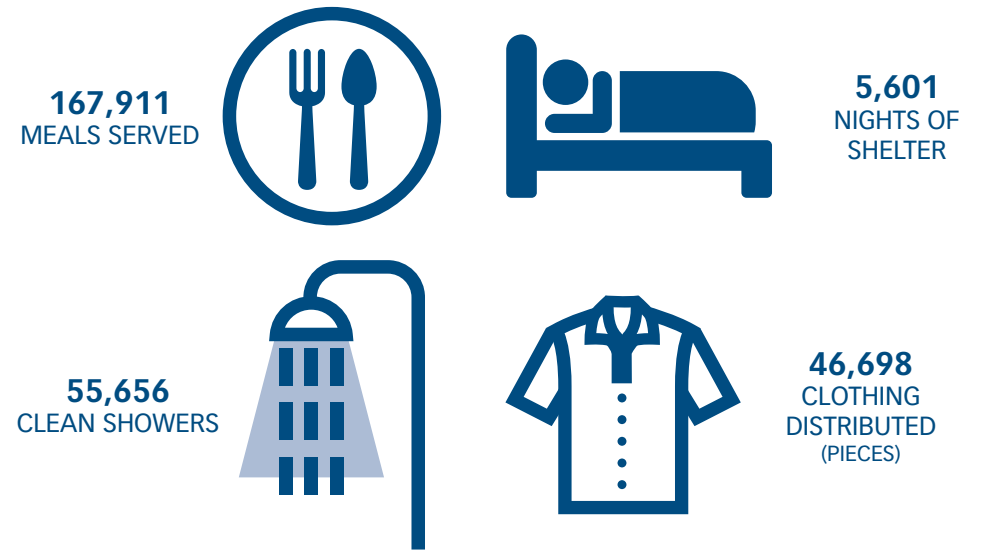
**Helping Made Easier!**



Our Meals-A-Month giving option is a simple and convenient way to offer your ongoing support to friends and neighbors experiencing homelessness. It only takes one sign-up and your gifts will be processed automatically each month by the method you choose. Please consider becoming a Meals-A-Month partner today. With every monthly gift you'll be creating the second chance someone desperately needs! To sign-up online visit us at [losangelesmission.org/give](http://losangelesmission.org/give). Or you can call Nuria Mora at (213) 629-1227, ext. 334 to join by phone.

**Will You Give A Second Chance?**  
Please use the reply form enclosed to send a donation that will help Los Angeles Mission provide the meals, care, and services that offer a second chance. Success stories like these are only possible because of the generous hearts and contributions of friends like you. Thank you!

**MEALS & CARE**  
How your gifts are helping so far in 2018



Los Angeles Mission exists to provide help, hope, and opportunity to men, women and children in need. These figures represent services provided through May 2018.



**PLEASE CONSIDER INCLUDING LOS ANGELES MISSION IN YOUR WILL**

**Be Remembered With Honor**

How we'll be remembered after we're gone is something we all wonder. Ensuring your legacy honors your desire to help the less fortunate is simple to accomplish. When you include Los Angeles Mission in your estate plans your gift will provide food, care, and Christian guidance to people who want to rebuild their lives and make the most of their second chance.

If you're interested in learning more, please contact Randy Hess at (213) 629-1227 ext 357 or [RHess@lamission.net](mailto:RHess@lamission.net). Or visit [www.christianwill.org/lamission](http://www.christianwill.org/lamission) to bless your family with a God-honoring Will.

**From Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Smith**  
because I believe in second chances!

Yes, I want to give a gift that helps Los Angeles Mission provide food, shelter, and support to friends and neighbors trying to rebuild their lives. Enclosed is my gift of:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as much as possible!

I want to become a Meals-A-Month partner and give a monthly gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ My first gift is included. (Please complete this slip and return to me.)

Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Smith  
123 Main Street  
Anytown, USA 12345-6789

**Los Angeles Mission**  
The Crossroads of Hope  
PO Box 54059 | Los Angeles, CA 90054-0059  
Give online at [donate.losangelesmission.org](http://donate.losangelesmission.org)

Please make your check payable to **Los Angeles Mission** and return it with this slip in the envelope provided. To charge your gift by credit card, please fill out the information on reverse side or call (213) 629-1227, ext. 400. A receipt for your tax-deductible gift will be sent to you shortly.

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News from Los Angeles Mission

# CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery AUGUST 2018



**“He’s guiding me every step of the way.”**

— Nicholas, graduate

Read how Nicholas is turning his second chance into a chance to help others . . .



## From the Heart of Herb Smith



Dear Caring Friend,

In this issue of *CROSSROADS*, we're focused on second chances — what they really mean and what can happen when we dare to try again. None of us are exempt from having to backtrack once in awhile to find our footing and begin again. Thank you for offering your support to the individuals who are doing just that here at Los Angeles Mission.

