

News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

FEBRUARY 2020



Hope Begins with You

**"I am forever grateful.
Thank you."**

— LaTanya

Read on page 2
How you helped make a lasting change.

Here, Hope Is Received



Dear Caring Friend,

I'm so grateful for all you do to help Los Angeles Mission — particularly during this challenging time of year. You see, right now, the need for our services is high and donations often decline.

Not only is it a hard time for the Mission, but it's also a taxing time for the increasing number of our friends and neighbors living on Skid Row. They are weary from being out in the elements. They live in isolation, feeling like there is no way out and no way up. A second chance seems like an impossible dream. That's why it's so important that we are there, ready and able to welcome these deserving souls for a nutritious meal, a hot shower and a warm bed. These basic necessities have the ability to restore hope and prove that people really do care.

When hearts and minds are open, moving on from the past becomes real . . . a fresh start is within reach and change is possible. That is when, thanks to your support, we're able to offer the programs, counseling, career and support services that people really need to succeed. Your generosity means so much. Please continue helping us show that opportunities for change do exist. Thank you!

God bless you,

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

Herb Smith
President/CEO



**Breaking Free . . .
Thanks to You**
Lasting Change Begins Here,
Lasting for Generations

Your support enables positive outcomes for future generations, like LaTanya's family shown here.

At the Anne Douglas Center, your gifts make a life-changing impact by helping women like LaTanya learn to break the cycle of destructive behaviors, restore family bonds and make a new start

When LaTanya came to the Center, she was tired of living with addiction. "I decided I needed help," she says. "I knew if I left, I would never recover." At the Center, LaTanya grew closer to the Lord and stronger through the support she received. **"They made me feel like I could do this," she says.** And she did!

Since graduating from the Anne Douglas Center program 21 years ago, LaTanya has maintained her sobriety. She is living independently and enjoying a loving relationship with her daughter. "The Anne Douglas Center changed my mother's life," LaTanya's daughter says.

After seeing her mom overcome her struggles, LaTanya's daughter is now studying psychology and interning at the Center. "I feel like it's a calling from God to be able to help the ladies who are struggling and going through similar addictions like my mom," she says.

This is the long-term impact friends like you are making!

Thank you for continuing to support the life-changing programs that give hope and real help to women every day!



DaNeisha (left) is grateful to supporters like you for transforming her mom (right) LaTanya's life.



David's first hot meal was the beginning of his transformation

You Make A Difference

David spent over a year desperate and without a home. For months, he looked for full-time employment. Days turned into months without success, and each holiday spent on the street passed more quickly than the last. Thankfully, David was able to turn to Los Angeles Mission in his time of need.

David first came to the Mission hoping for a hot meal, a change of clothes and a warm bed. He found all that and more — thanks to you, David also got the help he needed to transform his life!

First featured in *Crossroads* in **November 2013**, David is proof that you are making lasting change!

“I went to Los Angeles Mission to get back on my feet,” David says. “I learned to forgive and love myself again. It made me a stronger person, spiritually and emotionally.”

Today, your impact on David is clear: he is employed and going to school full-time. David is nearly finished earning a science degree, and he will qualify for an HVACR (heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration) apprenticeship program this spring.

“Before, I was hopeless and directionless,” David says. “Today, I’m goal-oriented, driven and looking forward to the future.”

Thank you for supporting people like David with your gifts to Los Angeles Mission. Your help is giving desperate people hope.



Anne Douglas Center graduates say, “Thanks!” Your gifts are helping women change their lives

“Anne Douglas has helped me by providing a safe haven during the most difficult time in my life. I get three meals a day, a bed, clean clothes, and both spiritual and emotional assistance.”

— Rita

“I appreciate this program and all that it has to offer us as women to get our lives back on track. I am thankful and grateful for my journey in this program.”

— Christina

“The Anne Douglas Center has helped me spiritually and emotionally, giving me support. I am grateful for everything the Center has provided me.”

— Marelyn

2020 Career Fair Transforming Lives with Opportunity



Los Angeles Mission is dedicated to giving people the tools they need to transform their lives, and because of you, we can!

Opportunities like our annual Career Fair are a great example of the change you are making in our community. The Fair is an opportunity for Mission guests and as many as 400 members of the community to visit with up to 40 possible employers. Meaningful work is a vital part of recovery for our guests. The sense of pride and self-worth that comes from a day’s work is a significant milestone in creating a new life for oneself.

Thank you for lifting up our friends and neighbors by helping us provide these life-changing opportunities. For more information, contact Allen Ceravolo, Director of Career Services, at (213) 629-1227 Ext. 517.



Because of you, lives are changed forever.

UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

2/2

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 one, please visit us at LosAngelesMission.org/Act.

2/8

Anne Douglas Center Honors Evening

Join us for an intimate celebration of our Anne Douglas Center graduates.

2/14

Graduation Day

Come help us celebrate our FreshStart graduates.

3/5

Annual Career Fair

It's a great opportunity to connect employers with job seekers from our Mission community! For more information, call Allen Ceravolo at (213) 629-1227 Ext. 517.

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. Signing up is simple, and your gifts will be processed automatically each month by the method you choose.

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

Does Your Legacy Reflect Your Heart?

Sometimes showing up and being present in the moment is hard work — especially when it means addressing matters of the heart. Many people want to leave an inspiring legacy, but they'd rather avoid actually building one.

According to author Bill High, true legacy is “building intentionally into others with a vision for the future instead of choosing the course of least resistance.” It starts by:

- 1. Cutting through excuses.** Many people don't create a Will or talk to their families about important topics, because they assume it will all just work out in the end. Getting serious about your legacy means you may have to push past the excuses holding you back.
- 2. Being intentional.** Just like creating an estate plan requires getting your affairs in order, leaving a true legacy means you tell your loved ones what you believe, how special they are to you, and why you support organizations like Los Angeles Mission.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of “Does Your Legacy Reflect Your Heart?” 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 our neighbors on Skid Row who are rebuilding broken lives one day at a time. Thank you!

Your Gift Will Provide Meals, Care and Hope!
Yes, I want to help my neighbors on Skid Row receive a hearty meal and compassionate care. Enclosed is my gift of:

☐ \$XXX ☐ \$YYY ☐ \$ZZZ ☐ \$_____ to help as much as possible!

Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Smith
123 Main Street
Anytown, USA 12345-6789


PO Box 54059 | 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.

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