

News from Los Angeles Mission

# CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

APRIL 2020

## A Journey of Hope, Made Possible by You



**Inside: How you helped Eli go from  
homeless to self-sufficient**



# Happiness Is Going Home



Dear Caring Friend,

My dad was just a child when his father died. As a widow, his mother struggled to make a home for my dad and his siblings. They scraped out a living, surviving off assistance and moving from place to place. They were just one crisis away from homelessness — just like the many families we help. His story is one reason why I'm so passionate about what we do at Los Angeles Mission. And why I'm so grateful for your support that ensures we never neglect families and children in need.

Thankfully, my dad and his siblings overcame their difficult times and went on to have successful lives. Today, I want to share some stories of others who fell on hard times but have rebuilt their lives, thanks to you. Your compassion helps provide the meals, programs and skills that become the catalyst for the transformation from homelessness to hope. Nothing is better than reclaiming your life, and because of you, that is happening!

God bless you,

Herb Smith  
President/CEO



## The Skills to Succeed Thanks to your generosity

All Eli wanted was to be a contributing member of society. But difficulty finding employment left him broke and homeless. He couch-surfed to stay off the streets and relied on others for basic necessities.

He was tired of feeling like a burden, but he didn't know how to become self-sufficient. Out of options, Eli came to Los Angeles Mission when he had nowhere or no one else to turn to. But what he found was so much more than just good food and safe shelter. Thanks to you, the Mission was able to help him get back on his feet and become self-sufficient again.

**"I could not really do for myself before," Eli says. "Now I am in a position to do the things I need to do for me. I'm getting what I needed here at the Mission."**

Armed with newfound confidence, Eli found steady employment, and he is currently in our Bridge Transitional Housing program. The Bridge Program is designed to house friends and neighbors who are in transition from homelessness to housing.

Eli is grateful to be working, and he is looking forward to living independently in his own home. And it is only because of people like you that we were able to help Eli transform his life.

**"Your gifts are going to a successful place," Eli says. "And just by giving, you're causing success to those of us who benefit from your generosity. Thank you."**



**You Make A  
Difference**

## The First Step to a New Life

Your gifts helped Gregory  
become a better man  
and father

"It took the death of my parents for me to realize how much I was in need of help," Gregory recalls. That is when he began reflecting on his relationship with his own children. Gregory was homeless, sleeping many nights in the backseat of a car, away from his family and kids.



## Becoming Independent Again, Thanks to You

For many people, homelessness results from addiction or trauma. But for someone like Alice\*, simply becoming unemployed can send you down a path of despair.

When Alice lost her job, she moved in with her parents to try and get back on her feet. But then her parents also fell on hard times, and their house was foreclosed on. Now on the verge of being out on the streets for a second time, Alice went to live with her daughter. But as Alice prepared to move out on her own, she suffered a painful fall, fracturing her leg in multiple places.

With six other people depending on her for care, Alice's daughter could not continue supporting her mother. **She helped Alice find the Anne Douglas Center at Los Angeles Mission so Alice could heal and learn the skills she needed to live on her own again.**

Slowly but surely, Alice began to feel secure at the Mission. She took classes, like our computer literacy course, to help increase her independence, and she continued the physical therapy she needed for her leg to fully heal.

**"When I first entered the Anne Douglas Center, I was insecure and afraid," Alice says. "Today I feel confident and loved. It's a really good feeling."**

Alice is grateful for the help and support you have given her, and she is looking forward to becoming fully independent once again. Thank you for helping change Alice's life — and giving her the opportunity for a brighter future.

*\* Name changed for privacy*

"I was checked out," he says. "I was mentally, physically, spiritually and emotionally dead." Gregory was hanging around the wrong people and influenced by drugs. It had taken a toll. He wanted to make his children proud, but he knew he couldn't do it alone.

He came to Los Angeles Mission because "I needed to work on myself," he says. Longing for a change, he never expected such a warm welcome. "The staff was amazing and accepted me with open arms. They gave me the assurance that everything would be all right."

Gregory worked hard to strengthen his relationship with God and become a better man and father. **Through the meals, care and programs that your gifts help make possible, today Gregory says, "I am very much alive. The Mission was the best choice that I could have made for myself."**

Thanks to your generosity, Gregory is working to move into his own house and create a loving home for his children.



## There's Still Time to Make a Difference This Easter!

The dramatic rise in homelessness has resulted in more people than ever turning to Los Angeles Mission for help. As we finalize preparations to celebrate Easter, we're expecting record crowds of people who are hungry for a meal and the possibility of a new life.

**You still have time to give hope and meals to your friends and neighbors struggling to survive on Skid Row this Easter season.**

If ever there were a time when hurting people experiencing homelessness might be open to receiving the gospel message of hope, it is now. Please help make that possible. During this holiday season, you can bless someone with food, care and hope by sending a generous gift today.

Every \$2.03 you give can help provide a hot Easter meal to people who are longing for rebirth. **Please help make this Easter one to remember.**



## UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

4/5 & 5/2

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

4/10

### Easter Event

Join us to celebrate Easter with our friends and neighbors on Skid Row! We'll be giving away Easter baskets, toys and many other items. It's one of the best events of the year and you won't want to miss it!

4/19 – 4/25

### National Volunteer Week

This is a great time to volunteer for our regulars and first-timers! Volunteers are the heart of the Mission and provide vital support for our guests. We have many different ways you can partner with us to help your friends and neighbors. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please visit [LAMission.VolunteerHub.com](http://LAMission.VolunteerHub.com).

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

## 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).**

## The Simplest Way to Make a Difference!



Become a Meals-A-Month partner, and your monthly gift will do wonders *all* month long. Regular support helps us budget and plan more efficiently so that we're able to help people immediately, as well as prepare for our long-term needs. Please, make a difference for our mission and for

someone who is struggling by becoming a Meals-A-Month donor. Your kindness is the key to providing help, hope and opportunity to men, women and children in need.

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.

## ACTION ALERT! BEDS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY!

Thousands of people each year come to Los Angeles Mission for safe shelter and a warm place to sleep. The volume of people we serve has taken a toll on our beds, and we urgently need to replace them. **To begin this critical task, we must raise \$45,000 — and we need your help. Please send a gift today to help us reach our goal amount.** Thank you for caring about our neighbors on Skid Row and for giving dignity to those in need of a comfortable bed for the night.

*\*Any funds received over and above the requested amount will be used where they are most needed.*

### Stay Connected

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

