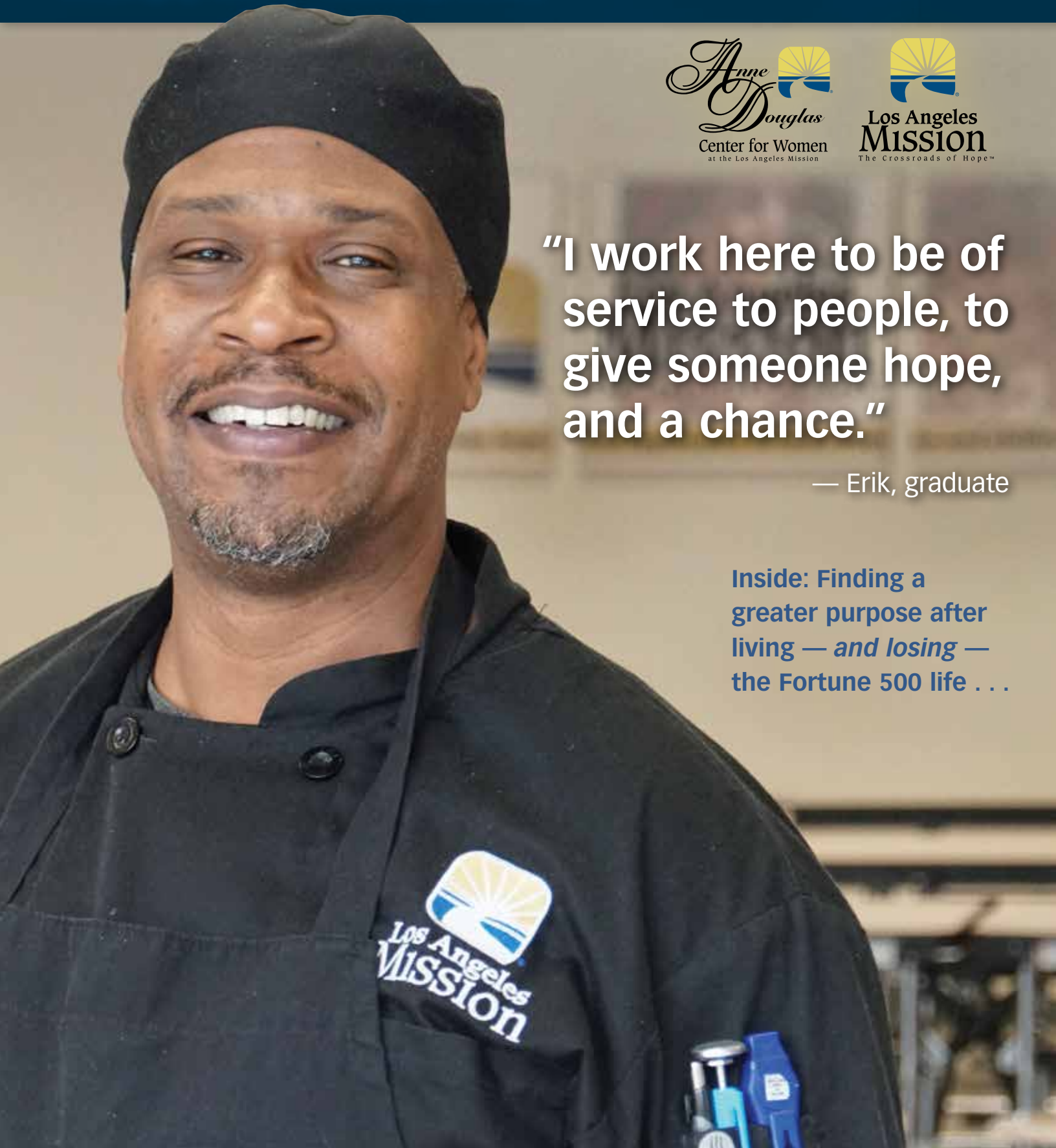


News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

SEPTEMBER 2018



“I work here to be of service to people, to give someone hope, and a chance.”

— Erik, graduate

Inside: Finding a greater purpose after living — *and losing* — the Fortune 500 life . . .

From the Heart of Herb Smith



Dear Caring Friend,

I know we all want to find the magic solution to end homelessness right now. But as you and I both know, real change takes time. Graduates like Erik and Diane, whose stories are in this issue of *CROSSROADS*, know that, too. As you read their amazing transformations, I hope you'll be reminded that the solution we're all hoping for is happening — *one life at a time* — here at Los Angeles Mission.

Though it seems Erik and Diane's journeys began with decisions they made to rebuild their lives, their transformations really started with you. When you decided to donate, you made the lifesaving programs they needed possible. For each of those blessed decisions, I'm very grateful!

Will you please continue to help Los Angeles Mission change lives throughout the upcoming holiday season? With your generous support we can carry on the mantra Erik so proudly shared . . . *"There is hope in every meal!"*

God bless you,

Herb Smith
President/CEO



"I'm so grateful donors believe people can change and be a success!"

When Erik was working as a financial analyst for a Fortune 500 company, he remembers driving past Los Angeles Mission and wondering how people ended up there. That is, until he found himself on the Mission doorstep after his dependence on alcohol caused a downward spiral in his life. He lost everything to his addiction — his marriage, kids, two homes and his career.

On that October day in 2013, Erik also recalls Chaplain Newton giving him a hug and saying, "Welcome home." And to his surprise, Erik says, "I felt like I belonged here. From that day I knew there was a bigger purpose than my life's challenges and a greater cause."

