

News from Los Angeles Mission

# CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

NOVEMBER 2018



**"I didn't really  
have Christmas  
before. The  
holiday here  
felt so good  
I cried!"**

— Rowena, graduate

**Because of you,  
they WILL have Christmas!**

Without the help of generous friends, a real Christmas for children and families on Skid Row simply wouldn't happen.

Please read inside about the life-changing experiences your generosity will create at our Christmas Event on December 21!





## From the Heart of Herb Smith



Dear Caring Friend,

These wonderful weeks before the holidays are a time of great joy here at the Mission. Our hearts fill with gratitude as we gather with and hear from graduates, volunteers and kind friends, like you, who help keep our doors open throughout the year.

I am especially grateful that your generosity allows us to be a safe haven for people who are feeling lonely and vulnerable at Christmas time. Without family or a support system of any kind, many are struggling to survive. When we're able to offer them holiday cheer, small gifts and a place to feel cared about and acknowledged, that's important. They need so much to hear, "God loves you and so do we. We are here to help you."

During the holiday season, perhaps more than any other time of year, people come to the Mission for a meal, but are also reflecting on what's missing in their lives. They are considering change towards a more joyful and productive life away from homelessness. And thanks to you, we can share with them the support and life-changing programs available here.

While the Magi offered three gifts to the Christ child, we're also able to offer three special gifts to all of God's children — *help, hope and opportunity!*

God bless you and thank you for caring!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Herb Smith".

Herb Smith  
President/CEO



## Making Christmas Merry For All . . . Starting With You!

Los Angeles Mission knows the holidays are a particularly tough time for our friends and neighbors experiencing homelessness — that's why our annual Christmas Street Event is so special.

"The street literally has a life of its own and is transformed into an almost dream-like atmosphere that truly brings a sense of hope and dignity to those we serve," says Ivan Klassen, Los Angeles Mission's Director of Community Partnerships.

Los Angeles Mission expects to provide more than 3,500 traditional turkey dinners, complete with cranberry sauce, vegetable sides and pie for dessert. A true blessing for someone whose last meal might have come from a dumpster.

We will also be giving away toys to girls and boys. But all of this is made possible only through the gifts of friends like you and the participation of our sponsors. We hope your joy overflows this holiday season, knowing young children and their parents will have a family Christmas experience they wouldn't have otherwise without your compassionate support.

**Give a hurting,  
hungry neighbor  
hope this Christmas**

Every \$2.03 you give this holiday season will provide nourishing Christmas dinners and loving care to someone who is hungry, alone . . . and ready for new life!



# Rebuilding Lives at the Anne Douglas Center for Women

## Fighting for Her Life, Rowena Receives the Ultimate Christmas Gift

“I’m ready!”

That’s what Rowena said to us during a phone call this time last year.

After four stays in various rehab programs over the years, Rowena knew this time was different. “I knew I was where I was supposed to be and I was ready to fight for my life,” she says recalling her arrival at the Anne Douglas Center. “I vowed nothing was going to take me out of the program.” And Rowena made good on her promise. Even through difficult challenges that would’ve led her back to drugs in the past she says, “I prayed and fought. It wasn’t easy!”

At the Anne Douglas Center, Rowena found that her sisters in recovery really did care. They were there for her when she needed extra support. With a support system she could rely on, Rowena earned her GED and plans to pursue her Associate’s degree. “Because of the Anne Douglas Center I’ve been given a new life,” she says. “Jesus Christ is the answer I needed. As long as I’m connected to Him, I know I’m good!”



*“I’ve been given a new life!”*  
– Rowena

For Rowena, Christmases past were spent high and feeling ashamed. Last year, she cried happy tears while experiencing a safe, sober holiday season for the first time. This year, thanks to your compassion and generosity, Rowena is joyfully experiencing the best gift of all – a second chance at life!

