

News from Los Angeles Mission

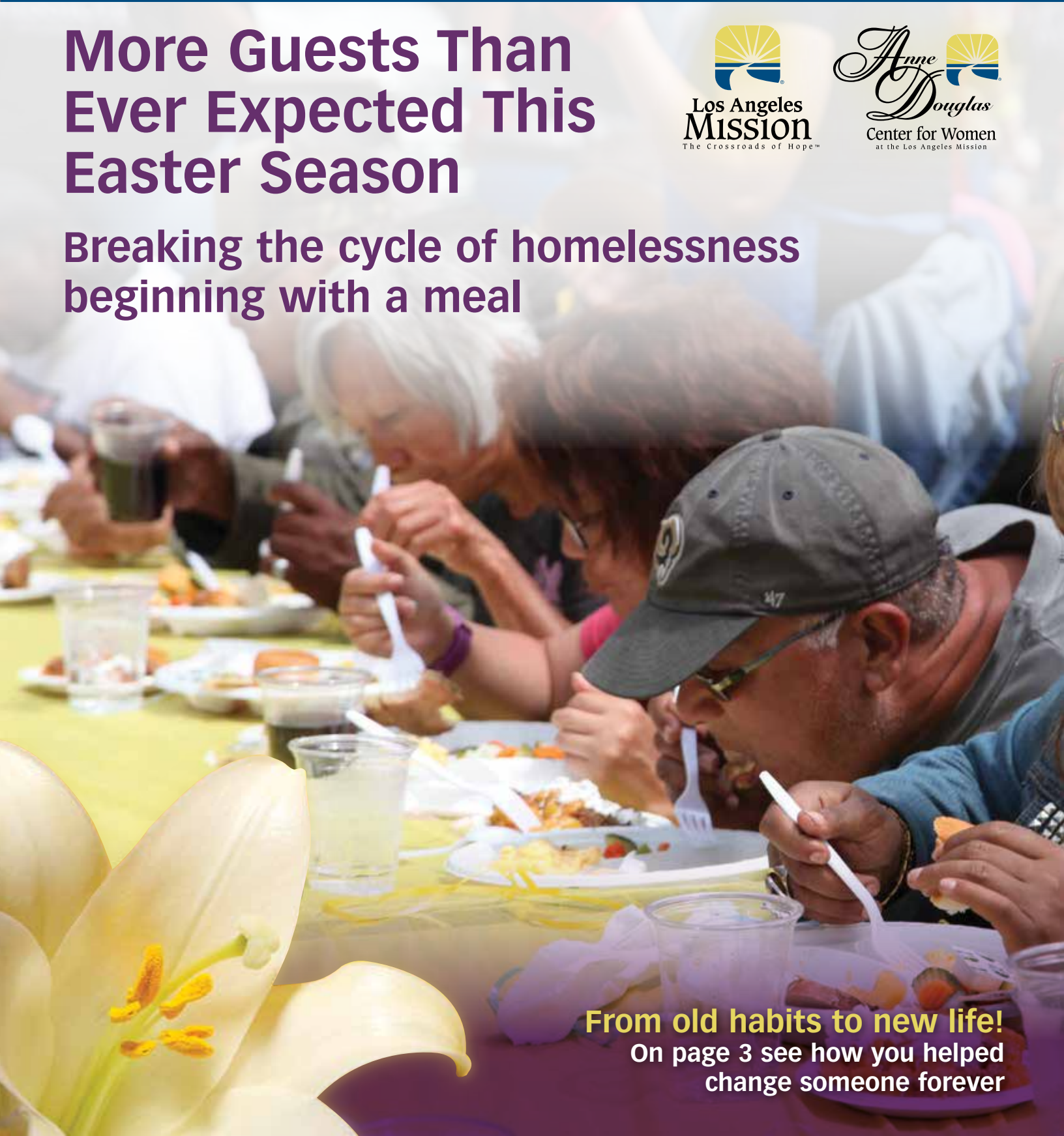
# CROSSROADS

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."



"Thank you for reuniting me with my children."

## UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

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.

3/7 & 4/4

### 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](http://LosAngelesMission.org/Act).

4/10

### Easter Event

Join us to celebrate Easter with our friends and neighbors on Skid Row! It's one of the best events of the year and you won't want to miss it!

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 our neighbors on Skid Row who are rebuilding broken lives one day at a time. Thank you!

## The Simplest Way to Make a Difference



Our Meals-A-Month giving option is a great way to help your friends and neighbors experiencing homelessness get the meals and care they need. At your request, your chosen gift amount is automatically processed each month by the method you choose. Your regular support as a Meals-A-Month donor helps us budget and plan more efficiently, allowing us to help people like Tricia and Dimson.

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.

## Could This Have Been Written by Your Children?

*"Dear Mom and Dad,*

*Throughout my life you have given me so much, but there's one more thing I need from you. I need you to talk with me about the future.*

*I know you may be uncomfortable talking about aging or death, but what if something unexpected happens? Losing you will be much more painful if I'm left trying to handle your estate while I'm grieving.*

*Do you have an up-to-date will? Can we talk about it? I'd like to know what you have planned and why.*

*I am a part of your legacy, and I want to live my life in honor of God, our family name and the legacy that has made me who I am."*

Could this letter have been written by your adult child? Estate planning can be a simple and powerful way to communicate love and connect with your loved ones on a deeper level. Talking about the future can create certainty, peace and even inspire them to get involved with the values, passions and causes you care about — like the work of Los Angeles Mission.

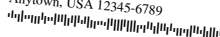
**For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "What Your Adult Children Need from You" by contacting Herb Smith at (213) 629-1227 Ext. 305 or [hsmith@lamission.net](mailto:hsmith@lamission.net) — or bless your family today with a God-honoring Will at [www.christianwill.org/lamission](http://www.christianwill.org/lamission).**

### Your Gift Will Provide Meals, Care and Hope!

Yes, I want to help provide an Easter dinner and compassionate care for friends and neighbors on Skid Row. Please use my gift to Los Angeles Mission to bring hope to people who need it most this year. Enclosed is my gift of:

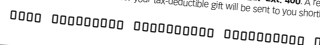
☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as much as possible!

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](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.



### Stay Connected

Keep track of the latest Mission news, make safe online donations and more.  
[LosAngelesMission.org](http://LosAngelesMission.org)

