

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

NOVEMBER 2020

Huge Response Essential to Meet the Record Need on Skid Row This Christmas

Despite the overwhelming need brought on by COVID-19, we are committed to bringing food, toys and opportunities for new life to every person on Skid Row who asks for help this Christmas.

Read more inside . . .



Inside: A Special Christmas Message Just for You . . .

(see page 2)



A Special Message Just for YOU!



Dear Caring Friend,

When God delivered me from homelessness many years ago, I promised Him that I would forever use all my gifts and talents to help individuals who are experiencing what I once did.

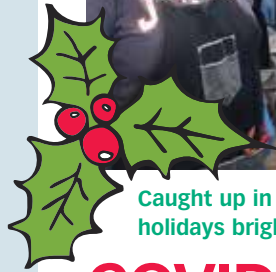
That is still my heart today, especially with Christmas just around the corner. I want people struggling with homelessness to know that the power of Christ is real and that He can transform their lives.

This will be my first Christmas at the helm of Los Angeles Mission. And in these unprecedented times, I know how challenging it's going to be for our homeless neighbors to experience the true joy of the season. That's why it's so important that every meal we serve carries a message of hope, along with an invitation to let Jesus change your life.

Won't you join me in this important work? I think you'll agree it's the best Christmas gift you could ever give a homeless person in our community.

Troy Vaughn, President/CEO

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Troy Vaughn is now President/CEO of Los Angeles Mission, replacing Herb Smith.)



Caught up in the Christmas spirit, our staff is fearlessly committed to making the holidays brighter for thousands of local families in need of help and hope.

COVID-19 Can't Stop Christmas at Los Angeles Mission

Thousands will still receive food and toys despite the pandemic

Good news . . . Christmas is still happening at Los Angeles Mission this year!

Meals — the building block of hope — will still be provided. Toys will still be distributed to struggling families. And the spirit of Christmas will continue to change hearts and transform the lives of those who will come here looking for a new beginning.

Not even COVID-19 can stop that!

Skid Row needs what the Mission has to offer, especially this year. That's why we are committed to doing everything we can to help bring about life change. And why your help is so critically important this holiday season.

This only happens through your generous support. Thank you!

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

Every \$2.53 you share today will provide a nourishing Christmas meal and loving care for someone who is hungry, alone . . . and needs to experience the joy of the season.



How You Put the Joy Back in Nathan's Life, Just in Time for Christmas

Nathan lost both his parents when he was still a teenager.

Alone and unsure of how he was going to survive, he turned to the streets to be his family — a decision that ultimately led to a lot of bad choices that landed him in prison.

Without a home for most of his life, and with no one to turn to, Nathan decided it was time for a change. That's how he ended up at Los Angeles Mission, just in time to enjoy a Christmas like no other.

Instead of the sad, lonely holidays he was used to, Nathan spent last Christmas wrapping presents, distributing toys throughout the community, and, for the first time in years, experiencing the true joy of the season.

"I felt a little like Santa," he says, laughing.

Grateful for the second chance he was given, Nathan has spent the last year making up for the lost years with prayer, guidance, encouragement and support from Mission staff.

Today, he has a very special message for you and all our friends who are helping make his transformation possible.

"I really appreciate everything you did for me," he says. "Because of you, I turned my life around."



"Because of you, I turned my life around."

By giving, you changed how Nathan looks at not only Christmas, but also life. And for that, he will always be grateful.

Thank you for your partnership with Los Angeles Mission. Because of you, Nathan and so many others have joy this holiday season — and lasting hope for the future.

Christmas Has New Meaning for Felicia, Thanks to You

Like so many who walk through our doors, Felicia had made some poor decisions in her life.

These led to drug and alcohol use, and she found herself feeling like "a lost soul." "I once had a job, a new car and my own apartment," she remembers. "Then I started using drugs and my life became chaotic and unpredictable. I just wanted my life back."

That's what led Felicia to the Anne Douglas Center.

"When I walked through the doors, I knew this was where God wanted me to be," she says. Through counseling, prayer and our loving guidance, she is now "living life the way God wants me to."

Nowhere is the change more evident than at Christmastime. This year, instead of hiding her drug usage from her family, she's buying them all presents to celebrate her new life. She'll also be working at our guest services desk, where Christmas is a reminder of the life she used to live — and the blessings that come from walking with God every day.

"Now, I tell others if God can do it for me, He can do it for you," says Felicia. The joy in her heart is evident to all who have seen her life transformed.

Thank you for giving Felicia and so many others the best gift of all this Christmas — the gift of lasting hope.



Felicia no longer spends Christmas hiding. Now, thanks to you, she is celebrating her new life.

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.

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.

Life Is Short. Make It Count.

Moments after takeoff from LaGuardia Airport, a flight collided with a flock of geese. Both engines lost power, forcing Captain Chesley Burnett Sullenberger III to make an emergency landing in the Hudson River. Everyone survived and Sullenberger became a hero. (Story reported by History.com.)

Life can change on a dime. *But this thought shouldn't strike fear in our hearts — it should move us to action.*

Here are two ways to make your life count today:

- 1. Serve others rather than self.** Every human is born egocentric; but as we grow, we learn that our actions have great impact on others. God honors our sacrifices. Hebrews 6:10 says, “God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown . . .”
- 2. Focus on giving rather than getting.** Americans are consumed with acquiring — but a legacy of generosity demonstrates God’s love. Would you consider making a gift in your Will to Los Angeles Mission? This could be a powerful way to give even after you die.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of “3 Ways to Make Your Life Count Today” by contacting Troy Vaughn at (213) 629-1227 Ext. 305 or tvaughn@lamission.net — or bless your family today with a God-honoring Will at christianwill.org/lamission.

ACTION ALERT! Urgent Help Needed!

With Christmas just around the corner, we continue to see a 100% increase in the need for food boxes, takeaway meals and now, Christmas toys! Many people who have never been homeless are at risk of losing their homes because they’ve lost their jobs during the pandemic. We urgently need your help today to provide meals and care to the growing number of people who have ended up on Skid Row.

Stay Connected

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



LOS ANGELES MISSION DONATION DROP OFF

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