

News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

August 2019



"Because of you and your generosity, I was given the chance to be healed by Jesus."

– Lieutenant Mitchell

Grateful for a second chance,

Lieutenant Mitchell is a real-life success story!

Second Chances, Brighter Futures



Dear Caring Friend,

When you're hungry — *I mean really hungry* — it's hard to think about anything except when you might eat again. That's why, before anything else, we address the basic physical needs of our guests. And why I'm so thankful friends like you understand that hope begins with a hot meal.

Our youngest guests need those nutritious meals, but it's also imperative that they have the supplies they need to succeed in school. Because education is key to breaking the poverty cycle. Please read more in the newsletter about how you can help Los Angeles Mission prepare children for success in school by helping to fill their backpacks, so they don't go to school empty-handed.

Thank you for continuing your support. Your generosity makes it possible for every issue of *Crossroads* to include stories, like Lieutenant's and Michelle's, where second chances have become success stories. Your partnership with Los Angeles Mission is changing the future for entire families.

God bless you,

Herb Smith
President/CEO



"I took a bus to Los Angeles Mission and it changed my life!"

You Helped Lieutenant Find Happiness After a Long Journey

After a long, hard life, it's heartwarming to hear Lieutenant Mitchell finally be able to say, "I'm happy." Family dysfunction began when he was just 10 years old and set in motion a life filled with challenges. Until he found help at Los Angeles Mission.

Like so many young teenagers, peer pressure at age 13 introduced Lieutenant to drugs and alcohol. Addiction led to time in prison and, eventually, no place to call home. He was able to stay with one relative and then another at a time, but his addictions were more than most family members could bear for very long. His brother, who had brought him to the Mission once before, encouraged Lieutenant to return and try again.

This time, Lieutenant boarded the bus on his own and made the decision to change and accept the help he was being offered. **He listened, learned and opened his heart to a relationship with Christ. Now sober for four years, employed by Cemco Steel Co. for almost three years and living in his own home, Lieutenant is thankful for donors who made his second chance possible.** He says, "I didn't have Christ in my life, and without the Mission, I wouldn't have known His goodness and mercy."

\$2.03 provides a meal and life-changing care. Give now to turn second chances into success!

With Your Help, Michelle Is Whole Again

When Michelle's twin sister was killed in a car accident, Michelle was drowning in grief and turned to substance abuse to numb the pain.

"I was lost in an addiction of both alcohol and drugs on a daily basis," she says. "I was completely lost, confused, alone and misguided."

Michelle's rock bottom came when she was evicted from her home and spent nearly a year living on the street. "I was living a life of using alcohol and drugs to cope with my emotional state of being," she says.

When she was told about Los Angeles Mission's program for women, Michelle knew this was the chance she needed to change her life. She worked hard on processing her grief and accepted Christ into her life.

Today, Michelle is sober, enrolled in college and has reconnected with her family. "I know what love feels like," she says. "I know how to express love to others, and I know how to be loving."

She is ready to live a healthy, faith-based life, and **it's because of your support of Los Angeles Mission that Michelle had the opportunity to transform her life, she says. "Thank you for everything you do to make a difference!"**



Women like Michelle are grateful for your support and encouragement. Thank you for helping them become the best versions of themselves.

There's No Better Way to Spend \$2.03 this Thanksgiving!

The past few months at Los Angeles Mission, we've seen an unprecedented number of friends and neighbors seeking help. Need is up now, and this fall will be no different. People living on Skid Row are searching for hope — and that hope begins with a meal.

With your support this Thanksgiving season, we can bring hope to more people than ever before. And that means more transformed lives too! Just \$2.03 will provide a complete Thanksgiving meal and other vital care to the people who need it most.



Your gifts help make quality education a reality for children experiencing homelessness. Thank you.

There's Still Time to Help Homeless Students Succeed!

Over 17,000 students in the Los Angeles Unified School District are considered homeless. Often, these children come to school without the necessary supplies.

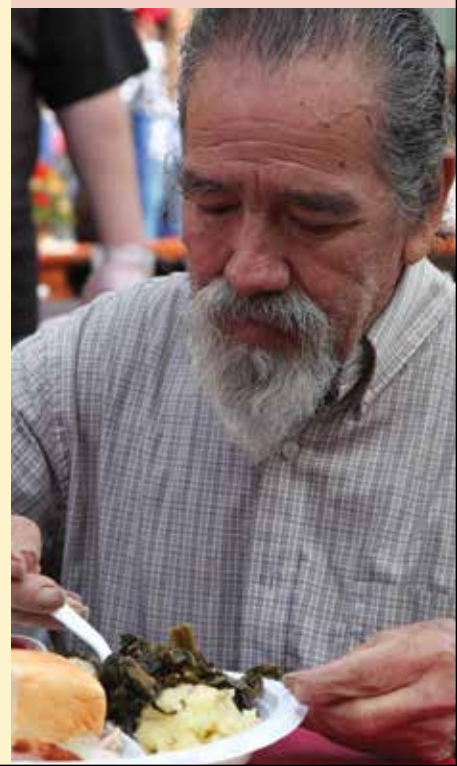
"The children in our area have barely enough family income to survive on household essentials like food and shelter," Herb Smith, Los Angeles Mission

President and CEO, says. "The 'extras,' like school and art supplies, etc., just don't happen without the help of our donors."

For these kids, seemingly small gifts like pencils and markers can be all it takes to break the cycle of homelessness in Los Angeles. To help these children start the school year off strong, **every \$20 you give helps fill a backpack with all the school and art supplies they need to succeed.**

With your support, we can pass out thousands of backpacks filled with school and art supplies for the upcoming school year to children living on Skid Row.

Thank you for investing in their futures and ensuring they are equipped for school.



UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

8/13 & 9/7

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.

10/11

Graduation Day

Come help us celebrate the transformation of our Fresh Start graduates.

10/24

Legacy of Vision Gala

Save the date! Please join us for the Los Angeles Mission's Annual Gala at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. For more information, contact Ivan Klassen at iklassen@lamission.net or please call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 325.

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

The Simplest Way to Make a Difference!



Providing nutritious meals, shelter and care to veterans, children and thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness 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.

Becoming a Meals-A-Month donor is simple and easy! To sign up online, visit us at Give.LosAngelesMission.org. Or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 334 to join by phone.

When Should You Update Your Estate Plan?

What if you had helpful triggers in place to remind you it's time to update your Estate Plan? You may be surprised to know, these "triggers" are actually happening all the time!

Some include:

- **Family changes:** Marriages, new children or deaths
- **Financial changes:** New assets or changing tax laws
- **Life changes:** Changing beneficiaries, moving or retirement
- **Time:** Every 3-5 years

Updating your Estate Plan is a fairly simple and wise task. If too many of these "triggers" are left unconsidered, your Will could become obsolete! But planning wisely for the future will bring peace and ensure your loved ones are taken care of.

For the full version of this article, ask for a FREE copy of "4 Changes That Could Affect Your Family's Future" by contacting Herb Smith at (213) 629-1227 Ext. 305 or HSmith@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!

John Q. Smith,
Your Gift Will 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

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.

Stay Connected

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