## Real-Life Christmas Miracle Grateful for a Second Chance

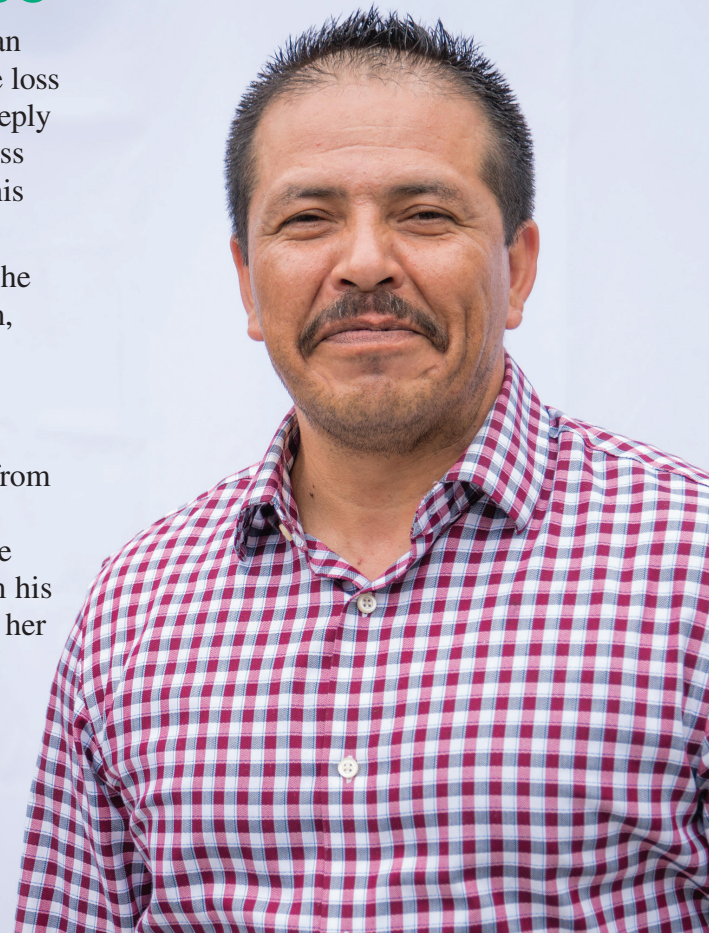
For three years, Salvador slept in trash cans in the hills of Elysian Park and tried to numb his emotional pain with drugs. He mourned the loss of his family, who no longer tolerated his drug use. He knew how deeply they’d suffered because of his addiction. So, this 45-year-old homeless father collected bottles from recycling bins and gave the money to his daughter. It was his way of letting her know he still cared.

Salvador also prayed that God would lead him to a place where he could find help. When it seemed every door had been closed to him, Salvador entered Los Angeles Mission and felt the peace he’d been seeking. “I stayed because I wanted to feel that peace and love of Christ every day!”

Since that day in 2017, Salvador has found sobriety, graduated from the Men’s Recovery Program, reunited with his family and found a job with a company who understands his journey. He was able to be sober while watching his daughter graduate. And with support from his Mission family, he was able to ask his mom for forgiveness and tell her he had accepted Jesus Christ into his life before she passed away.

For the first time in a long time, Salvador, a real-life miracle, is looking forward to Christmas and his heart is filled with gratitude. “I want to thank everyone on behalf of my entire family. I am thankful for the help and compassion given to all those living on the street.”

*“Thank you for your help and compassion for all of us.”*  
– Salvador



## UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

11/3 & 12/1

### 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).

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.

12/21

### Christmas Street Event

Experience the spirit of Christmas when we provide turkey dinners with all the fixin's for all and toys for children.

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

## Feel the Joy of Giving All Year Long!



The joy of giving to help others is a treasured holiday tradition for many people. You can experience that heartwarming feeling all year long by becoming a Meals-A-Month donor. This simple and convenient giving option provides meals and care throughout the year for our neighbors in need. Enrollment is as simple as choosing the gift amount you want automatically processed each month by the method you choose. To become a Meals-A-Month donor, please complete the information on the enclosed reply slip. You can also sign-up online at [losangelesmission.org/give](http://losangelesmission.org/give) or call (213) 629-1227, Ext. 334 to join by phone.

## Don't Forget to Remember

A recent study found the average adult forgets three key things each day, like where you left your keys, where you parked your car or what you meant to buy at the store. And every day adults forget to share vital information with their loved ones — **by not communicating details about the personal final wishes that only they know.**



Individuals who prepare for unanticipated life events by having an up-to-date Estate Plan exercise a unique form of love for their families. Remembering to care for your loved ones during *and after* your life is a beautiful gift. So is remembering a ministry like Los Angeles Mission in your Will.

*For the full version of this article, ask for a FREE copy of "Are You Forgetting the Most Important Thing?" by contacting Randy Hess at (213) 629-1227, Ext. 357 or [rhess@lamission.net](mailto:rhess@lamission.net) — or bless your family today with a God-honoring Will at [www.christianwill.org/lamission](http://www.christianwill.org/lamission).*

## 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 July 2018.



229,434  
MEALS SERVED



72,970  
NIGHTS OF SHELTER



78,231  
CLEAN SHOWERS



66,170  
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!

From Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Smith  
to Provide Christmas Meals and Care!

Yes, I want to help provide a hearty holiday meal and compassionate care for friends and neighbors on Skid Row. Please use my gift to Los Angeles Mission where it's needed most this holiday season. Enclosed is my gift of:

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

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

☐ I want to become a Meals-A-Month partner and give a monthly gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_. My first gift is enclosed. (Please complete mailing address on reverse.)

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.

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

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

### Stay Connected

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[LosangelesMission.org](http://LosangelesMission.org)



### LOS ANGELES MISSION DONATION DROP OFF

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Los Angeles, CA 90013