

News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

September 2019



"I never lived like this before, going through life, living sober . . . guilt-free . . . the future looks great!"

– Wendell, graduate

Thanks to your support,
God's grace and Los Angeles Mission,
Wendell is living a brand new life!

You Make Futures Bright



Dear Caring Friend,

I've said it before: real change takes time. However, as we work to restore lives, a little progress each day adds up to big results.

Graduates like Wendell and Delores, whose stories are in this issue of *CROSSROADS*, know that all too well. As you read their inspiring transformations, I hope you'll be reminded that the solution we're all hoping for is happening here — *one life at a time*.

Though it seems Wendell's and Delores' journeys began with the decision to rebuild their lives, their transformations really started with *you*. When you decided to donate, you made the lifesaving programs they needed possible. For that, I'm extremely grateful because we simply couldn't do it without you.

Right now, we're already preparing for the upcoming holiday season — one of our busiest times of year — so I hope that you will continue your support of Los Angeles Mission. Wendell said it, and with the help of partners like you, we can help even more graduates say . . . ***"The future looks great!"***

God bless you,

Herb Smith
President/CEO



The Determination to Become a Changed Man

Wendell made the choice, but your gifts gave him the chance.

Wendell experienced a lot of rock bottoms when he was abusing drugs and alcohol. He wanted to live a sober life and thought he could do it on his own. He tried and tried, but it didn't work — he just kept backsliding. "You can't live and die at the same time," Wendell says. "But that is what I was doing."

When Wendell came to Los Angeles Mission, his mind was made up. This time, he would succeed. "I really focused and paid attention," he says. He participated in group and one-on-one counseling, faithfully attended classes and worked out every day to get physically healthy as well. "I kept my hope in God and let nothing deter me or take me off track," Wendell says.

His hard work paid off. Wendell graduated, and today he's working for a ministry, sharing his testimony to help others dealing with similar problems. **"Everybody at Los Angeles Mission played a gigantic part of me being where I'm at today," Wendell says. "I never lived like this before, going through life, living sober, living guilt-free . . . the future looks great!"**

Thanks to your support, people like Wendell are getting the help and guidance they need to live positive, productive lives.

"Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night."

Psalm 1:1-2 (NIV)

Starting Over Step by Step, with Your Help

Delores had never been in trouble with the law whatsoever. But at 51 years old, an ill-fated relationship ended with her going to prison. “I got involved with a man, and I fell for his lies. I did whatever he told me,” she recalls. It cost Delores her freedom and much more. “I lost everything,” she says. “My home, my kids, my family . . . everything!”

When Delores was released from prison, she contacted the Anne Douglas Center. She remembers praying, “God, I don’t have anywhere to go. If they don’t help me, I will be on the streets.” Thankfully, because of support from donors like you, we were there for Delores.

“I had never been in a program or a shelter before,” Delores says. “But I told myself that I would never go back to prison, and every day I reminded myself, ‘I’m going to make it through.’” And she did! Delores graduated from the Fresh Start program and has now applied for our Life Start program to continue rebuilding her life and preparing for a new career.

“I appreciate Los Angeles Mission,” Delores says. “It teaches you to be humble and to be kind because you never know what someone’s going through.” Thank you for giving women like Delores access to the steps they need to regain their faith, courage and belief in themselves for a better life.



Thanks to your generous donations, brighter futures for people like Delores really are possible!



What does it take to serve 3,500 Thanksgiving meals?

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, we’re preparing for the largest meal we’ll serve all year. This special feast will take 2,000 pounds of turkey, 1,000 pounds of cornbread dressing, 100 gallons of gravy, 2,000 pounds of collard greens, 3,500 pieces of sweet potato pie and an army of volunteers. But most of all, it will take support from friends like *YOU!* Your generosity will give people a reason to come together and celebrate this Thanksgiving.

To help make the day even more special, your gifts will also help provide Bibles as well as warm blankets and protective tarps to help people living on Skid Row prepare for the colder winter months. Please help us continue serving those in need. Together, we can give people a reason to give thanks this year.



This Thanksgiving,
the blessings begin with you!

UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

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.

Three Ways to Experience Joy in Retirement

Many individuals identify retirement as one of the happiest seasons of their lives. Here are three special sources of joy that make the Golden Years shine.

- 1. The JOYS of travel.** Traveling lets you experience fun and beauty. And when you travel to visit family, your trip can also become a special and unexpected way to build deeper relationships.
- 2. The JOYS of family.** The sweetness of experiencing children and grandchildren is unlike anything else.
- 3. The JOYS of giving.** Being able to bless a ministry like Los Angeles Mission that is impacting lives provides a special kind of fulfillment, especially during your "wise and wonderful" years. Plus, you can include a gift in your Will or Estate Plan to support eternal work long after you're gone. And if you've reached the age of 70½, giving from your IRA is an ideal option.

For the full version of this article, ask for a FREE copy of "3 Ways to Experience Joy in Retirement" 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.

The Simplest Way to Make a Difference!



Become a Meals-A-Month partner, and your *once* monthly gift will do wonders *all* month long. Every day, people come to us in need of meals and care. They count on us to be there and because of that, we count on monthly donors. Regular support helps us budget and plan more efficiently so that we're able to help people immediately, as well as prepare for our long-term needs. Please, make a

difference for our mission and for someone who is struggling by becoming a Meals-A-Month donor. Your kindness is the key to providing help, hope and opportunity to men, women and children in need.

To sign up online, visit us at Give.LosAngelesMission.org. Or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 334 to join by phone.

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!

Yes, I want to help neighbors on Skid Row receive safe shelter, a good meal and compassionate care. 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 94099 | Los Angeles, CA 90094-0099
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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