

News from Los Angeles Mission

# CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

OCTOBER 2019

## Annual Thanksgiving Celebration Expects Record Crowds

The countdown is on! On November 27th, we'll be putting on a Thanksgiving feast to feed more than 3,000 of our friends and neighbors who live on Skid Row. Read more inside about how you can help make this our biggest and best Thanksgiving yet!



**Michael had his first  
happy Thanksgiving in  
over a decade, thanks  
to you . . . (cont'd on page 3)**





## Giving Thanks for You!



Dear Caring Friend,

We're less than a month away from serving more than 3,000 meals during our Annual Thanksgiving Event. As we prepare to give thanks with our friends and neighbors on Skid Row, I want to take a moment to thank you.

We are so very fortunate in so many ways to have supporters like you who think about the people who have the least in our community. It's no small feat, but because of this meal, men and women find themselves at the very place where they can find help and hope. Better still, some will be inspired to stay and take the first step to rebuilding their lives. The love and compassion found here is so often a catalyst for those who realize that they want and deserve a better future. That's what your gifts make possible.

It's amazing to think how a meal opens hearts and new beginnings. With your continued support, this year, we'll make a difference, one person at a time, one turkey dinner at a time.

God bless you,

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

Herb Smith  
President/CEO

## You Are Giving Hope with Every Thanksgiving Meal!

This November, Los Angeles Mission will welcome thousands of people without a home to our Thanksgiving street event, where we plan to serve nutritious Thanksgiving meals and some extra-special care.

Through the generosity of friends like you, we will also provide critical supplies like hygiene kits and blankets. Volunteers are also on hand for foot washing. This small act of service means a lot for those living in the isolation and loneliness of life on Skid Row and helps identify potential medical issues.

The event will brighten the day of someone who would otherwise be spending the holidays alone and hungry. We hope you'll support your friends and neighbors with a generous gift to provide nutritious Thanksgiving meals and basic care.



This Thanksgiving, you can give hope to hurting women, families and children.



Thank you for giving a happy Thanksgiving to those who need it most.



This time of year, new life often begins with a good meal.

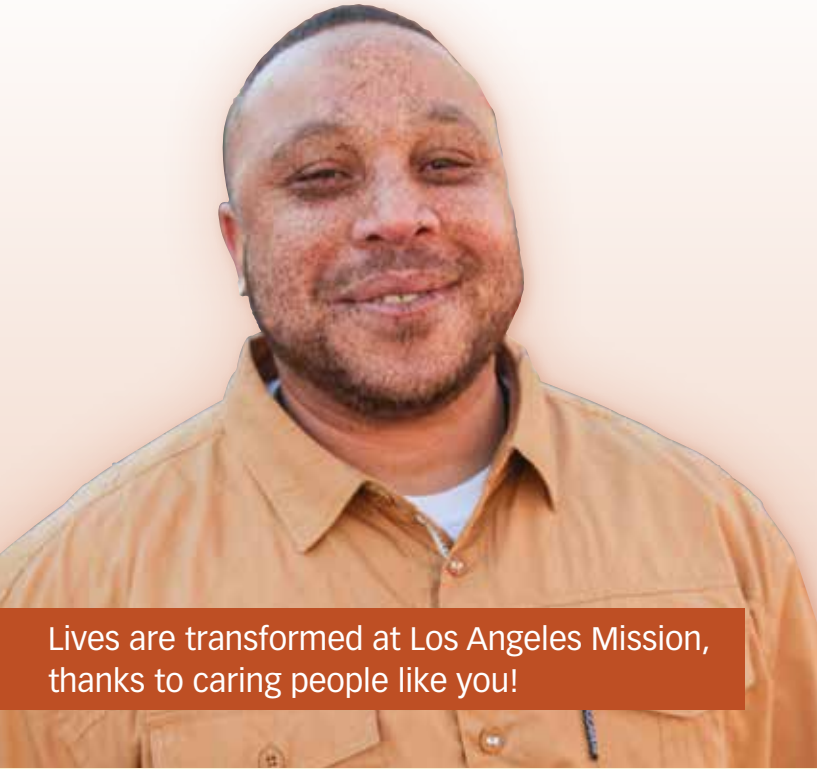
**There's no better way to spend \$2.03 this Thanksgiving!**

Every \$2.03 you share today will provide a nourishing Thanksgiving meal and loving care for someone who is hungry, alone . . . and in need of something to be thankful for this holiday season.

