

News from Los Angeles Mission

# CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

June 2020



**"Los Angeles Mission helped me build a foundation for myself. It helped me believe in myself and gave me the ability to change my life."**

**– Antawny,  
looking forward to the future**

## From Life on the Streets to a Life of Purpose

Read inside how you helped put Antawny on the road to success



**Our neighbors need you more than ever.**

**Find out what your gifts can do on page 3!**



**S.O.S.**



Dear Caring Friend,

Throughout the summer months, the days are longer and the pace of life seems to move a little more slowly. But at Los Angeles Mission, it's anything but relaxing.

Typically during this time of the year, donations are sparse and our finances are challenged. That is a source of extra worry because it's during these summer months that we see a spike in the number of emergency guests. People living on Skid Row are at greater risk for dehydration, respiratory distress, heat exhaustion and heatstroke.

We help by providing extra water, turning on misters outside the shelter, and opening the chapel so our guests can have a brief reprieve from the high temperatures. But every year, our already strained budget approaches the breaking point with these added expenses. And because we continue to feel the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, our resources have been stretched even thinner as we respond to those in need on Skid Row.

During this unprecedented time, please help if you can with an extra gift today. Instead of a summer of distress, you will help make it a *summer of survival* as we work to change and save lives. Thank you for caring.

God bless you,

Herb Smith  
President/CEO

# From Life on the Streets to a Life of Purpose

*Your Gifts Helped Put  
Antawny on the Fast  
Track to Success*



For many years, Antawny's life was headed down the wrong path. Poor choices led him to the streets, where he lived for three years. Eventually he ended up in prison. But Antawny knew he was destined — and determined — to become more.

Antawny learned about Los Angeles Mission while he was in prison. Knowing he never wanted to be incarcerated or homeless again, Antawny came to us for help after his release. He began our Fast Track Program, which gave him the opportunity to advance his education and get back on his feet through employment.

The first step toward his new future was when Antawny enrolled at Los Angeles City College. Next, he was hired to work at a healthcare facility. After months of studying and working, in addition to tending to his responsibilities at the Mission, Antawny successfully completed the Fast Track Program.

He then enrolled in our Life Start Program to help him prepare even more for everyday life. Life Start is our transitional program that helps graduates re-enter society through a holistic discipleship program.

Today, Antawny continues to take classes to achieve his goal of becoming a licensed clinical social worker. At work, he's also earning his certification to become a drug and alcohol counselor.

**"The Mission gave me a place where I can accomplish things in life," Antawny says. "I wouldn't have been able to do any of this if it weren't for the Mission. I'm thankful for everything they have done for me."**

Looking ahead, Antawny says, "I want to go as far as I can. I want to continue my education possibly up to a master's degree. I want to work and live a decent life."

At Los Angeles Mission, we're here to provide ongoing opportunities for people in need. Because when people see there's someone who actually wants to help, it gives them hope and makes them think differently about their life.

Our programs have given Antawny the opportunity to grow, and your support gives him hope that someone cares. For that he says, **"I greatly appreciate everything that you do to assist the Mission and help people like me."**

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gave me a  
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— Antawny

# A Mother and Her Children Reunited, Thanks to You

Christina was a single mother working hard to support her four kids. And for a long time, they were able to scrape by. But when her rent increased by more than 30%, they became homeless.

They moved from hotel to hotel while Christina tried to find another place to live, but she couldn't find anything suitable that she could afford. Christina knew this was no way for her children to live. She called her father who agreed to watch her four little ones.

Christina felt like she'd failed as a mother and had no idea how she could ever rebuild her life. She turned to drugs and alcohol to try to numb the pain, eventually resorting to sleeping on the Metro Rail when she had nowhere else to go.

**Soon, Christina knew enough was enough. She was determined to give her children the best life she could.** She happened to meet a Los Angeles Mission staff member at church, and she knew this was her best chance for change.

A short time later, Christina enrolled at the Anne Douglas Center, and she's never looked back. She finally received the emotional and spiritual support she needed. **And, thanks to you, Christina's life has been transformed!**

"The Christina before was hard," she says. "She was closed-minded. She was shut down. Today, I'm vibrant. I'm open. I'm funny. I try to make everyone around me smile."

Armed with a new mindset and skills, Christina is excited to be a productive member of society again and to give her children everything they need to thrive.

"Not only have you given me back my relationship with God, but you've opened the doors to better relationships with my children and my father," Christina says. "I'm just so grateful to you and the Anne Douglas Center."



"I'm just so grateful to you and the Anne Douglas Center."

## Responding to COVID-19

Many of the people we serve at Los Angeles Mission are considered to be some of the most vulnerable to the lasting effects the pandemic has had on our community. They are turning to us for help, and it is our responsibility to care for them in this unprecedented situation. Thanks to the gifts of friends like you, we've been able to respond.

We've set up mobile handwashing stations in our courtyard for anyone to use. We're also helping low-income, food-insecure individuals and families have access to nutritious food by providing up to 200 boxes of food every week.

Maintaining these resources has pushed our budget to its limit, at a time when giving is down. We need your support more than ever to keep serving our neighbors in need. Thank you.

## Your Help Is Needed More Than Ever This Summer

Summer is here once again, and for many of us that means taking part in fun activities like barbecuing, swimming and spending more time outside. But for people experiencing homelessness on Skid Row, life is more dangerous than ever.

That's because the increasing temperatures mean more risk of dehydration, heatstroke and food poisoning. And when the heat rises, maintaining good hygiene is much more difficult, which can lead to serious health issues.

This year we've seen more people than ever before coming to us for help, and throughout the summer that number will continue to rise. They come to us because, thanks to supporters like you, Los Angeles Mission can offer them meals, water, showers and, most of all, hope. And hope heals — as you've proven time and time again.



Make this a Summer of Hope in Los Angeles.





## UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

6/6

### 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).

6/6

### ADC Honors Evening

Join us for the Graduate Honors Evening ceremony at the Anne Douglas Center for Women, as we celebrate our graduates' amazing accomplishments!

6/12

### Graduation Day

After the successful completion of 12 months in the FreshStart residential program, students celebrate their graduation and begin the transition to independent living!

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

## The Art of Giving

One of the earliest charitable gift annuities (CGAs) happened in 1831 between Yale University and a painter named John Trumbull. At the time, Trumbull was living widowed and poor, surrounded by nearly 100 paintings. He decided to donate them to Yale in exchange for a "competent annuity for the remainder" of his life. And the CGA earned its stripes in American history.

A CGA is a contract between a nonprofit and an individual who transfers their assets in return for an immediate tax deduction *and* an income stream for life. CGAs also:

- Provide the possibility of donating many types of assets
- Reduce capital gains tax liability
- Allow you to support Los Angeles Mission

One of the most remarkable things about John Trumbull isn't that he earned the title of "The Painter of the Revolution," it's that he did it with the use of only one eye.

Art critics believe this lifelong effect from a childhood injury is ultimately what influenced his detailed painting style. Today, millions of people continue to walk in Trumbull's shoes, creatively impacting lives through smart charitable giving.

*For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "Start a Revolution in Giving" 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!



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, stretching every dollar a little further.

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.

## 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!



### Stay Connected

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

