

## UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

### Volunteer Opportunities

We welcome you to discover the different volunteer opportunities that are currently available. For more information, please visit [lamission.volunteerhub.com](http://lamission.volunteerhub.com) or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 337.



## Does Your Legacy Reflect Your Heart?

Sometimes showing up and being present in the moment is hard work — especially when it means addressing matters of the heart. Many people want to leave an inspiring legacy, but they'd rather avoid actually building one.

According to author Bill High, true legacy is “building intentionally into others with a vision for the future instead of choosing the course of least resistance.” It starts by:

- 1. Cutting through excuses.** Many people don't create a Will or talk to their families about important topics because they assume it will all just work out in the end. Getting serious about your legacy means you may have to push past the excuses holding you back.
- 2. Being intentional.** Just like creating an estate plan requires getting your affairs in order, leaving a true legacy means you tell your loved ones what you believe, how special they are to you and why you support organizations like Los Angeles Mission.

*For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of “Does Your Legacy Reflect Your Heart?” by contacting Troy Vaughn at (213) 629-1227 Ext. 305 or [tvaughn@lamission.net](mailto:tvaughn@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!

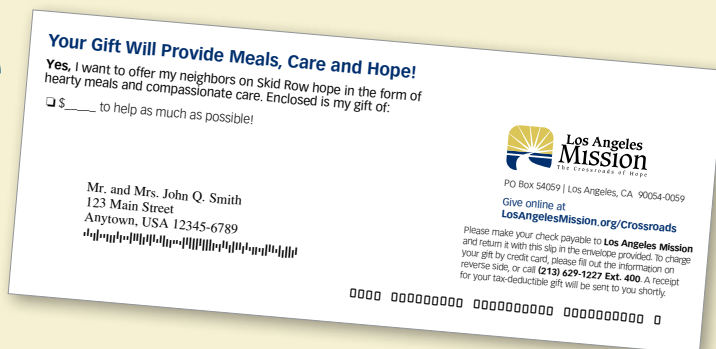


Providing nutritious meals, shelter and care to veterans, children and thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness is an ongoing challenge for Los Angeles Mission. To help us meet that need, please consider becoming a Meals-A-Month partner. This dedicated group of donors provides a steady stream 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.

## Give Hope That Leads to New Life

Send back the enclosed reply form with your gift to provide meals, care and life-changing services to people who need hope and a second chance. Please give generously and offer encouragement to people who are looking to rebuild their lives. Thank you!



News from Los Angeles Mission

# CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

February 2021



## You've Given This Mom the Greatest Gift of All

**'I'll be in your  
debt for the  
rest of my life'**

To see how your gifts  
lead to lasting hope,  
**turn to page 2**





## What Our Homeless Neighbors Must Never Forget



Dear Caring Friend,

Thank you for your compassionate response to the needs of our homeless neighbors on Skid Row.

This is an especially difficult time to be living on the streets. Many of our homeless neighbors don't know anything but the pain caused by addiction, loneliness, mental illness — and now COVID-19.

Today, I want them to know something else: They haven't been forgotten . . . help is within reach . . . and God wants something better for them than living in a tent on a cold sidewalk.

In this issue of *Crossroads*, you'll read about Gisela and Hap who were once on the path to destruction — until they came to the Mission and allowed the power of God to change their lives.

I desperately want every person who walks through our doors to experience that same kind of miraculous transformation. Won't you join me? Because I can't do this alone.

Together, let's make 2021 the year that HOPE wins out!

A blue ink signature of Troy Vaughn.

Troy Vaughn  
President/CEO

## A Young Mom Finds Her Way Back — Thanks to You!



Your generosity made it possible for Gisela to come to our Anne Douglas Center. Now she's discovered God's love for her — and the pathway to a new life.

When Gisela was just 11 years old, one of her mom's friends forced her to try crystal meth.

"Once I started using, I just couldn't stop," Gisela recalls. A year later, she went through rehab for the very first time — but it wouldn't be the last.

The choices she made eventually cost Gisela custody of her daughter. When that happened, she knew that if she wanted to be a mom again, things needed to change. So she came to our Anne Douglas Center, where she discovered God's love for her — and the pathway to a new life.

As she gets ready to graduate, and hopefully be reunited with her daughter, **Gisela says she's grateful for Mission donors like you for the second chance she's been given.** "You've done so much for me — without even knowing me," she says. "I'll be in your debt for the rest of my life."

Because of you, Gisela has hope again. Thank you for continuing to support this life-changing work.



After years of suffering and disappointment, Gisela has hope again — thanks to your giving.

# 'It Felt Like No One Could Help Me'

Hap was on a downward spiral.

After a serious auto accident left Hap in excruciating pain, his doctor prescribed painkillers. Like most people, Hap never intended to become addicted to pain pills. But he did. And it eventually cost him his job and his home. Soon, Hap fell into a deep depression.

"I used to cry in bed at night because it felt like no one could help me," he remembers.

His Aunt Claudia drove Hap to Los Angeles Mission — an act of kindness that probably saved his life.

At the Mission, Hap discovered the key to being drug-free. "I needed Jesus, and I needed professional help," he says. "I found both here." Now that he's graduated, he's also found his calling: telling others who are struggling about the hope God offers. "Don't give up," he tells them. "I'm walking proof that, with God, change is possible."

Thank you for supporting people like Hap with your gifts to Los Angeles Mission — and making new life possible!



Hap is "walking proof that, with God, change is possible." And it happened because you support Los Angeles Mission. Thank you!

## Anne Douglas Center Graduates Say 'Thank You'

*Here's how your gifts are changing women's lives*

Anne Douglas gave me the will and desire to want to become a better person. In her I felt I was reintroduced to the Spirit of the Lord, which I believe has brought me back over 20 years later. I thank God for the Anne Douglas Center.

— Earlitha

Anne Douglas showed me how to have compassion for other people and how to give back with an open heart. When I was here in 2012, I was able to have lunch with her. She is such a graceful lady. You can feel the presence of God when she is around.

— Shanetha

