

News from Los Angeles Mission

# CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

August 2020



"Food is something that is needed by everyone regardless of socioeconomic status."

— Ralph Sutton,  
Los Angeles Mission Food Box Outreach Program Coordinator

## Rebuilding and Rebounding

Your gifts are helping Los Angeles Mission and our neighbors emerge stronger from COVID-19.



## Rebuilding Lives. Rebuilding Hope.



Dear Caring Friend,

There's a lot of talk about the "new normal." But at Los Angeles Mission, things are anything but normal. A reassuring hug or welcoming handshake have now been replaced by words of encouragement while social distancing. A sit-down meal has now become a takeaway lunch. And the number of people who need our help has skyrocketed.

The impact of COVID-19 has created an expected 100% increase in the number of people needing food boxes and takeaway meals. The statistic is staggering — but there's a human story behind that number, too. A troubled economy and continued unemployment have left many people on the verge of homelessness and experiencing hunger for the first time. **Now, more than ever, people need our help to rebuild lives and restore hope.**

Your gift today will support our efforts on all fronts as we work to help people in their hour of greatest need. **On this long journey of rebuilding, we are stronger with you by our side.** With your support, we will continue offering the food, care and opportunity for change that so many need.

God bless you,

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

Herb Smith  
President/CEO

## Working on the Front Lines

The food boxes you help provide are changing lives every day!

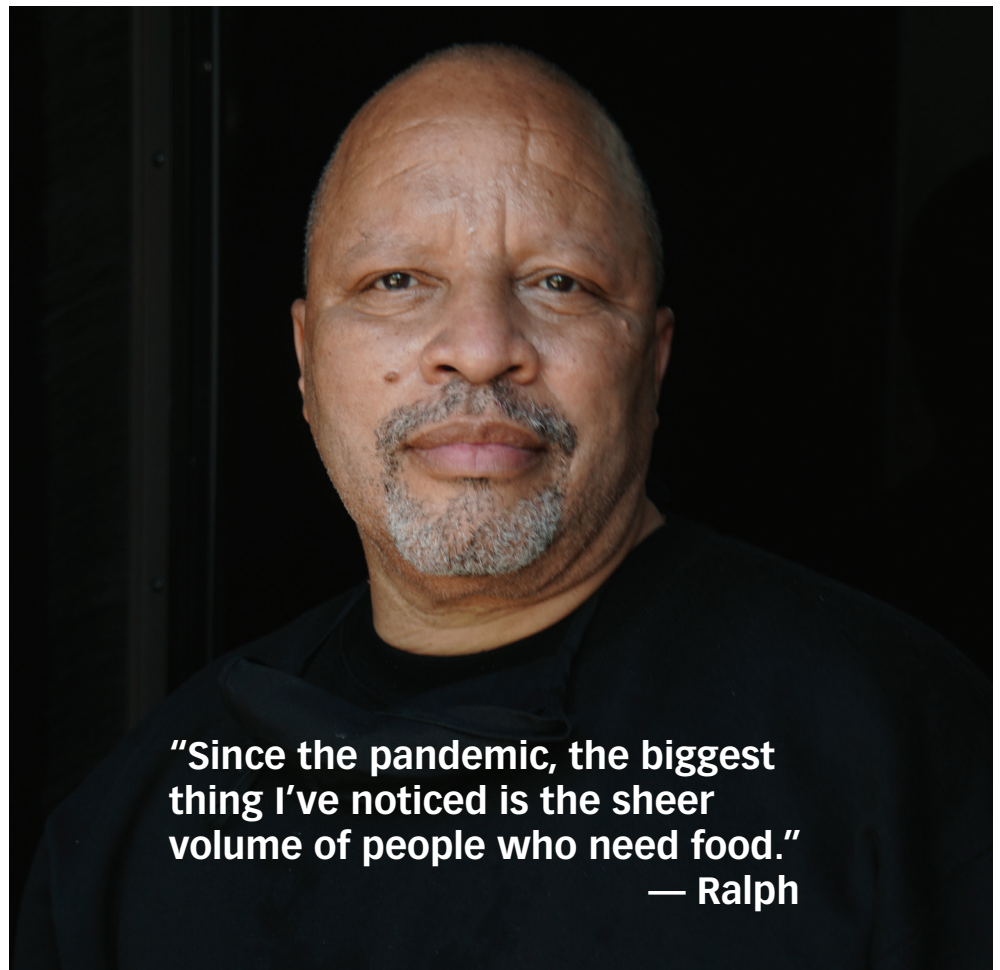
As a graduate of Los Angeles Mission, Ralph Sutton is now devoted to serving our friends and neighbors in the community as the Food Box Outreach Program Coordinator. This program helps alleviate some of the cost of food for people transitioning out of homelessness, so they're able to concentrate on getting back on their feet.