"From that day, I knew that there was a bigger purpose."

— Erik

As Erik worked his way through the Rehabilitation Program for Men, he has also moved up from mopping the dining hall floors to working as a part-time cook after graduation. In 2017, he became the Assistant Manager of Food Services and firmly believes in the Mission mantra, "There is hope in every meal!"

Erik's gratitude to Los Angeles Mission donors is heartfelt, and each day he tries to pay forward all that he's received. "I'm really trying to be a positive impact on the community," he says. "Just letting people know that this mission does work, and it's only because of the contributors."

Rebuilding Lives at the Anne Douglas Center for Women

Today, I am a truly different person . . .

After a friend's daughter came to the Anne Douglas Center for her drug addiction and changed her life, Diane and her then boyfriend, Javi, each decided to change their lives at Los Angeles Mission too. Diane remembers, "I wanted to get in the program so badly that once a bed became available for me, I cried because I was so happy to finally get in and start the new chapter in my life."

I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry.

— Psalm 40:1

Diane graduated from the Anne Douglas Center in 2010 and she and Javi have since married, and works as a trainer and supervisor at a call center. They are self-sufficient and are saving for their own home. Diane has also reunited with her children who are now grown. "When I walked through the doors of the Anne Douglas Center I was lost, broken and depressed," says Diane. "Today, I am a truly different person. I now have closer and stronger relationships with my family. All my needs are met, and life is great. God is good!"

Thanks to generous donors like you, Diane received the counseling and life skills training she needed. She adds, "The greatest gift I received from the Anne Douglas Center at the Mission was getting to know the Lord. Without HIM I would not be able to be the strong woman I am today!"



"It is your donations that keep the doors open and allow lives to be changed every day. Thank you and God bless you all!" — Diane



What does it take to serve 4,000 Thanksgiving meals?

According to David Thomas, kitchen manager at Los Angeles Mission, preparing this special feast for our neighbors will take 1,900 pounds of turkey, 1,000 pounds of cornbread dressing, 100 gallons of gravy, 2,000 pounds of collard greens, 4,300 pieces of sweet potato pie and much more!

Thanks to our generous donors and a small army of volunteers, the day will be made even more special as we give out Bibles, beautiful blankets and tarps to help prepare people living on Skid Row for the colder winter months. For David, who has helped serve Thanksgiving meals here for 19 years, it's even more special because he credits Los Angeles Mission with saving his life when he was homeless!



UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

10/6 & 11/3

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.

10/6

Anne Douglas Center Graduate Honor's Evening

10/12

Graduation Day

10/25

Legacy of Vision Gala

Please join us for Los Angeles Mission's Annual Gala at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. For more information, contact Ivan Klassen at iklassen@lamission.net or please call (213) 629-1227 ext. 325 for more information and sponsorship opportunities.

11/21

Thanksgiving Street Event

Join us for our Annual Thanksgiving celebration! You won't want to miss one of our biggest events of the year.

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

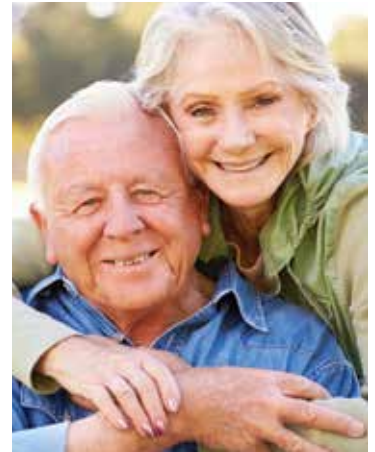
The Simplest Way to Make a Difference!



For dedicated Los Angeles Mission supporters who would like a convenient way to make a difference, our Meals-A-Month giving option is simple and easy. After enrolling, your indicated gift amount is automatically processed each month by the method you choose. This ongoing support enables us to plan and budget more efficiently, stretching every dollar even further to provide meals and care for neighbors in need. To sign-up online visit us at losangelesmission.org/give. Or you can call Nuria Mora at (213) 629-1227 ext. 334 to join by phone.

What You Don't Need Can Change Lives

Would you consider "giving away" a portion of the retirement assets you no longer need if you knew those assets could change lives? There is a way to do just that since the charitable IRA rollover option was signed into law. This great tax planning strategy allows donors to "give away" between \$100 and \$100,000. When you make a direct transfer from your IRA to a charity like Los Angeles Mission, the gift:



- Remains outside of your adjusted gross income
- Counts toward your required minimum distribution for the year
- Serves as an intuitive option for those taking the increased standard deduction
- Is tax-free
- Will impact lives for generations to come

Please consider taking advantage of the charitable IRA rollover option to make a gift to Los Angeles Mission that will change lives today and tomorrow!

For more information, please contact Randy Hess at (213) 629-1227 ext. 357.

MEALS & CARE

How your gifts are helping so far in 2018

Los Angeles Mission exists to provide help, hope and opportunity to friends and neighbors in need. These figures represent services provided through June 2018.



198,411
MEALS SERVED



62,469
NIGHTS OF SHELTER



66,919
CLEAN SHOWERS



56,618
CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED
(PIECES)

You Can Change A Life Today!

When you use the enclosed reply form to send a donation you'll be helping Los Angeles Mission provide meals, care and life-changing services to people who are on their way to transformation. Please give generously and offer your encouragement to neighbors who are rebuilding broken lives one day at a time. Thank you!



Los Angeles Mission
303 E 5th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013
(213) 629-1227 ext. 400

Stay Connected

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



LOS ANGELES MISSION DONATION DROP OFF

316 Winston Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013