

News from Los Angeles Mission

# CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

MARCH 2020

## More Guests Than Ever Expected This Easter Season

Breaking the cycle of homelessness beginning with a meal



**From old habits to new life!**  
On page 3 see how you helped  
change someone forever

## New Beginnings and New Life



Dear Caring Friend,

Every day, we touch the hearts of friends and neighbors on Skid Row. But there's something about Easter that resonates with our guests on an even deeper level. It is their *hope for a new life* and the promise that they can have it that ignites a yearning — a desire to embrace a new beginning based on faith and the realization that they do matter.

That is why I'm so proud of Los Angeles Mission and the programs and services we offer these lost souls. My pride also extends to you. Without your compassion and support, none of our life-changing programs and services would be possible. Thank you so much for helping us provide meals and care and the message that He is Risen!

Easter's celebration of new life is the culmination of what we do and why we do it. I hope you will continue to stand with us as we reach out to the many, many people who will turn to us for help this Easter season and throughout the spring. Thank you for helping restore and renew lives.

God bless you,

Herb Smith  
President/CEO



# Easter Dinner — Just \$2.03 Means Changed Lives!

## Your support gives hope to the hungry and hurting

This special holiday brings to mind plentiful Easter baskets, time with family and the renewed hope of spring. But for our neighbors on Skid Row, the feelings of hopelessness and hunger still prevail.

If there's ever a time to believe in changed lives, it's at Easter — the ultimate story of renewal! And we will celebrate this season again here at the Mission, where we provide delicious, hearty meals and compassionate care to people who need to know we believe in them.

And when our friends and neighbors experiencing homelessness walk through our doors looking for an Easter meal — thanks to you, they can get it. What they may not expect is the warmth, love and compassion they receive from our staff, our volunteers — and people like you.

We're expecting thousands this Easter season — hungry for food and for hope. They can satisfy both hungers here. Your help is needed now to serve up to 126,259 meals to the people who turn to us when they have nowhere else to go. Time is passing quickly, and we need your help in a hurry!

**Please support the Mission with a generous gift so we can provide hope-filled Easter meals and basic care to our neighbors who need it most.**



Your help will transform someone who is hurting.



Thank you for your support during this time of resurrection and rebirth.



An Easter meal is the first step toward a changed life.

**Every \$2.03 you give helps another person receive the meal and care needed to begin a new life.**

# Renewing the Spirit Within

You help break the cycle of homelessness by supporting the Anne Douglas Center for Women

Domestic violence. Abuse. Sexual assault. It sounds like the plot of a television crime drama. But it's not. It's Tricia's\* life on the streets of Los Angeles. When her beloved grandmother passed away, Tricia was left on her own and vulnerable to the cruelty of others. For years she suffered, trapped in the cycle of homelessness and the helpless position it put her in.

With no way to physically escape, she tried to numb her pain. "I thought drugs and alcohol would solve things, but my problems were still there," Tricia says. It wasn't until she met a counselor from the Anne Douglas Center that her life took a turn for the better. "The counselor asked me, 'Are you sick and tired of being sick and tired?'" Tricia says. "I told her, 'Yes, I didn't want that life.' And I made a conscious decision to stop."

Tricia sought food, shelter and help at the Center. **"The program helped me find myself and learn about God," Tricia says.** As she rebuilds her life, Tricia reflects on Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

This Easter season, even more women like Tricia need our help. With God's grace and the support of friends like you, the Anne Douglas Center will continue providing hope for hurting souls.

*\*Name changed for privacy*



Your gifts help restore broken lives and build a better future!

You Make A Difference

## Another Chance at Life — and Fatherhood

How you helped Dimson reunite with his children

After proudly serving for six years in the United States Navy, Dimson had started a promising career as an ambulance driver. He was grateful for a job where he could continue to help others and support his two young kids. But Dimson fell into a pit of despair after he began experimenting with drugs. He lost his job, his house and his children.

"We see so many people like Dimson who turn to drugs to deal with their hidden pain," Herb Smith, president of Los Angeles Mission, says. "Fortunately, we were here when Dimson needed us most."

Alone and homeless, Dimson knew the Mission was a safe place to find a meal. He came to us looking for something to eat, but what he found was another chance at life, thanks to our Urban Training Institute. There, Dimson learned critical life skills while learning how to cope with his trauma.

Today, Dimson is healthy, sober and employed full time. Best of all, he has re-established a relationship with his children.

**Because of your support of Los Angeles Mission, Dimson has been transformed and his children can know their father.**

"Thank you for caring," Dimson says. "Thank you for helping me be a productive member of society, and thank you for reuniting me with my children."



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