Over the years, Ralph has seen many people rebuild their lives thanks to the food and help they've received. Now, because of the COVID-19 crisis, he's meeting a lot of new people who need help with food. **"Since the pandemic, the biggest thing I've noticed is the sheer volume of people who need food,"** Ralph says.

No longer is it just the people on Skid Row needing food. Now, there are thousands of people in Los Angeles who have lost their jobs and urgently need help as well.

**"The stigma or stereotype of 'Skid Row,' 'low income' and 'homeless' dissipates really quick because food is something that is needed by everyone regardless of socioeconomic status,"** Ralph says.

Now, more than ever, people are searching for help — and as Ralph will tell you, that help can begin with a meal. Though daunting, we must do what it takes to embrace this unprecedented increase in need. And we ask friends like you to help. With your support, we will continue to rebound from this crisis, help people rebuild their lives and offer help to those experiencing hunger for the first time.



**"Since the pandemic, the biggest thing I've noticed is the sheer volume of people who need food."**  
— Ralph

# A Life No Longer Defined by Trauma, Thanks to You

Seven years ago, Candace was attacked, beaten and left for dead in an alley. It took four months in the hospital to recover from her injuries.

When she got home, Candace started using drugs to stay awake all night — afraid of reliving the attack in her dreams. Soon, she lost her house and her husband, and she ended up in prison. Even after being released, fear still haunted her.

It was her parole officer, a strong Christian, who suggested Candace go to the Anne Douglas Center to find God and build a new foundation for her life.

Since being here, her life has done a complete turnaround.

Candace says she has gotten off her medication for post-traumatic stress and isn't afraid to go outside anymore. As her training assignment, she also spends five hours a day making food in the Center's kitchen — where she is continually reminded about the importance of a hot meal. "A meal can make a person's whole day . . . it can give them hope," Candace shares.

As Candace prepares to graduate and move out on her own, she says, **"This place taught me how to turn to prayer instead of drugs. How to turn to the Lord instead of running. And it's why I now have nothing to fear."**

Thanks to you, Candace has found stability again. That's the kind of impact you make every time you give.



**"A meal can make a person's whole day . . . it can give them hope."**  
— Candace

## With Thanksgiving Approaching, There's No Better Way to Spend \$2.53

Despite the turmoil we have all felt this year, daily life continues, and the holidays will be here before we know it. For many of us, that means a delicious meal of roast turkey, fluffy mashed potatoes and warm pumpkin pie.

But an unprecedented number of our friends and neighbors won't have that option. **They will be giving thanks to simply have something — anything — to eat at all.**

As we continue to see a 100% increase in the need for food boxes, this Thanksgiving will be no different. **Hope begins with a meal. And with your support, we can bring hope to more people than ever before, one meal at a time.**

## In the Safest Ways Possible, We're Still Changing Lives . . . Thanks to You!

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many hardships for everyone in Los Angeles, and we are no exception. But Los Angeles Mission remains committed to changing the lives of our friends and neighbors in the safest way possible, by observing social distancing guidelines and practicing strict hygiene, while still maintaining the services that transform lives.

We have increased the number of food boxes and takeaway meals we are providing by 100% to help ensure no one in our community is going hungry during this trying time. And our mobile handwashing stations are still set up in the courtyard for anyone to use.

On top of the unique problems a pandemic presents, our friends and neighbors still have the seasonal challenges of summer, including the risk of dehydration, heatstroke and food poisoning.

**Thank you for supporting people struggling to survive through your gifts to Los Angeles Mission. Together, we will continue transforming lives.**



## UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

### Volunteer Opportunities

We welcome you to discover the different virtual volunteer opportunities we have listed in the VolunteerHub portion of our website. For volunteer opportunities, please visit [lamission.volunteerhub.com](http://lamission.volunteerhub.com) or call (213) 629-1227 Ext 337.

## Are You Ready to Go 'All In'?

More than 40 years ago, single mother Ruth Fertel mortgaged her home to buy a small restaurant named Chris Steak House. Soon after, a fire forced her into a different location where she renamed the restaurant Ruth's Chris Steak House. Today there are more than 150 locations. Ruth went "all in" to discover a better life.

Ruth wanted something better for her family — and that desire drove her to go "all in." Her boldness is an excellent picture of the posture God wants from us.

- **Giving all you are:** Romans 12:1 suggests the only proper response to God's goodness is a life of worship. He wants to be our first priority.
- **Giving all you have:** When we understand true stewardship, we'll seek ways to bless Him with the resources He has given us.

You can worship Him by creating or updating an estate plan that reflects your true values — providing for your loved ones and including a gift to an organization like Los Angeles Mission. This is an act of stewardship *and* worship.

*For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "Are You Ready to Go 'All In'?" 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 neighbors 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 neighbors on Skid Row receive safe shelter, a good meal and compassionate care during the summer heat. 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 94059 | 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)

