UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

8/4 & 9/8

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.

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.

7/10

Legacy of Vision Gala

Save the date! 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 or please call (213) 629-1227 ext. 325. The event begins at 5:30 p.m.

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

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

As all of Los Angeles County grapples with the magnitude of this unprecedented homelessness crisis, vour help is needed even more. So that we can continue to bless the lives of the veterans, children, and so many others in need, will you please send any additional gift you can today? School supplies, clothing, toiletries, and other items can also be directly donated to the Mission. Thank you!



Providing nutritious meals, shelter, and care to veterans, children, and thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness is an ongoing challenge for Los Angeles Mission. To help us meet that need, please consider becoming a Meals-A-Month partner. This dedicated group of donors provides a steady stream of support that helps us budget and plan more efficiently, stretching every dollar a little further.

The contributions of our Meals-A-Month partners are especially important during the summer months when donations often slow down, but special needs arise. Shelter from dangerously high temperatures is critical, especially for the individuals with health conditions exacerbated by the heat. And children who are able to eat breakfast and/or lunch at school are forced to go without those meals during the summer.

Signing up to be a Meals-A-Month partner is simple and your gifts will be processed automatically each month by the method you choose. 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.

Do You Want to Leave a Legacy of Love?



Thinking about the end of our lives isn't always easy. But knowing your final legacy will be a gift of love and hope can give you peace of mind and sharing those wishes comforting for your loved ones.

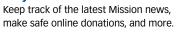
By including Los Angeles Mission in your estate plans, your final act will be to shelter the homeless, feed the hungry, and give hope to so many who are suffering. Please consider including Los Angeles Mission in your estate plans. For more information, please contact Randy Hess at (213) 629-1227 ext. 357 or RHess@lamission.net. Or visit www.christianwill.org/lamission to bless your family with a God-honoring Will.

With Your Help Lives Are Changed!

Every gift you send to Los Angeles Mission impacts the lives of people in need. Please help us do even more by returning the reply form enclosed as soon as possible. Your gift today is someone's new beginning tomorrow. Thank you!





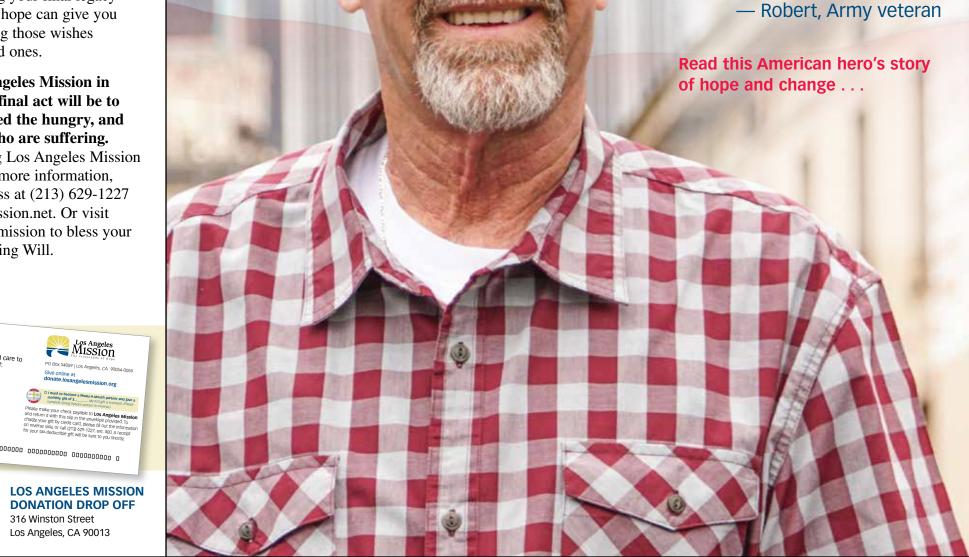












CROSSROADS

Los Angeles M1SS1011

Center for Women

"I am really

blessed that this

place is here."

News from Los Angeles Mission

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

From the Heart of **Herb Smith**



Dear Caring Friend,

So often it's one change — a lost job, a rent increase or a sudden illness — that is the catastrophic tipping point that leads to homelessness. These unexpected changes can happen to any of us at any time. But it seems especially cruel when a veteran — someone who bravely put their life on the line for our freedom — ends up suffering and without shelter after the sacrifices they've made.

One thing doesn't change for veterans who find themselves facing homelessness . . . they continue to be brave. They are the first to defer to others when help is available, continuing to put their needs second as they've done so often before. Perhaps that's why transformations like Army veteran Robert's are so inspiring — he faced his fears with tremendous courage! As you read his story, please say an extra prayer that veterans who are still struggling to survive on the street will find their way to us and receive the fresh start they deserve.