# Salvation Begins With a Thanksgiving Meal . . . Because of you, Michael is transformed!

Michael's parents rarely got along when he was a child. To escape the conflict he spent more time outside. As a young teen he started hanging around the wrong crowd, and a few bad choices resulted in a lifetime of regret.

"Hanging out with the wrong crowd took me to everything that I didn't want to be in life," Michael says.



Lives are transformed at Los Angeles Mission,  
thanks to caring people like you!

It also took him to prison. This began an 11-year period where Michael was experiencing homelessness and struggling to survive.

"I was depressed and worried," he says.

But then, Michael came to the Thanksgiving Street Event at Los Angeles Mission.

"When you really get your first taste of homemade food in years, like hams and yams . . . I can't even describe it. It was a blessing. I felt like, 'this is where I need to be.'"

Michael was inspired to change his life. He worked hard in our Rehabilitation Program for Men, and today he is ready to show the world his transformation!

He looks forward to showing people who were in his situation that the resources they need are at Los Angeles Mission.

**"I love Los Angeles Mission," Michael says.  
"Faithful people who really want to put their best  
foot forward can come here and find love."**

When asked what he wants to say to the people like you who made his transformation possible, Michael smiles. "Thank you for taking the time out of your day to donate and for bringing these services to the community. We really appreciate it."

## A Reason to Give Thanks Starts Here Rebuilding Lives at the Anne Douglas Center

Dana was one of six children, growing up with a hardworking mother who did her best to make ends meet, but was rarely around. "My brothers and sisters and I raised ourselves," she says.

But fending for herself proved too much of a burden. As an adult, Dana found herself all alone and living out of her car. She knew she needed help and that's when she came to the Anne Douglas Center to get her life back on track. She enrolled in our Jumpstart program. "It was hard at first after being on my own so long," Dana says.

**"But I really felt like people cared about me and what is the best for me."**

"Today, I'm stronger in my faith and I have more respect for myself," Dana says. More than anything, she wants to be a good role model, and thanks to support from friends like you, she's on her way.

As she plans to celebrate Thanksgiving with us this year, Dana says, "I'm thankful that I came to the Anne Douglas Center to get my life together. I appreciate knowing that people really do care about the homeless and want to see us do good."

Only through the gifts of caring friends like you can we continue making real, lasting change for more people like Dana this Thanksgiving. Thank you!



*"I appreciate knowing  
that people really  
do care about the  
homeless and want  
to see us do good."*

– Dana



## UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

10/5 & 11/02

### Volunteer With Us

Please visit us at [lamission.volunteerhub.com](http://lamission.volunteerhub.com) to learn about our volunteer opportunities.

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 Los Angeles Mission's Annual Gala at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. For more information, contact Ivan Klassen at [iklassen@lamission.net](mailto:iklassen@lamission.net) or please call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 325.

11/27

### Thanksgiving Street Event

Serve with us at our annual Thanksgiving celebration! You won't want to miss one of our biggest events of the year.

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 an easy and fast way to help those who need meals and care. Once you enroll, your chosen gift amount is automatically processed each month by the method you choose. Your ongoing support as a Meals-A-Month donor helps us budget and plan more efficiently, allowing us to help people like Dana and Michael. Please consider becoming a Meals-A-Month donor today so we can reach even more people in need in our community.

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.

## 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](mailto:HSmith@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!

John Q. Smith,  
Your Gift Will Provide Thanksgiving Meals, Care and Hope!

Yes, I want to help neighbors on Skid Row have a hearty meal, compassionate care and a happy Thanksgiving. 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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Keep track of the latest Mission news, make safe online donations and more.  
[LosAngelesMission.org](http://LosAngelesMission.org)

