

News from Los Angeles Mission

# CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

June 2019



"Thank you for giving us this chance to get back to life!"

– Monica

## Safe at Last, Grateful Forever!

After escaping an abusive relationship, Monica is preparing for a whole new life by learning new skills at the Anne Douglas Center. Read inside how your support helped her begin again . . .

# Summer of Survival



Dear Caring Friend,

While the arrival of summer often slows the hectic pace of life, it also slows donations to Los Angeles Mission. And it's a cause for extra worry. During these hot months, when our finances are challenged, we must help our neighbors on Skid Row receive a necessity that's easy for us to take for granted — *water!*

Clean drinking water and warm showers help prevent health problems, which can be worsened in the summer heat. We see a spike in emergency guests who are at extreme risk for dehydration. Our already strained budget approaches the breaking point each summer with the added expenses incurred by providing extra water, turning on misters outside the shelter and opening the chapel so guests can have a brief reprieve from the high temperatures.

Please help if you can with an extra gift during this time of need. And keep our neighbors on Skid Row in your prayers. Thank you. I'm sincerely grateful for your compassionate support!

God bless you,

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

Herb Smith  
President/CEO

# Safe at Last, Grateful Forever!



*"I've got my relationship  
with God back. He's  
still transforming me."*

Monica's first experience with Los Angeles Mission was as a ministry volunteer many years ago. At that time, she couldn't have imagined she would one day be enrolled in the program herself and grateful for the safe shelter of the Anne Douglas Center.

Yet sadly, after her marriage ended, a series of bad decisions began what she describes as the "downward spiral." To numb her pain, Monica turned to alcohol and then ended up in an abusive relationship.

"I started accepting the lies I was being told — that I didn't deserve any better. I started contemplating suicide," she remembers. On her third attempt to escape the abuse, she got away with only the clothes on her back. With no money or identification, she was stranded at a rest stop in Texas for days until a friend got her a bus ticket back to California.

When she arrived at the Anne Douglas Center, she was grateful to receive emotional and spiritual support and to attend classes to learn the skills she needed. "This is the first time I've been by myself. It's important to me that I get work established and that I'm able to take care of myself. **I'm really grateful for this opportunity because not everybody has that.**"

It's only through the caring support of people like you that we are able to help people like Monica get the fresh start they need to rebuild their lives.

**Every \$2.03 ensures another person  
like Monica receives the meal and care  
needed to survive this summer . . .  
and begin a new life.**

# Your Support Helped Richard Begin to Heal

Richard had a good home life growing up.

“We were four boys with loving parents,” Richard says. “We were very close to one another.”

After high school, he found a job and continued living with his parents, hoping to be able to afford a place of his own.

When his parents moved away, Richard was unable to join them and was left with nowhere to go. He was homeless, living out of his car. He turned to alcohol to numb his pain and loneliness.

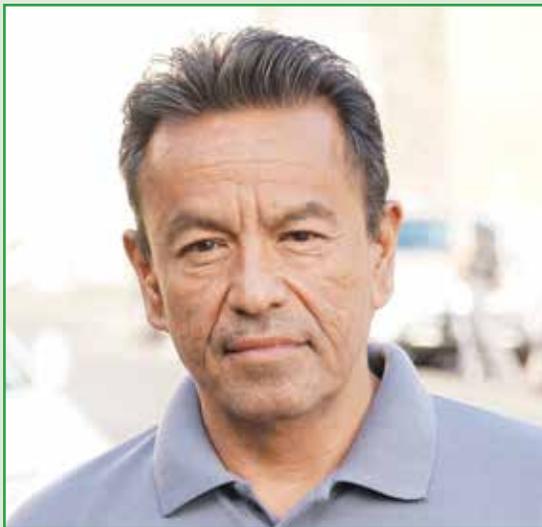
Richard lived on the street this way for years. But when Richard’s siblings found out their mother had cancer, they wanted him to be present and sober to support her. They begged Richard to come to Los Angeles Mission. Richard promised them he would, and soon after he arrived at our front door.

With the support of our licensed counselors and staff members, Richard was able to turn inward for healing. Thanks to Los Angeles Mission, he has learned to love and value himself.

