

News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

MARCH 2019

More Guests Than Ever Expected For Easter Event

It's almost time for our annual Easter Event! On April 19, with the help of friends like you, we'll share the joy of this season of hope and renewal with friends and neighbors by serving over 3,500 hearty meals, baskets of goodies for children and much more. More details on this annual celebration inside.



You are part of a real-life miracle!
See page 3 for the full story . . .

Renewal and Restoration



Dear Caring Friend,

We never know what touches the hearts of the people we serve. But the resurrection of Christ we celebrate at Easter — *the hope for new life after death* — often resonates with our guests. As they remember Easter celebrations of their childhood, it sparks a desire to recapture the faith and sense of community they once knew.

As the hearts of these hurting neighbors cautiously open to the possibility of a second chance at life, I'm so grateful Los Angeles Mission has so much to offer them. Your support makes our life-changing programs and services possible. People are always amazed at the variety of what is available to help meet their unique needs. Thank you so much for helping us care for our neighbors physically, emotionally and spiritually!

Easter's celebration of new life is the culmination of what we do and why we do it. I hope you'll rejoice with us for all the lives you've helped restore and renew as a member of our Mission family.

God bless you,

Herb Smith
President/CEO



Thank You Los Angeles Christian Health Centers
for Your Partnership!

\$2.03 Provides an Easter Dinner and a New Chance at Life!

Thanks to Mission friends and supporters like you, we are working to bring hope to Skid Row by serving more than 3,500 meals at our upcoming Easter Event on Good Friday, April 19. For the fourth year in a row we are grateful to Los Angeles Christian Health Centers (LACHC) for their partnership. In addition to a delicious meal with all the fixings, we are hoping to distribute Easter baskets filled with treats and toys to children as their families enjoy activities together throughout the day.

Staff and volunteers are looking forward to welcoming our guests with hugs, smiles and plates of delicious food. In addition to their financial support, volunteers from LACHC wash the feet of our guests, emulating the compassionate example of Christ. This simple gesture of kindness provides physical relief for members of the homeless community who often suffer from painful foot conditions and an opportunity for each guest to be acknowledged as an individual worthy of God's love and ours.

We hope you'll support these efforts with a generous gift so we can provide hope-filled Easter meals and basic necessities to our neighbors who need it most.



Your help gives Easter hope to neighbors in need.



A hot meal and cup of coffee can brighten a day and renew the soul.



Thank you for creating special childhood memories for boys and girls this Easter.



Give a Basket Full of Hope!

Will you please help us make sure children living on Skid Row don't miss out on the fun of having an Easter basket all their own? For every \$10 you give, we can provide all the goodies to fill one basket and distribute them to children at our Easter Event. Please give today, so every boy and girl will know they haven't been forgotten!

After 30 Years, a Real-Life Easter Miracle Made Possible through Gifts of Friends

At one point in his life, Robert Ford was living the American dream. He was an Army veteran, had a job he loved, owned his own home and his wife was pregnant with their first child, Magan. Then, things went downhill. Robert got into trouble and was sent to the penitentiary. Magan was just 10 days old when her father left to serve his time.

30 years later, Robert, on the advice of his parole officer, walked through our front doors humbled and eager for a new life. He enrolled in the Fresh Start Program, where he received physical, mental and emotional support as he rediscovered the person he once was.

“The Mission helped me put one foot in front of the other, instead of one foot forward, one foot backward,” Robert says.

Robert and Magan had exchanged a few letters while Robert was in jail, but when she heard he was healing at Los Angeles Mission, Magan was ready to visit him in person.

At their emotional reunion, Magan got to do something she had waited her whole life for: hug her dad. “I’m thankful for Los Angeles Mission,” Magan says. “Without them, my dad wouldn’t be around to see his granddaughter’s first steps.”

“Magan welcomed me after all the times I wasn’t there for her,” Robert says. “I’m really blessed to have her.”

Robert, who now works at Los Angeles Mission, says he will be forever grateful for the “unbelievable generosity of the donors who keep the doors open.”

Your gifts not only change the lives of people like Robert, they change the lives of family members like Magan, too. Thank you for helping reunite families.

“Without Los Angeles Mission, my dad wouldn’t be around to see his granddaughter’s first steps.”

— Magan Ford



Rebuilding Lives at the Anne Douglas Center for Women

Restoring a Broken Past, Building a Better Future

It was just when Latoya thought her life was over that she learned about the Anne Douglas Center. Beyond her gratitude for the essentials of food and shelter, Latoya is thankful for the skills she learned that are enabling her to continue her transformation and face life’s struggles since graduating. “Now I have the tools to handle life situations, emotionally and spiritually.”

Latoya felt abandoned by her parents as they struggled with drug addiction. She tried to overcome the childhood that left her feeling broken by doing what society told her would fix her life. She got a college degree. But only two years after graduation, another broken relationship led to a six-month incarceration. It was there she learned about the Anne Douglas Center. **“I thought life was over for me. But God’s plan was greater,” she says.**

As she completed the Fresh Start program, Latoya realized, “I was working on the outside but forgot about the inside — who I really was.” Today, she is living life with purpose and passion as a mental health therapist and plans to pursue her master’s degree. **“I’m grateful to donors who support something outside of themselves. Thanks to the Anne Douglas Center, I can say now that I am where I truly belong!”**



“Thank you! I can now say I am where I belong!”

UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

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.

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.


Easter 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!



Providing nutritious meals, shelter and care to our friends and neighbors on Skid Row 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. It only takes one sign-up and your gifts will be processed automatically each month.

Becoming a Meals-A-Month donor is 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.

Can Money Really Buy Happiness?

It may be no surprise that up until 2018, the most popular class in Yale's 316-year history was "Psychology and the Law." But which class recently eclipsed it? *Happiness 101*. So what did they learn?

1. **Money buys only so much happiness.** According to a study by two Nobel Prize winning economists, well-being rises with income until you reach \$75,000, then it levels off.
2. **Happy people devote time to family and friends.** One study noted in Time Magazine claims that as much as 70 percent of happiness comes from relationships with others.
3. **You feel good when you do good.** Copenhagen's Happiness Research Institute found that people who volunteer and give, "experience fewer depressive symptoms, less anxiety and enjoy a more meaningful life."

What could be more meaningful than combining these ideas by connecting with family through service or giving? Inspiring generosity in the next generation is a great way to connect, and blessing Los Angeles Mission is a great way to leave a legacy.

For the full version of this article, ask for a FREE copy of “4 Ways to be Happier Today” 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!



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

Stay Connected

Keep track of the latest Mission news,
make safe online donations and more.
LosAngelesMission.org



LOS ANGELES MISSION DONATION DROP OFF

316 Winston Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013