

News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

July 2020

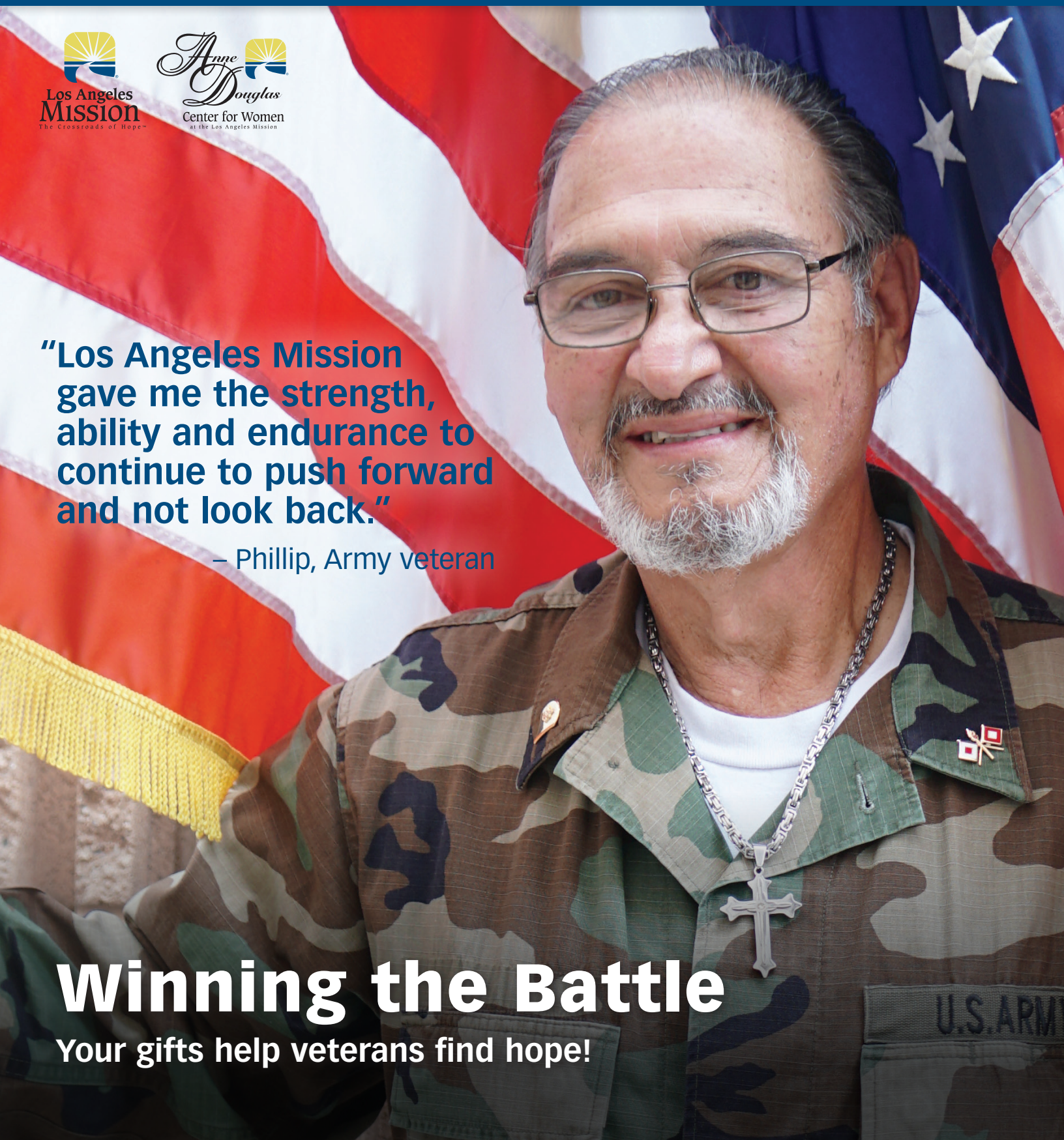


**"Los Angeles Mission
gave me the strength,
ability and endurance to
continue to push forward
and not look back."**

— Phillip, Army veteran

Winning the Battle

Your gifts help veterans find hope!



We Salute Our Nation's Veterans



Dear Caring Friend,

Los Angeles Mission has always worked to provide help, hope and opportunity to people in need; and many of those people are America's veterans. That's because life after the service can become a daily struggle against mental and physical health issues, hunger and homelessness.

Now that we're seeing even more people at risk of living on the street as a result of COVID-19, the combination of job losses, social isolation and mounting anxiety could hit veterans especially hard.

Your continued support will help ensure that these heroes don't have to fight their battle alone. With your help, we can meet the unique needs of our veterans while we continue helping all those who need care, shelter and opportunity for change.

God bless you,

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

Herb Smith
President/CEO

Sometimes the Real Battle Begins After Their Service Ends

*Our nation's veterans need
you . . . and so do we.*



Phillip followed in his father's footsteps and enrolled in the military. "I felt it was my duty to serve my country," he says. He traveled throughout the U.S. while in the Army. Then he served more than two years in Germany in the 26th Signal Battalion.