Thank you for helping Los Angeles Mission continue to provide food, shelter, support programs, and care to people who are experiencing the worst... and bravely pressing on.

God bless you,

Herb Smith

Herb Smith President/CEO



As a recent graduate of the Fresh Start Rehabilitation Program, Army veteran Robert knows that transforming your life takes time and commitment. He also knows that a shower, hot meal, and a clean set of clothes can be the first step to a whole new life. And, just like serving in the armed forces, staying on that new path takes courage.

Robert had at one time been living the American dream. After serving two years in the Army, he headed to Los Angeles. After a rough start and a brief stint in jail, Robert worked hard and ended up with a job he loved. He got married, started a family, and was able to buy a brand-new home. Then, the bottom fell out. When Robert got into more trouble, he was sent back to the penitentiary. After serving 30 years he took the advice of his parole officer and enrolled in the Fresh Start Program.

During his year in the program, Robert's different jobs at the Mission allowed him to meet donors as they dropped off clothing and food at the loading dock. And he also saw the grateful expressions of the recipients of those donations as he handed out fresh sets of clothing to men who came to the Mission for assistance. He'd once been in their shoes, so he understood their fear of not knowing what tomorrow would hold and that seeking help can be a difficult step.

Looking back at how far he's come, Robert is deeply grateful for the help he's received.

"I know this place is well-deserving of any donation that the people could give us. It's a great place."

- Robert, Army veteran

"If you told me 30 years ago that I was going to be in Los Angeles Mission, I would have told you, you were crazier than crazy," he says. "I am really blessed that this place is here. It's just a fantastic place."

Determined to continue on his new path, Robert has promising employment opportunities as a machinist and plans to reunite with family members after completing Life Start, the final phase of the Mission's program this summer.

This kind of transformation is made possible only through the gifts of friends like you. Thank you.



Thanks to you, kids will have the supplies they need to succeed.

It's Not Just a Fair, It's Our Kids' Futures

Your Generosity Impacts Young Lives

For children caught in the chaos of our city's homelessness crisis, the annual Summer Art and Education Fair is a welcome respite from the struggles of Skid Row. Thousands of innocent children who are far too young to understand the complexities of the crisis are paying the highest price while the wait for solutions grows ever longer.

The impact for them isn't only the frightening uncertainty of where they will sleep tonight. Their futures are jeopardized because their education is deeply affected. Many miss school completely and, if they are able to attend, they come unprepared lacking the school supplies necessary to succeed in the classroom.

"We are here to give these children some actual fun," says Herb Smith, President/CEO of Los Angeles Mission. "But there is a serious-minded purpose behind this back to school event. We want to encourage these children to insist on going to school."

That is why, in addition to the fun, new experiences and happy memory-making, we will distribute between 500-600 backpacks filled with the school and art supplies these boys and girls need to start the year strong.

"We are so grateful for our friends at U.S. Bank and all of our generous supporters who help make this event possible," says Smith.



Yasheeni Will Receive a Backpack and So Much More This Summer!

Thirteen-year-old Yasheeni will head to school again this year with a backpack full of supplies after attending the Summer Arts and

Education Fair. But so much has changed for her entire family, that one year ago seems like a world away!

While her mom, Michelle, and her dad, Willie, were both participating in the Mission's recovery programs, Yasheeni's older sister, Wynette, stepped up to help out. Wynette, 20, made sure her little sister went to school, did her homework, and ate well. Michelle and Willie are grateful for Wynette's influence and support during their recovery and to generous Los Angeles Mission supporters.

"I would like to thank the donors for all of their support," Michelle says.

As their whole family embarks on the next phase of their journey, Michelle says knowing her daughter will go to school prepared with what she needs is a "huge blessing to our family! This has helped Yasheeni bring her grades up and it made her happy again!"

Even better, Yasheeni will come home from school each day to a family once again healthy and whole. We are so thankful that families can find a fresh start at Los Angeles Mission because of generous donors like you!

Rebuilding Lives at the Anne Douglas Center for Women



After fleeing an abusive relationship, 26-year-old Ty'Dai lived in her car in the summer heat, went weeks without food, and refilled a water bottle at the park to get by. When her life hit that rock bottom, she remembers wanting to die.

"I felt like I wasn't good enough, not for my family, no one," she says.

Thankfully, through the support of our generous friends, our Anne Douglas Center for Women was here when Ty'Dai needed us most. Today, instead of living in fear and desperation in her car, Ty'Dai is living a life of hope.

"There's nothing me and God can't handle together because God made me stronger than anything out there!" she says.

Thanks to your generous donations, brighter futures really are possible!

I can do all things in Christ who strengthens

me. – Philippians 4:13