

News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

September 2020



"I'm starting to
do more for my
community."

— Antonio,
program
participant

**LOS ANGELES
MISSION**

He's found joy in giving back

How your gifts are helping your struggling
neighbors find new purpose in their lives

**Will You
Stand
With
Us This
Fall?**



Dear Caring Friend,

It may seem a bit early to talk about Thanksgiving. But when we're already feeding thousands of people each day — and our busiest time of year is fast approaching — we must start preparing now.

I believe life change often starts with a meal. Even in these unusual times, that's still true. We've seen a 100% increase in the need for food boxes and takeaway meals since COVID-19. And while the need is great, so is the opportunity. For each meal we give out, we're able to help someone begin to rebuild hope in these trying times.

In this issue of *CROSSROADS*, you'll read how people like Antonio found new hope and a new life after coming to Los Angeles Mission. His transformation is typical of the dramatic changes we see in men and women every day — changes that are only possible because of God's grace and your generous support. That's why I'm praying you'll continue to stand with us during the fall and throughout the holidays.

Together, we can make a difference!

God bless you,

Herb Smith
President/CEO

In the Fight for His Life, Antonio Knows You're in His Corner

Now you're giving
Antonio a chance
to give back



Antonio has been a fighter for as long as he can remember.

When he was young, he was introduced to boxing and did his fighting in the ring. As he grew up, a series of mishaps affected his ability to learn, so the classroom was where he fought for his education.

But Antonio's toughest fight came as an adult, as he battled drug and alcohol addictions that put his life on hold for decades. It was his sister who finally sat him down for a hard conversation when he was 61 years old.

"You don't have the things you should have at your age," she said, encouraging him to make a change.

In his heart, Antonio knew she was right. That's how he ended up at Los Angeles Mission.

Since coming here, Antonio says he's found hope in Bible study, counseling, and just having a roof over his head. "I give the Mission a lot of credit," he says. "They push you but they don't force you. This is the place for me."

He especially enjoys working as a prep cook in the kitchen, part of his training assignment.

"I'm just giving back what was given to me," he says. He's especially proud that he can help with meal preparation during the busy holiday season, which is right around the corner. "I'm starting to do more for my community."

Antonio knows he has much to be grateful for — thanks to the support of caring people like you. One of his favorite Bible verses is Psalm 118:19 (NASB) . . .

"Open to me the gates of righteousness;

I shall enter through them, I shall give thanks to the Lord."

Thank you for helping to rebuild lives and restore hope for Antonio, and so many others.

**"This is the
place for me."**

How You Rescued Allison from Life in a Cardboard Box

Allison* spent three years on the streets in Los Angeles County, trying to forget about past abuse.

Living in a cardboard box in an alley was “my rock-bottom moment,” she says.

“It was just embarrassing,” she recalls, “having people walk by and peek inside to see what — or who — was in there. It was belittling.”

A kindhearted social worker suggested that Allison try the Anne Douglas Center at Los Angeles Mission if she was really serious about getting off the streets. A week later, a relative accompanied Allison right to our doorstep.

The Anne Douglas Center offered Allison “the stable living environment I had been looking for,” she says. But what really led her to a new life was reconnecting with God.

“It helped change the way I think,” she says. **“Being on the streets makes you a very negative person. But here, I’ve learned to live a peaceful life.”**

Once she graduates, Allison wants to regain the things she’s lost over the years: a place of her own . . . a job she can be proud of . . . money she worked hard to earn. She says, “From now on, I want to be able to depend on me.”

Support from friends like you made it possible for Allison to come here and find new life. You are a big reason why she has hope today. Thank you.

**Name changed to protect identity*



“From now on, I want to be able to depend on me.”



Food, Hope and Thanksgiving

It all begins with you!

Thanksgiving will be here soon, but many in our community won’t feel like they have much to be thankful for. As unemployment and eviction rates skyrocket, we are preparing for our busiest holiday season yet. We need your support to be able to provide food — and hope — for those who will need it most.

It’s only because of your generosity that we’ll be able to provide the turkey, dressing, gravy and pie that they will be looking forward to. As you already know, hope begins with a meal, and this Thanksgiving we will be giving hope and meals to as many people as possible, thanks to you.



Around here, there’s no shortage of gratitude. And it all begins with a meal!

UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

Volunteer Opportunities

We welcome you to discover the different volunteer opportunities currently available. For volunteer opportunities, please visit 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 — 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.

ACTION ALERT! Urgent Help Needed!

We continue to see a 100% increase in the need for food boxes and takeaway meals! Homelessness in Los Angeles was already going up before COVID-19 hit, and many people who have never been homeless are now at risk of losing their homes. We urgently need your help today to provide meals and care to the growing number of people who will be struggling to survive on Skid Row.

Stay Connected

Keep track of the latest Mission news, make safe online donations and more.
LosAngelesMission.org

