

## 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](http://lamission.volunteerhub.com) or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 337.



## 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.

## Worry Doesn't Have to Have the Last Word

Do you ever lose sleep over whether you've saved enough for retirement? If so, you're not alone. In fact, anxiety now affects 40 million Americans. But God wants us to bring our fears and worries to Him. Psalm 55:22 says to "cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you."

And there's more great news. If you're concerned about retirement saving, time is still on your side. Here are two reasons why:

1. **75 is the new 65.** People are living longer than ever, which could actually allow you to delay retirement a few years and lessen financial worry at the same time.
2. **The SECURE Act.** Congress recently passed the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act to give Americans more time to continue retirement savings. While you can still make a qualified charitable distribution to Los Angeles Mission beginning at age 70½, the age for taking required minimum distributions from an IRA has been raised to age 72.

Take steps toward a more secure financial future and trust God with the rest.

*For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "How to Stop Worrying and Find Peace" 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).*

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

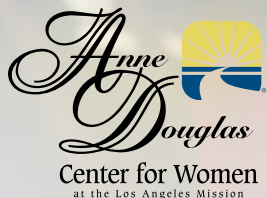




# CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

OCTOBER 2020



## Record Need on Skid Row Is Making This Thanksgiving Unusually Challenging

With Thanksgiving just weeks away, we continue to see record numbers of people on the streets due to the devastating impact of COVID-19. This holiday season, we want to offer them a meal — and so much more. Read more inside about how you can help those experiencing homelessness find hope in these unprecedented times.

## Inside: A Special Thanksgiving Message Just for You . . . (see page 2)





## A Special Thanksgiving Message Just for YOU!



Dear Caring Friend,

What do homeless people have to be thankful for at Thanksgiving?

Actually, quite a lot. They have God who loves them, regardless of their past. They have Los Angeles Mission ready to offer them a fresh start. And they have kind people like you whose generous support adds up to a second chance.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I am deeply grateful that you have not forgotten “the least of these” in our city. The special holiday meals you provide to those who come to the Mission can be the first step to a new life, especially for those who stay because they hunger not only for food, but for a better tomorrow.

Monica and Rigoberto found their better tomorrows, as you’ll read in this month’s newsletter. Now that same opportunity is available to others because of your faithful partnership.

Thank you, and God bless you, for putting your love into action to help change lives!

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

Herb Smith  
President/CEO

## Hunger Is at Record Levels This Thanksgiving

Help us feed those on Skid Row, safely and compassionately

Because of COVID-19, hunger on Skid Row is at record levels this Thanksgiving.

Many seeking help this holiday season have lost their jobs and are on the streets for the very first time. These are our most vulnerable neighbors. Without immediate help, they will lose hope.

At Los Angeles Mission, we are committed to feeding every hungry person who comes through our doors during the Thanksgiving season — safely and compassionately. But we can’t do it alone.

We urgently need your help so nobody goes hungry during the holidays.



At Thanksgiving, new life often begins with a good meal.



In spite of COVID-19, our homeless neighbors still have much to be grateful for this Thanksgiving, starting with your kindness.



Your kindness offers hope to many who are homeless for the very first time.

**There's no better way to spend \$2.53 this Thanksgiving!**

Every \$2.53 you share today will provide a nourishing Thanksgiving meal and loving care for someone who is hungry, alone . . . and in need of something to be thankful for this holiday season.

# This Thanksgiving, Rigoberto Is Counting His Blessings

With Thanksgiving only a few weeks away, Rigoberto was recently asked what he is thankful for this year.

“I’m grateful for getting a second chance,” he says. God has shown me mercy, love and kindness. And the Mission has supported me in my spiritual walk.”

When Rigoberto was released from prison two years ago, all he knew was “I didn’t want to be on the street.” It was his parole officer who suggested he check out the FreshStart program at Los Angeles Mission.

After getting a good night’s sleep at the Mission, he joined the program right before Thanksgiving 2018.

**“This place helped me get closer to God,”** Rigoberto says. “I’ve got a roof over my head, a bed, warmth and safety. After graduation, I even found a job.”

When not working for a local packing company, Rigoberto volunteers in the Mission’s kitchen, where he’s reminded of how far he’s come since he walked through our doors on Thanksgiving, thanks to you. “It’s a small thing for me to do after the Mission has done so much for me.”

With your ongoing support this Thanksgiving, we’ll continue making a difference — one person at a time, one turkey dinner at a time. Thank you!



Rigoberto came to the Mission one Thanksgiving. Now he’s grateful to be independent, employed and a Mission kitchen volunteer, thanks to the gifts of friends like you.

## For Monica, Gratitude Begins on Skid Row

(EDITOR’S NOTE: Monica was previously featured in Crossroads, where she talked about escaping abuse. Here’s the surprising story of how her life has changed since then.)

Graduating from the Anne Douglas Center gave Monica a new beginning she never could have imagined. “A lot of the old stuff was left behind and new stuff started happening,” she says.

It wasn’t that long ago that Monica was running from abuse, only to wind up hungry and hurting. The day she walked into the Mission was a new beginning. Receiving emotional and spiritual support gave her new confidence. A week after graduating, she got a job as an intensive case manager on Skid Row.

“I had a background working in mental health, but being at the Anne Douglas Center heightened my compassion for people,” she says. “Every day I ask the Lord to give me what I need to be an effective case manager and a good example to the other women at the Mission. I just want people to see Christ in me.”



“I just want people to see Christ in me.”

Only with your support can we continue to help even more people like Monica experience real, lasting change this Thanksgiving. Thank you!