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By Dr. Roxanne Jordan

News from the Los Angeles Mission

MAY 2016

CROSSROADS

LosAngelesMission.org



One homeless family, two Fresh Starts

A mother and son learn a new future is possible at the Mission.

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**SUMMER
MATCHING
GIFT
CHALLENGE**
YOUR GIFT DOUBLES
SEE PAGE 4



"We are truly blessed by this generosity and it comes at a crucial time of year for the Mission as we head into the slow summer months."

Doing more together

We can do more together than we can do alone. Plain and simple.

Jesus said love your neighbor as yourself. Fulfilling our mission statement inspires service to all those in need with the resources we steward.

In the summer months, our donations often don't match our need to provide consistent services, so we must plan ahead for the slow times to ensure that our programs continue to be strong year-round.

This month, a generous group of donors has offered to match each gift we receive, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$200,000! **We are truly blessed by this generosity** and it comes at a crucial time of the year for the Mission as we head into the slow summer months.

So let's do more together than we can do alone. Double your impact by giving a gift by May 31st.

Your generosity and support are changing lives every day. Thank you for your continued partnership with us.

Blessings,

Herb Smith, President/CEO

Did you know?

The Mission provided 5,816 diapers for families in need in the last year.



UPCOMING EVENTS

SUMMER MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE: through May 31st
Your gift **DOUBLES** to provide even more meals and care!

Volunteer Orientation: May 7th and June 4th, 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
There's still time to join us for our Mission Possible 5K/10K Run/Walk! Learn more and register at MissionPossibleRun.com



Annual Career Fair: June 2nd, 9 a.m.-Noon
It's a great opportunity to connect employers with job seekers from our Mission community! For more information, call Allen Ceravolo at (213) 629-1227, ext. 517.

Graduation: June 10th, 7 p.m.
Join us in celebrating the men and women who will be graduating from our Fresh Start Program! For more information on attending the graduation call Ana Ceravolo at (213) 629-1227, ext. 387.



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



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



One homeless family, two Fresh Starts

MaryRobin and her son James came to the Mission after four years of being homeless to find a new focus and a new hope.

I'm a single mom—I raised four children, explains MaryRobin. My three sons have disabilities, and I took them to doctor appointments and therapy appointments for 22 years. At that point, I gave up on everything and had a mental breakdown.

I made a bad choice and left my apartment. I was in addiction—I used marijuana for 35 years and also started using methamphetamine. That's why we ended up homeless. Two of my sons were incarcerated at the time and James, my middle son, went homeless with me.

The first night

One day my mom just said, "Pack up the stuff, we're going." I didn't understand what was going on at first, says James.

The first night we were homeless, my mom and I stayed under a bridge down the street from where we used to live. I had to make sure our stuff wasn't stolen and that my mom was OK. Being out there with my mom was heartbreaking—I never thought it would have to come to that point.

We started smoking meth before we were homeless and it only got worse once we were on the streets. It helped me to not feel hungry all the time and helped me stay awake so my mom could sleep and I could watch our stuff.

We were living on the riverbed in Long Beach, in parks, or in an underground tunnel, depending on the day. During my homelessness I would look down the riverbed and ask myself, "What am I going to do with my life?"

Thanks to the summer matching challenge every donation you give is an opportunity to save twice as many lives.

James and his mom MaryRobin are grateful for the blessings the Mission provides thanks to you.

Running through the door

I knew the Lord was with me the whole time I was homeless, says MaryRobin. I told the Lord, "I apologize, I repent. Please tell me where you want me to go." Then the Lord led me here to the Mission and He opened that door. And let me tell you, I ran through that door.

Once I was here, I told James, "Come here to the Mission. You'll like it a lot." He stayed with me the whole time I was homeless. He was there every single day. He protected me. He kept me company. He really saved my life.

Being here makes you feel good about yourself again, and that's why **I want to thank the donors for being gracious and giving from their heart.** It's the most awesome thing that anyone could receive from them—another chance at life.

“The Mission has given us a place of refuge. It's given us a hope for a new future. It's keeping us from our past and helping us grow together.”

**~JAMES GAONA
FRESH START STUDENT**

Finding a place of refuge

My mom motivated me to come to the Mission, recounts James. I decided I was tired of being on the streets. Now, they are teaching me skills here and preparing me for life. I am learning more and more every day.

