

News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

FEBRUARY 2019



Second Chances Start with You

"I'm eternally grateful for my second chance!"

— Delores, changed from the inside out

Read on page 2
how you helped change
Delores's life . . . for good!

A Season of Second Chances



Dear Caring Friend,

I'm so grateful for all you do to help Los Angeles Mission. Especially during this time of year, when the need for our services is high and donations often decline.

For our guests, it is a particularly trying time on Skid Row. They are weary from the long cold nights. The loneliness and isolation have taken a toll, making it hard to imagine life could ever be any different. A second chance seems like an impossible dream. Our staff and volunteers understand their discouragement and continue to welcome weary souls for nutritious meals, hot showers and a warm bed. It's these simple acts of kindness that build trust and restore faith that someone really does care . . . and that opportunities for change do exist.

It's when hearts open that fresh starts take shape and moving on from the past begins to become real. Thanks to your support, when that moment arrives, the Mission can offer the programs, counseling, career and support services that people really need to succeed. I hope you'll continue to help us with this important work of transforming lives and creating hope. Thank you!

God bless you,

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

Herb Smith
President/CEO

Changed from the Inside Out It's Never Too Late for a Second Chance!

Only through the ongoing support and prayers of friends like you can we continue making lasting differences for people like Delores.



Delores is a shining example of the far-reaching impact your gifts to Los Angeles Mission have on our community. Since graduating from the Anne Douglas Center program 12 years ago, Delores has been dedicated to giving back by encouraging other women to seek help, whether she meets them at her church or on the streets of Skid Row.

After growing up in a dysfunctional family, Delores felt unlovable. Her struggles with low self-esteem began a spiral into addiction and 30 years of struggling to survive on the street. She was often homeless and without food or clean clothes. She lost custody of her son and life felt like a whirlwind. Until November 22, 2006, when she reached rock bottom and reached out for help at the Anne Douglas Center for Women.

Through counseling, Delores began to understand the root of her problems and learned that, "Healing is an inside job." As one of the oldest participants in the program, she embraced the opportunity to be a role model to younger women. "I have grown and want to share my testimony. The Anne Douglas Center saved my life and gave me a sense of purpose. It was such a gift to receive help!"

Since graduating, she has maintained her sobriety, is living independently and, through a referral from the Mission, has a part-time job with the Department of Aging. Delores is part of a Christian Recovery group that was started by her church to help others, has reunited with her daughter, who volunteers at the Anne Douglas Center leading a Bible study group, and is building a relationship with the son she lost years ago. Thank you for continuing to support the life-changing programs that give hope and real help to women every day!



\$2.03

PROVIDES A HOT MEAL
AND A FRESH START!



Ernest stepped through our doors and toward a new life. And you were with him through your caring and generosity.

How a Hot Meal Helped Change Ernest's Life

"God let me know that I didn't have to continue living the way I did."

All too often, Ernest was alone and abandoned. Suffering from drug use. Hungry night after night.

And that was before he was homeless.

Living with drug-addicted parents, the 15-year-old rarely knew where his next meal would come from. Little would change once he called the streets "home." It's a wonder he made it to 50 and a miracle he walked through our doors.

One of the first things we did was give Ernest a meal. And he stayed. He joined our Fresh Start recovery program. He gained 60 pounds. Most of all, he gained a new life!

Reunited with his father, Ernest says, "I'm so thankful that Dad has been there for me now and wants the best for us."

Sober, healthy and brimming with hope, Ernest is looking forward to working, saving for retirement and continuing his relationships with his dad and God.

Ernest is a real-life example of how new life begins with the basics. Thank you for your support of Los Angeles Mission and for helping Ernest reclaim his life and his family.

2019 Career Fair Making Lasting Change in Our Community



Los Angeles Mission is passionate about helping *all* people find the tools needed for self-betterment.

That's why the annual Career Fair you help make possible is so important. The Fair is an opportunity for Mission guests and as many as 400 members of the community to visit with up to 40 possible employers. Meaningful work is a vital part of recovery for our guests. The sense of pride and self-worth that comes from a day's work is a significant milestone in creating a new life for one's self.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity that allows us to provide life-changing opportunities like this for our guests and our neighbors in the community.

For more information contact Allen Ceravolo, Director of Career Services, at (213) 629-1227 Ext. 517.



Your support provides people in the community the tools they need to change their own lives.



Graduates of the Anne Douglas Center say "Thank you" for 27 years of hope!

"When I arrived at the Anne Douglas Center I was welcomed with warm, loving and open arms. The compassion and generosity that I was shown helped me make positive decisions and change my life."

— April

"Thanks to my time at the Anne Douglas Center I faced my addiction, learned about myself and learned about Jesus Christ. Today, I am sober, have my own home, pay my own bills and I restored my relationships with my children and grandchildren. Thank you so much!"

— Debbie

"Anne Douglas has had an enormous impact on me. She has given me the willpower and confidence to fight for my life back. Her generosity uplifts my spirit, helping me to restore my mind, body and soul. I am grateful to be a student here at the Anne Douglas Center."

— Erlinda

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.

Make a Difference Every Day!



Los Angeles Mission is blessed to have a dedicated group of supporters who make a difference every day by donating through our Meals-A-Month giving option. This simple, automatic donation process is the most cost-effective way you can impact daily operations at the Mission. By choosing an automated monthly gift, donors help us to plan and budget more efficiently enabling every dollar to be maximized to provide meals, care and shelter to our guests.

Please consider becoming a Meals-A-Month donor, it's simple and easy! To sign up online visit us at LosAngelesMission.org/Give. Or call Nuria Mora at (213) 629-1227 Ext. 334 to join by phone.

Want to Feel More Alive?

At our best, humans desire fulfilling lives that leave a positive impact on our world. So, how do we live truly alive?

A great way to overcome negativity and cynicism is to practice "grateful touch" for a week. Simply thank God for *anything* you touch and see how it changes your perspective.

And consider Jesus's words in Acts 20:35b (KJV): "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Giving your time or money to an organization like Los Angeles Mission changes lives, and many people have decided to update their Will to include a gift to a ministry they care about. This is a unique way to feel more alive now — and ensure your legacy will outlive you.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "3 Secrets for a Fulfilling Life" 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, Care and Second Chances!

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 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.

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LosAngelesMission.org



LOS ANGELES MISSION DONATION DROP OFF

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