

News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

JANUARY 2019



**NEW
YEAR,
NEW
LIFE**

**“Thank you for giving
from your heart.”**

— Doug, from the streets to sobriety

See your impact on Doug’s life on page 2 . . .

New Year,
New Lives



Dear Caring Friend,

January is an exciting month at Los Angeles Mission because we see an influx of guests who are truly ready to commit to change in the new year. Many came to us for a holiday meal at Thanksgiving or Christmas and saw a glimpse of what could be possible for their lives. Please keep them in your prayers as they face the inevitable struggles that come with making real, lasting change in their lives.

This month is also a time of worry. The need for our programs will be at its highest, while donations this month will be among the lowest. The holidays are behind us. In front of us remains scores of men, women and children who need real help. What we accomplished yesterday means little to the mother, father or child who struggles today. That's why I'm so grateful for you and all our friends who understand that hunger and homelessness never take a holiday.

Thank you for being a compassionate friend to our neighbors on Skid Row and offering your generous support so we can change the future — one life at a time!

God bless you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Herb Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Herb Smith
President/CEO

From the Streets to Sobriety

It's never too late to start over!



Doug and so many others at the Mission are grateful for your role in providing a hopeful, fresh start.

The shame of actions in his past life still haunt Doug every night. After dropping out of school in the 8th grade, he was working in the Miami drug trade by the time he was 18. After learning about Los Angeles Mission long ago, this year he felt called to return at age 54 for a fresh start.

He credits the counseling he received at Los Angeles Mission with helping him process the difficult emotions of his past mistakes, which is helping him live a healthy life today. "I have shelter at the Mission and am learning to be vulnerable and how to open up." Doug's also had other new experiences in the program with the arts, reading and writing. "God is peeling back the layers, and I'm understanding the root of my problems."

Doug will be starting the new year by finishing his GED and is thankful to have a job he loves as a trucker. To generous donors like you, Doug says, "Thank you for giving from your heart to people you don't even know. To have this beautiful, safe facility where you can find help is such a blessing!"



\$2.03

So much for so little!

A hot meal is the first step to a new life. Your gift of just \$2.03 provides that seed of hope. Thank you!

From Unimaginable Pain to Sheer Joy!

Rebuilding lives at the Anne Douglas Center for Women

The joy in Cynthia's voice today is unmistakable and adds an exclamation point to her amazing story of transformation at the Anne Douglas Center for Women. Looking back on her journey, Cynthia says, "I didn't realize there were people who would do something for someone else and not get something back."

At her lowest point, Cynthia was homeless and covered in filth when she was attacked in an alley. She woke up in the hospital with two black eyes, glass embedded in her feet and a concussion. Sadly, she was quickly dismissed and put in a cab. Wearing nothing but a hospital gown, Cynthia was dumped on the corner outside Los Angeles Mission. The minute she stepped through our doors, her recovery began. It started with the basics: good, hot meals; warm, safe shelter; a clean bed. Slowly, fear turned to hope.

"They taught me about having God in your life," Cynthia recalls. "The Anne Douglas Center saved my physical life, and I received salvation."

Now feeling grounded and grateful, Cynthia is living an entirely different life. She works as a national accounts manager for a retail chain and has restored her relationship with her family. "I'm amazed at what God has done with me," she says. "I'm thankful I didn't miss the miracle!"



"Many women, including me, would've died without the Anne Douglas Center!"



"Your help is like giving water to someone in a desert!"

With Nothing Left to Lose, Roderick Finds Hope

After years of struggling with alcohol, Roderick had lost everything that was important to him — his job, his wife, his kids, even his relationship with God. He lived on the streets without food, hungry for as much as a week at a time. Some might say he had nothing to live for . . . but God had another plan!

When Roderick first came to Los Angeles Mission, he was only hoping for a hot meal and a bed for the night. What he found was a second chance. Instead of stealing food from friends, he could count on a warm, nutritious meal to feed his physical hunger. Instead of being cold and alone, Roderick learned that God loved him and would guide him moving forward. Now Roderick is working hard, reconnecting with his children and grandkids and putting his faith in God.

"I'm letting God lead my life," Roderick says. "Thank you for keeping the doors open for people like me!"

Most Vulnerable Find Safe Haven at Mission

Number of elderly homeless in Los Angeles **↑ 22%**

Becoming homeless is always difficult, but for seniors it can be devastating.

"I am heartbroken by the increasing need to assist our elderly," Herb Smith says. "Many of these people have worked their whole lives, but their fixed incomes simply cannot keep pace with the costs of living, especially rent!"

Thanks to the gifts of friends like you, we have added beds for emergency shelter and are providing food, clothing, hygiene products and other items. Thank you for helping this especially vulnerable group. We can't do it without you.



UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

2/2 & 3/2

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.

2/2

Anne Douglas Center Honor's Evening

Join us for an intimate celebration of our Anne Douglas Center graduates.

2/8

Graduation Day

Come help us celebrate our Fresh Start graduates.

3/7

Annual Career Fair

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.

4/19

Easter Street Event

Join us to celebrate Easter with our friends and neighbors on Skid Row! We'll be giving away Easter baskets, toys and many other items. It's one of the best events of the year, and you won't want to miss it!

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

The Simplest Way to Make a Difference!



Our Meals-A-Month giving option is a great way to help your friends and neighbors experiencing homelessness get the meals and care they need. At your request, your chosen gift amount is automatically processed each month by the method you choose. Your regular support as a Meals-A-Month donor helps us budget and plan more efficiently, allowing us to help people like Doug and Cynthia.

Please consider becoming a Meals-A-Month donor today so we can help as many people as possible. To sign-up online visit us at LosAngelesMission.org/Give. Or you can call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 334 to join by phone.

Donor Advised Funds Are An Easy Way To Make A Lasting Impact

Donor Advised Funds (DAF) were recently rated the #1 planned giving tool by over 400 charities across the United States. DAFs are growing in popularity for a few reasons:

- **They're simple.** DAFs let you support multiple charities from one account whenever you feel led to give.
- **They're smart.** Opening a DAF provides an immediate tax benefit, plus you'll avoid capital gains tax on contributions of long-term appreciated assets.
- **They're legacy-building.** DAFs provide a great way to teach giving to the next generation. Simply set up a DAF and invite your kids or grandchildren to help recommend charities you want to bless, like Los Angeles Mission.
- **They're for everyone.** Want to give anonymously? Need the flexibility to give a large or small gift? No matter your circumstance, DAFs are a great choice for charitable giving.

We like to think of financial planning and charitable giving as acts of worship. Shouldn't the process be simple and enjoyable?

For the full version of this article, ask for a FREE copy of "The Easiest Way to Leave a Legacy" by contacting Randy Hess at (213) 629-1227 Ext. 357 or rhess@lamission.net — or bless your family today with a God-honoring Will at www.christianwill.org/lamission

You Can Change A Life Today!

Send back the enclosed reply form with your gift to provide meals, care and life-changing services to people who are alone with nowhere else to turn. 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 Meals and New Life in the new year!

Yes, I want to help provide a hearty meal and compassionate care for friends and neighbors on Skid Row. Enclosed is my gift of:
 \$_____ to help as much as possible!

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

Los Angeles Mission
The Crossroads of Hope
PO Box 54059 | Los Angeles, CA 90054-0059
Give online at
LosAngelesMission.org/crossroads

Please make your check payable to Los Angeles Mission and return it with this slip in the envelope provided. To change 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.

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

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LOS ANGELES MISSION DONATION DROP OFF

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Los Angeles, CA 90013