

UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

4/6 & 5/4

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.

4/7 - 4/13

National Volunteer Week

This is a great time to volunteer for our regulars and first-timers! Volunteers are the heart of the Mission and provide vital support for our guests. We have many different ways you can partner with us to help your friends and neighbors. To learn more about Volunteer Opportunities, please visit lamission.volunteerhub.com

4/19

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.

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 Xochitl and Joseph.

Becoming a Meals-A-Month donor is simple and easy! To sign-up online visit us at LosAngelesMission.org/Give. Or call (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!

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

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

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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

News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

APRIL 2019



A JOURNEY OF HOPE

Joseph's family didn't want to give up but didn't know how to help. Read inside how your generosity changed all their lives forever!

"Los Angeles Mission really saves lives. I'm a walking example!"

— Joseph, from homeless to hopeful

Journey of Hope



Dear Caring Friend,

Stories of rising above life's struggles touch my heart. I was profoundly moved when my father talked about his childhood. How his widowed mother moved from house to house, living off WIC, trying to care for her seven children. Knowing that Dad and his siblings emerged from those difficult times to become wonderful human beings, assures me that — with the support of people like you — other families can do the same.

In this issue of *Crossroads*, we want to introduce you to a few of the hundreds of families whose journeys from homelessness to hope you've helped make possible. Your gifts provide the meals, showers and beds that have become the catalyst for their transformations. From those starting points began journeys of real change . . . and hope. Thank you for helping to write the first chapters of these happy ending stories you'll read today.

God bless you,

Herb Smith
President/CEO

From Homelessness to Hope Thanks to your generosity

Joseph's family refused to give up on him. But the day his godfather found him drunk and sleeping behind a tire store, they knew all the love in the world couldn't stop the power of addiction. They brought him to Los Angeles Mission for the real help Joseph so desperately needed.

Joseph admits today that when he arrived at the Mission, he felt relieved. "I made the decision to change my life and knew I wouldn't have to worry about if I was going to need another drink. I was inspired by my children so they would never have to grow up and struggle like I did."

After over a year at the Mission, Joseph's days of struggling to survive on the streets are far behind him. He is now fully employed and is excited for the future. "My family got me to enter the program, but I wanted to reunite with my wife who was about to give birth to my daughter. Now I'm more confident in myself and in the power of Jesus Christ to help me stay clean and sober," he says.

Thank you for supporting the life-changing programs that help real people solve real problems and bring families back together again!



"I'm thankful for all the help. Los Angeles Mission really saves lives!"
— Joseph

A New Life with a New Plan

At just 23, Xochitl's life journey has already been full of twists and turns. She grew up surrounded by family turmoil and became a mom as a teenager. One final wrong turn landed her in jail. During her three-month incarceration, she learned about the Anne Douglas Center and knew there was hope.

Xochitl enrolled immediately after she was released and began a whole new way of life. "Today my recovery and my sobriety are the most important things," she says. Through classes and counseling, Xochitl has learned to manage the anger issues stemming from her childhood and how to live life one day at a time.



"Thank you! This has been a blessing and a big opportunity."
— Xochitl

Being able to look forward to visits with her daughter while she was at the Mission helped Xochitl get through her most difficult days in the program. And she knew her hard work would mean a better life for both of them in the future. "There were times I wanted to leave," she says. **"The support I received from everyone here and my family really helped. I'm so thankful for everything and for the donors who made it all possible. I don't know where I would be without Los Angeles Mission!"**

Xochitl is proud to say that the program at the Anne Douglas Center is the first thing she started that she also finished. And it won't be the last. Thanks to your generosity, Xochitl is excited to return to college so she can pursue a career in forensic psychology and create a loving home for her daughter.



There's Still Time to Make a Difference This Easter!

You still have time to give hope and meals to your friends and neighbors living on Skid Row at our Easter event. We expect to serve more than 3,500 meals to women, children and veterans on Good Friday, April 19.

Volunteers from Los Angeles Christian Health Centers (LACHC), which is sponsoring the event for the fourth year in a row, will graciously wash the feet of our guests, following the example of Christ. This act of service is an opportunity to remind our guests that they are worthy of God's love and ours.

We are hoping to provide children attending the event fun Easter baskets filled with chocolate, toys and other fun items. The baskets are a great way to bring joy to kids who might go to bed hungry and wouldn't otherwise be able to celebrate this holiday.

Every \$2.03 you give today can help provide a hot Easter meal to people who are longing for hope and rebirth. **Please help make this Easter one to remember.**

Georgia Finds Purpose Volunteering at Los Angeles Mission

Georgia first volunteered at Los Angeles Mission when she was invited to a street event in 2010, and she has been volunteering weekly ever since. "From the minute I sat down in the chapel and felt the goodness . . . I knew I had found my new home," she says.

During her many visits, Georgia has overseen the kids' activities at street events (earning her the unofficial title of "Chief Hugger of Kids"), volunteered in the kitchen, started a rooftop garden and painted multiple murals around that garden.

Georgia is quick to point out that when she began volunteering she expected to help others improve their lives — and she has. But what she did not expect was that volunteering changed her life for the better, too!

Georgia has found her life's purpose through service work and encourages everyone to volunteer at Los Angeles Mission. "[Los Angeles Mission] is all about community, togetherness and seeing everyone as valuable," Georgia says. **"Seeing the transformations of the guests . . . those are magical moments."**

Volunteers like Georgia are the heart of the Mission. To learn more about how you can make a difference, visit LosAngelesMission.org/Volunteer.