The Mission has given us a place of refuge. It's given us a hope for a new future. It's keeping us from our past and helping us grow together. We get to see each other every day and say "Hi, how are you doing?" That's a blessing right there, seeing my mom and knowing she's safe.

**We would like to thank the donors.
It's a constant blessing to be here.**



Futures start here

Chaplain Allen Ceravolo, Director of Career Services at the Los Angeles Mission, recalls the day Melinda Chavez had a job offer at the Career Fair. The Anne Douglas Center graduate was offered a position at a local grocery store on the spot. "That is what this event is all about," he says.

For Mr. Ceravolo, employment is a huge step forward in a student's path to a new future.

"Employment is a vital component to the recovery of a student," he says. "It contributes to the well-roundedness and the sense of purpose for one's life."

The Mission will welcome hundreds of job seekers on June 2nd for the 15th Annual Career Fair. Attendees will have the opportunity to make connections with businesses throughout the

Los Angeles area. Last year, 31 businesses participated, including Kaiser Permanente, Los Angeles World Airports, Coca-Cola and DoubleTree by Hilton. (Read Jason's story on the right to learn about his job at the DoubleTree by Hilton thanks to the Career Fair!)

At this time, donations to help with bags, flyers, pencils, notepads and

“Employment is a vital component to the recovery of a student. It contributes to the well-roundedness and the sense of purpose for one's life.”

**~ALLEN CERAVOLO
DIRECTOR OF
CAREER SERVICES**

banners would be greatly appreciated. And if you are interested in volunteering, please join us!

Your compassion and generosity are paving the way to brighter futures for our graduates! Thank you.

► **Our Career Fair will be held June 2nd from 9 a.m. to noon at the Mission. If you're interested in finding out how your company or organization can get involved, please contact Allen Ceravolo at (213) 627-1227, ext. 517.**

Making the most of his opportunity

“I thought I was getting a dishwasher position...and after three interviews I was offered a Front Desk Receptionist position.”

**~JASON LONG
MISSION GRADUATE**



I graduated from the Mission in October 2015 and I am employed as a direct result of the Career Fair. It means a lot to be given this opportunity when it's so hard to find a job.

I thought I was getting a dishwasher position at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Commerce. I ended up going through three interviews and I was offered a Front Desk Receptionist position. I like working with the public—all the people. It's a very productive and positive job.

The Career Fair at the Mission gives students an opportunity to find themselves and get on their feet. It's an entirely different ball game once you graduate. The Career Fair is a great start. And you never know—there could be a corporate position waiting for you at the end.

To the donors, I would just say thank you. I appreciate the way you've dedicated yourself to the Mission and all of the time, money and sacrifice you have given toward the students.

Thanks to your support, more lives will change at the 15th Annual Career Fair





Signs of Hope

By Dr. Roxanne Jordan
VP of Women and Family Program
at the Anne Douglas Center

For every mother we assist in any way, we are also helping a child. Although many issues are similar, each mother's situation is unique and may involve a different set of goals or needs.

Helping the community

Many mothers in our community lack adequate resources and are experiencing economic hardship. Therefore, it is highly important that the Anne Douglas Center reach out to assist struggling mothers in our community with items such as food baskets, hot meals, diapers, formula, personal hygiene goods and clothing for both the women and their children.

We are often blessed to see many mothers reconcile with their children who have been estranged due to various issues. One ADC student shared her story:

"The ADC has allowed me the time and assistance to pursue regaining custody of my older daughter. I am able to continue building a healthy relationship with my younger daughter and to become a better role model for my daughters."

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of countless women and children in our community!

Your gift **DOUBLES** to change more lives

A generous group of donors has given the Mission a gift for our work this summer and challenged us to match it with gifts from friends like you. This means the first \$200,000 will be matched dollar-for-dollar when received by May 31st.

**SUMMER
MATCHING
GIFT
CHALLENGE**

Thankful



Your gift by May 31st will double in impact to change more lives for people like Kenneth and Jesse.

We are thankful for these faithful donors and the blessings they are providing for the people we serve.

Men like Kenneth and his son Jesse

whose stories we recently told you about in the January issue of *Crossroads*. Jesse says that friends like you are partners in the success and recovery of every person who

comes to the Los Angeles Mission for help.

