

On page one

The heart of our success

From Herb Smith

On page two-three

National Volunteer Week April 10th-16th

Graduates and volunteers making a big impact

On page four

Signs of Hope

By Steven W. Schultze

News from the Los Angeles Mission

APRIL 2016

CROSSROADS

LosAngelesMission.org



Graduate Volunteers

Giving back to give hope

Kathy and Darrin Read their stories on PAGE 2



"...we want to celebrate the people who do the little things that may not get noticed but prove vital to the success of our students and our programs."

The heart of our success

Giving back is a key theme in our programs. It helps boost self-esteem, develops empathy and provides a sense of gratification for our students.

We stress the importance of this to our students, but we don't just tell them—we get to show them through the generous people giving their time every day at the Los Angeles Mission.

The week of April 10th–16th is National Volunteer Week, and we want to celebrate the people who do the little things that may not get noticed but prove vital to the success of our students and our programs.

We have people giving their time to provide office support and help in our reception areas. We have friends that help with much-needed maintenance support. We have people that come faithfully to provide help in setting up and serving meals. Others do seasonal decorating or help at our street events. **Praise God for the blessing of our generous donors and volunteers**—we couldn't do what we do without each and every one of them!

Whether you give your time, your donations or both, we *thank you* for making it all happen at the Mission. Your generosity and compassion make it all possible!

Blessings,

Herb Smith

Herb Smith, President/CEO

Did you know?

The Mission receives 22,686 hours of volunteer service each year. We are so thankful for each and every volunteer!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteer Orientation: May 7th, 9-11 a.m.
Come join us as a volunteer! To register please visit us online at LosAngelesMission.org/act

Mission Possible 5k/10k: May 14th
Support the Mission at our annual Mission Possible 5K/10K Run/Walk! Learn more and register at MissionPossibleRun.com



For additional information please contact Ivan Klassen at (213) 629-1227, ext. 325. Thank you!



THE GOLDWIN FOUNDATION



CITY NATIONAL BANK
The way up is the way out.



Many thanks to The Goldwin Foundation, the Johnny Carson Foundation, City National Bank, Wells Fargo Bank and LATLC (LA Trial Lawyers' Charities) for sponsoring our 79th Gala.

STAY CONNECTED

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

LosAngelesMission.org



Graduates: giving back—giving hope



Darrin Wilkerson
June 2013 Graduate

Volunteering to motivate

Giving back is the first thing you learn in Jump Start. Once I graduated, I never stopped coming back to help out. It's an honor to volunteer here, and it also keeps me associating with people who are positive.

I work in the volunteer department and help in the kitchen.

I battled marijuana addiction for 14 years and lived on Skid Row starting in 1994. I don't want to go back to that—that's why I spend my time trying to help somebody else, instead of focusing on me. Since I'm from Skid Row, I've had a lot of people tell me I've motivated them to come to the Mission, because if I can do it, they can do it.

I am currently working as a property manager and at an internship to become a drug and alcohol counselor. This place helped nurture me to make better decisions, so **I appreciate everyone who gives to the Mission through his or her time or donations.**

“It's an honor to volunteer here, and it also keeps me associating with people who are positive.”



Kathy Nelson
February 2014 Graduate

Volunteering to encourage

I'm in charge of all the clothing that comes in. I do that five days a week, and on Saturdays I come in and help with the Mommy and Me classes. Volunteering keeps me focused on giving back to the place that gave me my life back.

I sit down and talk with a lot of the new students that come in if they are interested. It's important because it shows them people have come through and graduated, and it helps students believe that they can finish too.

“Volunteering just feels good. I thank the Lord for the day I had because I had the opportunity to help others.”

Before coming into the program, I was homeless off and on for 10 years. I did too much drinking. I tried sobriety without Christ and it didn't work. This is a great program. The Anne Douglas Center is my family.

Volunteering just feels good. I can go home and thank the Lord for the day I had because I had the opportunity to help others. **Without the donors and volunteers, we wouldn't be here.** They keep things going here. It's just a godsend.

**The blessing of your support today
helps create tomorrow's graduates—thank you**

Volunteer spotlight: meeting the need

No matter what a person's background or gifts are, their talents can be used at the Los Angeles Mission. These three volunteers give their time for various reasons, and it all leads to blessing the lives of people in need. Read on to hear their stories of generosity to help the Mission reach the hurting and homeless in our community.