Your good wishes and prayers are felt by graduates like Nicholas and Valerie. I know that for sure because on graduation day, though they are the ones wearing caps and gowns, our graduates say, "WE made it!" They are including everyone who played a role in helping them achieve sobriety, complete their education, and begin a new trajectory towards a healthy, independent life.

**Which means . . . your kindness matters! Your generosity makes second chances a reality.**

Their hearts and mine are filled with gratitude for all you do for Los Angeles Mission and the people we are blessed to serve. Thank you!

God bless you,

Herb Smith  
President/CEO



## "Thank you for putting a roof over my head while I rebuild my life!"

Every day as he heads to class, Nicholas is thankful to have a roof over his head. Because a time when he didn't is never far from his memory.

His parents had been teenagers when they had him and he spent much of his childhood shuffling between relatives' homes. As a teenager he was introduced to drugs and that led him to criminal activity and jail time. When he was released from prison, he had no support system and nowhere to go. His parole officer told him about Los Angeles Mission's Recovery Program.

*"I'm grateful for my chaplain's support. He's guiding me every step of the way."*

— Nicholas

"When I arrived at Los Angeles Mission I felt alone, defeated, and so lost!" he remembers. "I just didn't know what to do."

Nicholas credits his chaplain with helping him come out of his shell and is thankful for his continuing guidance. Today, Nicholas is enrolled full time at Los Angeles City College, studying to become a substance abuse counselor.

Thank you for giving Nicholas the second chance he needed. He plans to do the same for others in his new career!



*"Thank you to the Anne Douglas Center donors for giving me a chance at life again!" — Valerie*

## Rebuilding Lives at the Anne Douglas Center for Women

With your help, Valerie went from addiction to starting a new journey

Reaching midlife can be a turning point for many people. At 51, Valerie knew she had reached that pivotal moment. So when she arrived at the Anne Douglas Center almost two years ago, she was ready to begin a completely new journey.

Born and raised in Florida, Valerie was one of nine children who grew up in a time and place where you didn't talk about painful things . . . like being abused by your stepfather. As she struggled alone in the aftermath, Valerie turned to drugs to numb the pain.

*"I was like a horse with blinders on, no one knew how sad I was,"* says Valerie. *"I was smiling, so no one could see the hurt. But I knew the drugs weren't making me feel better, they were making it worse."* At the Anne Douglas Center she found the support she needed to not only kick the drugs, but to reestablish her relationship with God.

Valerie completed her GED and, inspired by her Bible study classes, she's hoping to become a minister. "God fixed my heart," Valerie says. "He's a miracle worker. I feel a sense of peace and my eyes are open."

Valerie is thankful to donors, like you, who made it possible for her to begin a new, sober life at the Anne Douglas Center. A journey she begins every day by waking up and thanking God!

## Thanks to you, lives are forever changed!

**Thanks to your generous support, beautiful new beginnings are written every day at Los Angeles Mission.** Each of the three phases of our program are designed to support individuals as they heal from the past, learn new life skills, and look forward to a brighter future:

- The **JumpStart** induction period is the one month beginning of the program, which allows candidates to get acquainted with the program and decide if they want to make a one-year commitment.
- During the one year **Fresh Start Rehabilitation Program** individuals commit to a healing process that addresses their individual physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs. In addition to rehabilitation, all students are required to pursue academic studies and vocational training. Christian discipleship classes, individual counseling, and other curriculum also help them re-integrate into society.
- Upon completion, graduates may apply to the **LifeStart Program** that supports that transition with an additional six months of career and housing support services.

***These programs help graduates make real and lasting life changes and are only possible because of your generosity and compassion!***

*"I'll never forget the Los Angeles Mission for giving me an opportunity to get my life right."*

— Johnny, Men's Recovery Program graduate

## A 14-Year Tradition of Generosity Continues!



Los Angeles Mission is grateful once again for the generous support provided to the End of Summer Art & Education Fair by U.S. Bank's corporate giving and volunteer program, Community Possible, focused on the areas of work, home and play. Dozens of U.S. Bank volunteers look forward each year to connecting with youth and their families creating special art projects that remind them to save money. "Our partnership with Los Angeles Mission is a meaningful way to help with one of the greatest needs in our community today," says Bonnie Tseng, Community Development Manager at US Bank.

U.S. Bank provides art supplies and piggy banks for kids to decorate so they can have their own custom creation. "We believe in the power of play. It brings joy, develops problem-solving skills, creativity and relationships, and builds social and emotional learning. We want to inspire play and work with this fun activity. Partnering with Los Angeles Mission provides a way for us to contribute to lifting people out of their circumstances, and seeing the smiles brings so much hope and happiness to everyone."