Please consider sending your gift today to help change twice as many lives. Your support ensures that we can plan ahead for the slower summer months when donations tend to drop.

Remember, \$2.03 provides a meal and care for a hungry and homeless individual living on Skid Row. Your support this month goes twice as far to impact the lives of struggling individuals and families. **Thank you for your compassionate generosity for those in need.** The Mission cannot do what we do without you!

The need is great this summer

YOUR GIFT BY MAY 31ST DOUBLES IN IMPACT

CREATING A LEGACY: Become a Conduit of Blessing

Each day we have opportunities to act on behalf of others—by giving encouragement, our time, energy and resources. When we understand the truth of James 1:17 that "every good and perfect gift" we have comes from God, it can inspire better stewardship and impact others. As author Randy Alcorn once quipped, "Just because God puts his money in our hands doesn't mean He intends it to stay there!" We are to be conduits of blessing.

Here's a unique way you can involve your children or grandchildren in blessing others. Have you considered designating a percentage of your estate to a charity like the Los Angeles Mission? What if you invited your heirs to pick the department or initiative they'd like the funds to support? Or perhaps you'd consider allowing them to choose the charity all together! This giving concept is growing in popularity among donors and yielding amazing results.

Being conduits of God's blessing may be as simple as shielding someone from the rain or giving your hard-earned dollars to someone in need—but the impact could be eternal.



► To request a FREE copy of "How to Be a Conduit of God's Blessing":

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

Celebrate our mothers!

Bringing families back together is a vital step in a person's journey of recovery.

The Mothers Luncheon is an opportunity for our students to honor their mothers or mother figures with a formal luncheon. We expect approximately 125 people to attend the event, which includes a delicious meal, makeovers and spa treatments from professional volunteers in the community.

"The women who attend this event always leave knowing that the day is specially designed with them in mind," says Dr. Roxanne Jordan, Vice President of the Anne Douglas Center. **Your support helps make this event possible.**

Thank you!

Joyce Martin, her mom and grandmother celebrated with us last year.



Building strong families

Every Saturday morning since 2005, the Anne Douglas Center has provided Mommy & Me classes for struggling families in the Los Angeles area.

"We provide time for a child to just be a child and to have fun," says Dr. Roxanne Jordan, Vice President of the Anne Douglas Center. We serve hot meals to 12-15 parents and about 25 children. This also gives parents a chance to "shop" for clothes for their children and themselves at our donated-clothing room.

Mr. Griffin is a father who comes to our Mommy & Me classes and says he appreciates the chance for all the kids to play and eat together. "It makes you appreciate all the little things because when you step out of those doors, it's a totally different world," he says.

You can also support these families with donations of shoes for toddlers, clothes sizes 2-5T, socks sizes newborn-5T, plus hygiene products including: baby wipes, shampoo and bath wash.

Mr. Griffin would like to say to all the people who support this great program, "you're doing a wonderful thing."

Meals and care HOW YOUR GIFTS HELP

FEBRUARY

FISCAL YTD

55,566



235,580

MEALS SERVED

16,017



63,466

NIGHTS OF SHELTER

18,437



73,750

CLEAN SHOWERS

20,127



83,449

CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED (PIECES)

Increase your partnership today!

If you've considered becoming a Meals a Month partner but just haven't taken that first step, there is no better time than the month of May.

A generous group of donors has stepped forward to match each donation we get dollar-for-dollar for the entire month of May—up to \$200,000! Every dollar makes a difference, and by starting your Meals a Month support in May, your donation will bless twice as many individuals and families living on Skid Row!

Consider becoming 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. God bless 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!

Herb, I want to meet the SUMMER MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE.

Please DOUBLE the impact of my gift. I've enclosed: \$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 "How to Be a Conduit of God's Blessing."

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!

To give a gift by credit card, please fill out the information below or call (213) 629-1227, ext. 400.

Please charge my gift to my credit card.

Giving Options:

- One-time gift Monthly gift
- EFT (include voided check)

VISA MasterCard American Express Discover

ACCOUNT NUMBER _____ CID/CVV _____

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE _____ EXP. DATE _____

Double or triple your gift! Visit our matching gift page to find out if your employer has a corporate matching gift program. losangelesmission.org/give/matching-gifts

A receipt for your tax-deductible gift will be sent to you shortly.



Los Angeles Mission
The Crossroads of Hope

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