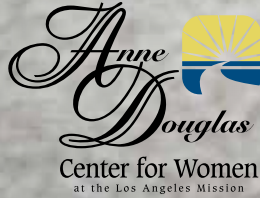


News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

NOVEMBER 2019



Record Crowds Expected This Christmas

On December 23rd, over 3,000 people on Skid Row will come to our Christmas Street Event for a holiday meal and special care! Read more about one of our biggest events of the year inside.

After the deaths of multiple family members, Danielle lost all hope for the future. But this Christmas she is at peace and is thankful for life, because of you . . .

(cont'd on page 3)



Making Spirits Bright . . .



Dear Caring Friend,

This time of year, cheery decorations and twinkling lights are everywhere. The season is focused on spending time with family and friends, enjoying holiday feasts and finding the perfect present. But for so many people who are homeless, it's just a reminder that a "Merry Christmas" is far from reality.

Fortunately, your kindness makes Christmas a very special time at Los Angeles Mission. The outpouring of charity from special friends like you allows men, women and children to celebrate with a hot meal, enjoy holiday entertainment and receive their very own Christmas gift — an experience that many people on Skid Row haven't had in years.

However, not only are you helping make spirits bright this holiday, you are making futures bright too! We always say hope begins with a meal. That's because every meal we serve comes with the opportunity to benefit from our help and programs. **As a part of the Mission family, your support truly is the gift that keeps on giving thanks to the transformations you help make possible and the lives that change for good.**

Thank you for believing that every person we serve is worthy of dignity and love, and acting on it. Happy holidays, and thank you for making such a meaningful difference.

God bless you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Herb Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Herb Smith
President/CEO



You Can Give a Merry Christmas to All!

There is never a good time to be homeless, but Christmas is a particularly difficult time for our friends and neighbors on Skid Row. That's why Los Angeles Mission's Annual Christmas Street Event is so important.

"The street literally has a life of its own and is transformed into an almost dream-like atmosphere that truly brings a sense of hope and dignity to those we serve," says Ivan Klassen, Executive Director of Los Angeles Mission Foundation.

We expect to provide over 3,000 turkey dinners with all the fixin's — like stuffing, fresh vegetables and pie for dessert. A potentially life-changing experience for someone who spent last Christmas cold and alone.

Girls and boys can also enjoy receiving presents from Santa! But the food and fun are only possible with gifts from friends like you and Festival of Children, who are supporting the Christmas Event again this year. Past sponsors such as JAKKS Cares have helped make this one of our most impactful events.

We hope your joy overflows this holiday season, knowing young children and their parents will have a family Christmas experience they couldn't have without your compassionate support.

**Give your neighbor
a meal and hope for
Christmas**

Every \$2.03 you give this holiday season will provide a nourishing Christmas dinner and loving care to someone who is hungry, alone . . . and ready for new life!

Because of You, It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Today, Christmas has new meaning for Danielle

After the deaths of her father, brother and uncle all in a short period of time, Danielle was already struggling to cope. So when her very best friend passed away soon after, she was completely devastated. She tried to fill the void and pain in destructive ways. "I really, truly just felt like I'd rather die," she says.

She almost got her wish. Homeless for months, Danielle struggled to survive. Hurting, alone. And Christmas was just like any other day. Until she came to Los Angeles Mission.

"I definitely wasn't alone," Danielle recalls of her first Christmas at the Anne Douglas Center. "We had gifts and a wonderful Christmas dinner. It was awesome!"

Today, Danielle, clean, sober and full of hope, says she is so grateful for the Center. "I'm at peace," she says. This holiday season, Danielle looks forward to graduating from the FreshStart program and spending Christmas surrounded by her family.



"Before I was broken. Today, I'm so thankful for life, for God, the Mission and for you."

— Danielle

To generous Mission supporters who supported Danielle's transformation, she says, **"God bless you. If it weren't for people like you, I probably wouldn't be alive today."**

Because of people like you, Danielle was able to find the help she needed at the Mission. Thank you for changing lives this Christmas!

A Real-Life Christmas Miracle

Thanks to the gifts of friends like you, Antonio is not only celebrating Christmas this year, he is living the Christmas message. But his life was not always full of promise.

His mom left while he was in high school. His sister tried to take care of him and their siblings, but Antonio had to drop out of school and get a job as a carpenter to help make ends meet. That's a lot of weight to put on a young man's shoulders.

Eventually, he began to experiment with drugs and alcohol for relief. As the years passed, he hit rock bottom and needed help . . . and hope.