Roberta Jones

Information Booth
Volunteer since 2012



“I was homeless...
I understand what people
are going through.”

I'm here every day. I start out in the morning doing shower tickets and passing out hygiene kits. Then I move from there in the afternoon to help guests that are coming in for a bed.

Four years ago, I came to Los Angeles from Tennessee. **I was homeless for a year** after I lost my job, but then I found a new job and bounced back. I understand what people are going through when they come here. It's *traumatic* when you don't know where you're going to sleep or eat. I know that everyone is a paycheck away from being homeless.

I've had friends and family members face homelessness too. That's part of what motivated me to volunteer here at the Mission. I love volunteering. Every day is different—**there's always someone in need**. Everyone is truly grateful for what you do for them. I enjoy seeing the positive outcomes for those who come to the Mission in need.

The Mission would like to thank Angie Westfield, Dr. Kraig Golden, Roberta Jones and all our wonderful volunteers for giving their time so selflessly. You all make the Mission a better place. God bless you for all you do!

Angie Westfield

Anne Douglas Center Front Desk
Volunteer since 2011

Sharing my time and love at the Mission and the Anne Douglas Center is a spiritual experience. It's a gateway to doing what Christ would have me do. On a daily basis, I speak of the blessing and goodness I experience working alongside our community here.

My desire to become a volunteer stemmed from traveling on mission trips to Mexico when I was younger. In adulthood, I decided that I would ask God to direct my path to the proper mission where I could be of service. With prayer and some opportunities, God directed me to the Los Angeles Mission.

I'm amazed each and every day at all the **special acts of kindness that occur at our Mission from donors** and from the public. When I'm in contact with people through volunteering, hopefully I'm able to convey a feeling of spirituality and peace.

Dr. Kraig Golden

Prepares and provides meals
Volunteer since 2010



“My experience
volunteering here
is extremely
rewarding.”

I decided to become a volunteer because I wanted to have some kind of positive impact on helping to serve the homeless community. Service is something I feel is my obligation to provide my fellow humans, especially those who are less fortunate or have fallen on hard times.

I am a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Mu Sigma Lambda Chapter, a fraternal and service-based organization. One of the virtues of our fraternity is promoting service, and we mentor teenage boys, whom we refer to as Junior Gents. We have them volunteer at the Mission every March. It's so rewarding to watch the Junior Gents and see how volunteering at the Mission seems to impact their own lives as well.

Whether it's by preparing meals, serving meals or cleaning up in the kitchen, the reward of knowing you are helping someone out and providing service is definitely worth the time to volunteer. My experience volunteering here is extremely rewarding.



“God directed
me to the
Los Angeles
Mission.”

Because you care, lives are changing

Thank you for a Fresh Start!

Fresh Start students thank volunteers for blessing the Mission with their time.

Juan Alonso

"Thank you volunteers for your good hearts in serving us. I'm so touched that graduate volunteers are grateful and appreciative of what they received from the program and are willing to give back."



Joyce Martin

"Volunteers, I can't thank you enough for being the closest thing I've ever seen to Christlikeness. It has truly touched my heart beyond words to see how

you endlessly choose to be servants to people of all walks of life with so much joy, happiness and consistent smiles."

Charles Ferguson

"Thank you for coming and sharing your valuable time with us here at the Los Angeles Mission. I find the time you spend with me enjoyable and uplifting to my inner self. Please continue coming to the Mission and volunteering your time."



Bernadette Washington

"I see the idea of service and giving back with our graduate volunteers, and that's something I want to do too.

Thank you to all our volunteers for making it easier and more pleasant for me to get my life together."

For all who give their time, talents and resources to the Mission, thank you! You are making a lasting impact on our students and our community.

Signs of Hope

By *Steven W. Schultze*
Vice President of Program

“Giving back produces hope and provides inner healing for our students—it allows them to have an outward focus instead of inward.”

Volunteers at the Mission are an inspiration to all of us. When I see the compassion of our volunteers, I know that God is reflecting His love through their service.

The emphasis of service as part of the Fresh Start program is essential. As students progress through our program, they are given opportunities to give back to others because they know and understand the struggle a person can go through to get off the street. Giving back produces hope and provides inner healing for our students—it allows them to have an outward focus instead of inward.

We are truly grateful to see the transformation that takes place in their hearts when our students



serve others, and often we are blessed to see those students come back and volunteer when they are alumni. Seeing them here sharing their testimonies with others and giving back shows us all the hearts and lives that have been changed.