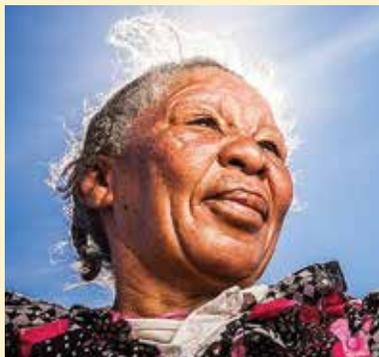
Richard looks forward to completing the program and moving into his own home. He is very grateful for the people like you who helped him transform his life.

**“I am most thankful for the supporters who help keep the Mission doors open,” Richard says. “Thank you very much and God bless.”**

Thank you for supporting people like Richard with your gifts to Los Angeles Mission.



It is only with your support that we are able to help people like Richard transform their lives.



Summer can be a dangerous time for those living on Skid Row.

## As Temperatures Rise, So Does the Danger

Summer is a dangerous time of year for our friends and neighbors on Skid Row. Increasing temperatures bring the risk of dehydration, heatstroke and food poisoning.

Los Angeles Mission sees an increase in the number of people who turn to us for help every summer. We’re expecting thousands of people to come through our doors, many of them homeless for the first time. They come seeking respite from the heat and to meet basic needs.

Los Angeles Mission provides people a safe place to start again, get healthy and be part of a family.

With the help of supporters like you, people of all ages who turn to us for help this summer will receive nutritious meals, water to keep them hydrated, a shower, safe shelter and life-transforming hope. And hope heals — as we’ve seen time and time again.

# Help Provide Safe Shelter



As you know, the homeless population is overwhelmingly visible in Los Angeles. You’ve seen the faces and desperation of women, children and veterans huddled together, living on the streets. Three out of four people experiencing homelessness are unsheltered, sleeping on the street or other places out in the open. As summer begins and the temperature rises, your support is imperative to continuing to provide safe shelter for our friends and neighbors with nowhere else to go.

# UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

6/1

## 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 [Lamission.volunteerhub.com](http://Lamission.volunteerhub.com)

6/8

## ADC Honor's Evening

Join us for the Graduate Honor's Evening ceremony at the Anne Douglas Center for Women as we celebrate our graduates' amazing accomplishments!

6/14

## Graduation Day

After the successful completion of 12 months in the FreshStart residential program, students celebrate their graduation and begin the transition to independent living!

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

## The Simplest Way to Make a Difference!



As Los Angeles Mission continues to help more people experiencing first-time homelessness than ever before, we depend on the continuing support of our Meals-A-Month partners. These partners are a critical part of providing the meals, shelter and care that are the first step in transforming the life of a person hungry for change.

Please consider joining Meals-A-Month to help each month.

Becoming a Meals-A-Month donor is simple and easy! To sign up online, visit us at [give.losangelesmission.org](http://give.losangelesmission.org) Or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 334 to join by phone.

## The Antidote to Anxiety

Money sure takes on different meaning when you're facing a fixed income, doesn't it?

Many people have found peace of mind through Charitable Gift Annuities. CGAs are a great way to support an organization you care about, like Los Angeles Mission, *and* receive the benefit of a financial payout for life.

CGAs help donors:

- Receive a reliable, fixed income
- Gain tax advantages (with a possible income tax deduction at the time of the donation, and another at income tax time)
- Bless an organization during and after their lifetime, with a higher payout rate when compared with CDs, treasury bonds or money market accounts

Don't live with anxiety over outliving your retirement. Start by structuring a plan that's right for your future.

*For the full version of this article, ask for a FREE copy of "How Not to Outlive Your Retirement" 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).*

## 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 John Q. Smith,  
to Provide Meals, Care and Hope this Summer!

Yes, I want to help neighbors on Skid Row receive safe shelter, a good meal and compassionate care during the summer heat. 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 94059 | Los Angeles, CA 90054-0059  
Give online at  
[LosAngelesMission.org/crossroads](http://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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### Stay Connected

Keep track of the latest Mission news, make safe online donations and more.  
[LosAngelesMission.org](http://LosAngelesMission.org)



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