Once Phillip was discharged, he settled down in Los Angeles. After years of building a career and family, everything changed. Following events that no one, especially Phillip, ever expected, he was incarcerated.

"When the whole situation happened, I went on my knees and said, 'Lord, I know what I did wrong. You know what I did wrong. I want to continue to serve You. Show me how,'" Phillip says.

Being in prison tore apart Phillip's relationship with his family. So after he was released, he was homeless for the first time in his life. Thankfully, he'd met a prison chaplain who told him about Los Angeles Mission.

"Los Angeles Mission gave me the strength, ability and endurance to continue to push forward and not look back — to leave the past behind and to be able to thank God for what He's done for me." — Phillip

"When I came to the Mission, I was a wreck and still hurting," Phillip recalls. But he began helping at the Mission and serving others in every way he could. "I was serving God, serving the Mission and returning what had been paid forward to me," Phillip says.

"The clothing that donors' gifts provide, the bed that they provide, the meals that I was able to eat and not have to worry, all of that is such a blessing because without that, there's no restoration," Phillip says. **"I got that restoration through Los Angeles Mission."**

Phillip graduated from the FreshStart program and is now working. He also helps feed the homeless at the Mission every week. "The Mission has been a blessing to me," Phillip says. "It helped get me on the right track." Phillip rebuilt his relationship with his family as well, thanks to his accomplishments.

It's only through the support of caring people like you that we're able to help people like Phillip get the fresh start they need to rebuild their lives. **Please continue your support to provide hope and healing for our nation's veterans and for everyone who comes through our doors.**

Because of You, Veronica Found Herself and God

When Veronica hit rock bottom, she knew it was time for a change. She was dependent on drugs to hide the pain she felt inside, but Veronica's choices had left her estranged from her children.

"My kids didn't want me in the house," Veronica says. **"I needed help. I needed to get my kids back."**

Veronica found the Anne Douglas Center at Los Angeles Mission thanks to the help of her sister. And because of the support of friends like you, we were there to welcome her with open arms.

At first, Veronica was anxious about coming to the Center; but after getting to know the staff and taking Bible classes, she soon felt at home.

"I've never had a relationship with God before," Veronica says. "I'm learning how to read the Bible and how to put God in my heart."

When she is not attending her Bible or life skills classes, Veronica is a housekeeper inside the Mission. Veronica is also taking special classes to help her get her GED so she can get a good, steady job once she has completed the program.

Most of all, Veronica is looking forward to reuniting with her children and the rest of her family, something that is only possible because of your support of Los Angeles Mission.

"Thank you for everything," Veronica says. "There's a lot of difference in me since I came here. The Anne Douglas Center is really helping me with the things I want to do with my life."



Finding Safety, Thanks to You

One of the unexpected effects of the COVID-19 pandemic has been an increase in domestic violence incidents in Los Angeles, as women and children are stuck at home with their abuser due to the shelter-in-place order. Sadly, calls to L.A. County's domestic violence hotline have increased nearly 70% since March. **But with your help, we will be here for them.**

These women will do whatever it takes to keep their children from harm. They are seeking safe shelter, and as soon as they walk through our doors, they know they've found that and so much more. **Thank you for giving survivors of domestic violence a safe place to live and heal.**

100% INCREASE!

The impact from the COVID-19 pandemic has put enormous pressure on Los Angeles Mission and our resources. **The need for food boxes and meals is off the charts, causing an expected 100% INCREASE in need for food boxes and takeaway meals.**

With massive layoffs, thousands of people are still out of work. This is creating a whole new population of people experiencing homelessness for the very first time. So while we continue serving our neighbors on Skid Row — now, even more people are turning to us to help feed their families.

On top of battling the impact of COVID-19, we're also in the middle of trying to beat the heat on the streets, using additional resources for survival essentials, like providing cooling stations, showers, access to fresh water and even more lifesaving shelter.

Never before have we addressed so much need at one time! As we work to adapt, and provide the food and care that change and save lives, we need friends like you. **Please continue your support and help us continue to be a place of refuge and relief for those who have nowhere else to go this summer by giving a gift at LosAngelesMission.org/FOODBOX.** Thank you.



UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

Volunteer Opportunities

While we are currently unable to have volunteers onsite, we welcome you to discover the different virtual volunteer opportunities we have in our Volunteer Hub at lamission.volunteerhub.com.

We look forward to having volunteers back at the Mission as soon as conditions safely allow.

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 — or bless your family today with a God-honoring Will at 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. 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!

**From Mr. and Mrs. John Smith,
to Provide Meals, Care and Hope!**

Yes, I want to help provide a hearty meal and compassionate care for friends and neighbors on Skid Row this summer. Enclosed is my gift of:

☐ \$_____ to help as much as possible!

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

Los Angeles Mission
The Crossroads of Hope
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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LosAngelesMission.org