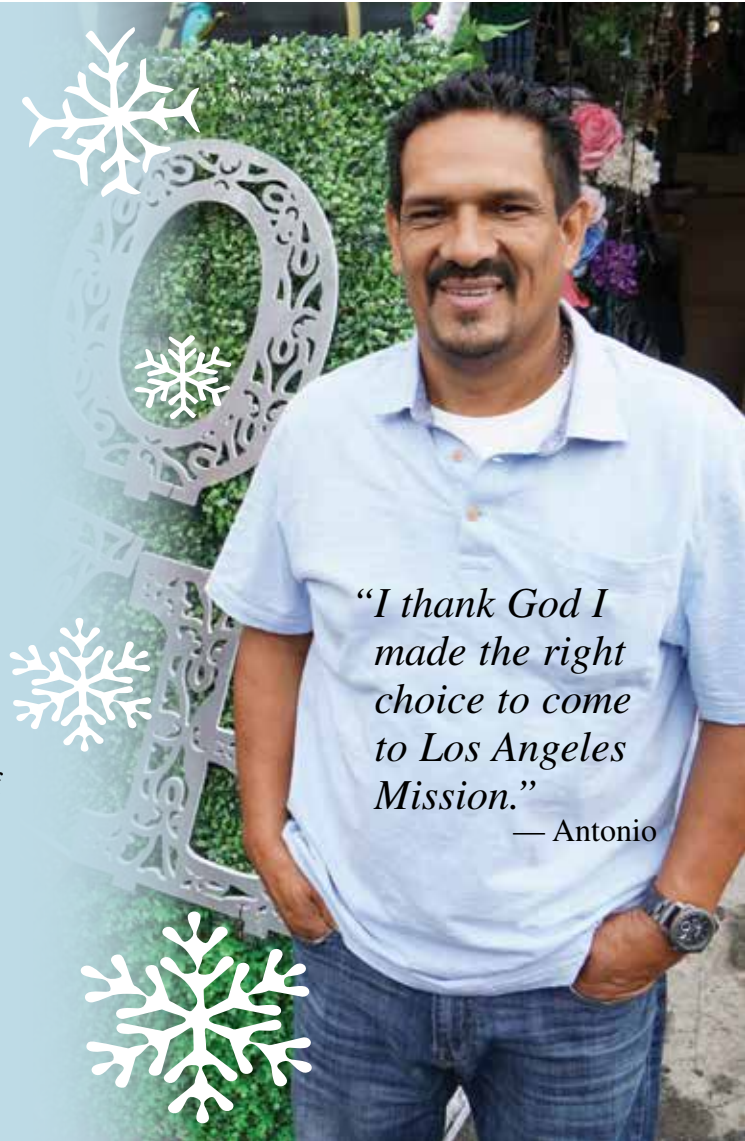
With the support of his pastor, Antonio found Los Angeles Mission. We welcomed him into our LifeStart program with open arms.

"I thank God I made the right choice to come to Los Angeles Mission," he says.

Today, Antonio is sober, healthy and has a steady job. Best of all, he's spending Christmas with his family.

"I can't be thankful enough for the help you've given me," Antonio says. "The Mission works!"

Thank you for giving Antonio the tools he needs to transform his life. It is only with the help of dedicated supporters like you that Christmas miracles like this are possible.



"I thank God I made the right choice to come to Los Angeles Mission."

— Antonio

UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

11/2, 11/20, 12/7 & 12/18

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.

11/27

Thanksgiving Street Event

Join us for our annual Thanksgiving celebration! You won't want to miss one of our biggest events of the year. Thanks to Hanes, our generous sponsor, we are able to distribute socks during the event.

"Hanes is thrilled to partner with the Los Angeles Mission, and applaud their important work, changing lives every day by providing help, hope and opportunity to the homeless community." – Jamie Wallis



12/23

Christmas Street Event

Experience the spirit of Christmas when we provide turkey dinners with all the fixin's for all and toys for children.

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



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!

The Simplest Way to Make a Difference this Christmas!



The joy of giving to help others is a treasured holiday tradition for many people. You can experience that heartwarming feeling all year long by becoming a Meals-A-Month donor. This simple and convenient option will give our neighbors in need meals and care throughout the year. 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. Or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 334 to join by phone.

Giving & Worship Go Hand in Hand

Generosity changes lives. Here are two unique ways:

- 1. Giving can build relationship.** Many people are shifting their Christmas shopping toward buying "shared experiences" rather than "things."
- 2. Giving is an act of worship.** Author Jay Link said, "There is no story in the Scriptures that more vividly connects giving to worship than the story of the wise men when they entered the very presence of Jesus . . . These magi could not worship Jesus without presenting their gifts to Him." When we give to an organization like Los Angeles Mission, it can be an expression of praise for God's goodness and blessings.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "Re-think Your Giving This Christmas" 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.