Providing hope that heals

I am blessed to engage with the program graduates and see them develop a sense of family, and to serve and care for one another. They can sometimes even provide opportunities for our students and guests that even the Mission cannot give. Thank you to our alumni volunteers. Thank you to all volunteers. **And thank you to our donors for your prayers and support** of God's work at the Los Angeles Mission. We are all working together to provide hope that heals.

CREATING A LEGACY: What is “essential”?

Getting our priorities out of order can sometimes deliver unfortunate consequences. That's why it's important to regularly determine which items on our plates are “essential” to creating a full life and the legacy we wish to leave behind.

In his New York Times bestseller *“Essentialism: The Disciplined Pursuit of Less,”* Greg McKeown states, “Essentialism isn't about getting more done in less time. It's about getting only the right things done.” As Christians, some of the “right things” should include putting energy into our relationships with God, others and considering how those “essentials” impact the decisions we make. One “essential” that can have a big impact on our loved ones and the ministries we care about, like the Los Angeles Mission, is creating or updating our will. An updated will is a perfect way to communicate what is most essential to you and to help you live out 1 Peter 3:11—“to seek peace and pursue it.”

To discover three important questions you can ask yourself to live more in tune with your “essentials,” request our free bulletin.



► To request a FREE copy of “Three Questions for an ‘Essential Life’”:

1. Check the box on the enclosed reply card and return it today
2. Contact Chris Doyle at the Los Angeles Mission at (213) 629-1227, ext. 432 or cdoyle@lamission.net
3. Or, bless your family today with a God-honoring will at www.christianwill.org/lamission

Happy Birthday, Anne Douglas!

On April 23rd, we celebrate the birthday of someone who has changed the lives of countless women living on Skid Row—Anne Douglas!

Mrs. Douglas's inspirational generosity created the Anne Douglas Center 24 years ago—her compassion and dedication to bettering the lives of women and families spans a lifetime.

Cynthia, an ADC student wanted to tell Mrs. Douglas on her birthday, "For the first time in my life I am not alone. Thank you for introducing me to Jesus."

Anne Douglas has had an enormous impact on the lives of all the ladies who

have come through our doors. "This is such a blessing for me to be here," says Joy, currently a student at the ADC.

Thank you for being an example of how generosity can change lives and make new futures possible, Mrs. Douglas. And, happy birthday!



Mrs. Anne Douglas
pictured at our 2015
Legacy of Vision Gala.

THE NEED IS GREAT—YOUR IMPACT EVEN GREATER

Increase your partnership today!

At the Mission, \$2.03 provides a meal and care to someone in need in our community. Every dollar makes a difference, and that's why we hope you'll prayerfully consider becoming a Meals a Month partner today.

Monthly donations help us budget more effectively for our many programs and save on administrative costs. That means more financial support is going directly to meeting the needs of our friends and neighbors living on Skid Row.

Become a Meals a Month partner today!

- It's easy to sign up—simply fill out the form below, or go online to our website: LosAngelesMission.org/give. Or if you prefer, call Nuria Mora at (213) 629-1227, ext. 334. Thank you!



Simple gifts make a big difference

Many of the men, women and children who come through our doors are in need of the basics.

The Los Angeles Mission is in need of new socks and underwear of all sizes for men, women and children. If you can provide even one of these items, you will be making a difference.

- If you are able to bless the Mission in this way or want more information on our Gifts-in-Kind program, please contact Tina Russek at (213) 629-1227, ext. 437. Thank you!

Meals and care HOW YOUR GIFTS HELP

JANUARY

FISCAL YTD

29,694



235,580

MEALS SERVED

8,284



63,466

NIGHTS OF SHELTER

9,535



73,750

CLEAN SHOWERS

10,817



83,449

CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED [PIECES]

Yes, Herb, I want to help provide meals and care to struggling individuals and families in our community. Here's my gift: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$_____



☐ I would like to become a Meals a Month partner and give a monthly gift of \$_____.

(Please check the box in the Giving Options section.)

☐ I would like to receive my FREE copy of "Three Questions for an 'Essential Life.'"

NAME _____

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@ _____

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

THANK YOU!

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Los Angeles Mission
The Crossroads of Hope

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Anne Douglas
Center for Women
at the Los Angeles Mission