

News from Los Angeles Mission

# CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

APRIL 2021



Los Angeles  
**Mission**  
The Crossroads of Hope™



*Anne Douglas*  
Center for Women  
at the Los Angeles Mission

## HUNGER CRISIS WORSENS

REQUESTS FOR  
FOOD UP 200%!!!

Turn to page 2 to see how new life begins with a meal ►



# Homeless Families in Crisis Need Your Help



Dear Caring Friend,

Thousands of local families continue to stop by the Mission each week, seeking food, hope and sometimes just a few words of encouragement that the worst is finally over. Somehow, we have to find a way to help each and every one of them.

We understand these are unusual times, especially with the number of first-time homeless families at an all-time high. But the family is the core of society. We have to find solutions that are mutually beneficial to every family member, young and old.

Only by working together can we rise up to meet this unique challenge. By encouraging families to work together. Organizations to work together. And communities to work together, especially with faithful partners like you!

You are a vital part of the success we see every day at Los Angeles Mission. Please accept my sincere thanks, because we couldn't do it without you!

A blue ink signature of Troy Vaughn.

Troy Vaughn  
President/CEO



The food you provide can offer someone a new beginning.

## You Can Give Hope — for Just \$2.53

### A 200% increase in requests for food means more opportunity for change

Recently, we've seen a 200% increase in requests for food, further evidence that **the hunger crisis in Los Angeles is worsening**.

A year after COVID-19 burst onto the scene, we're still experiencing its devastating effects. Businesses continue to close. More hardworking parents have lost their jobs and are now draining their life savings. Families who've never needed help before are being forced from their homes and onto the streets.

At Los Angeles Mission, we're working around the clock to feed a record number of people, safely and efficiently. But we can't keep up this hectic pace unless friends like you partner with us to bring food — and the hope of new life — to as many of our neighbors as possible.

Today, we can feed a hungry person for just \$2.53. But what's even more amazing is that every person we feed has an opportunity to change their life.

"With every great need comes great opportunity," says Troy Vaughn, President. "That's how real change happens around here. One life at a time . . . times 200%!"



Thank you for your support during this critical time.



When you partner with Los Angeles Mission, lives are changed.

**Every \$2.53 feeds one hungry person, opening the door to hope and new life.**



Hugo is living proof of how your generosity means real change.

## 'This place turned my life around'

No family. No friends. Nowhere to go.

That's where Hugo found himself before walking through our doors. "I was sad, really just broken . . . I felt alone," he remembers.

But sadness turned into hope when Hugo came to Los Angeles Mission, allowing him to finally close out a horrible chapter in his life that included depression, joblessness and homelessness.

Here, the meals and shelter he was offered helped clear his head. He found purpose and hope in our recovery program. And now he gets great joy from sharing his story with other men, some of whom have come into this program themselves.

Hugo is excited about the future due to the encouragement and support he received from his new family at Los Angeles Mission. He's also grateful for the generosity of friends like you, who made it possible for him to move beyond the pain from his past.

**"This place turned my life around,"** he says.

Thank you for supporting people like Hugo with your gifts to Los Angeles Mission. Only through ongoing generosity and prayers can we continue giving desperate people hope.

## 'I wouldn't be alive today if it wasn't for this place'

Skid Row is full of predators who prey on defenseless, homeless women like Serina day and night.

When she wasn't being physically and verbally abused by her boyfriend, Serina constantly found herself pushed and shoved by his heartless friends, who took advantage of the fact that she was partially blind from being beaten so badly.

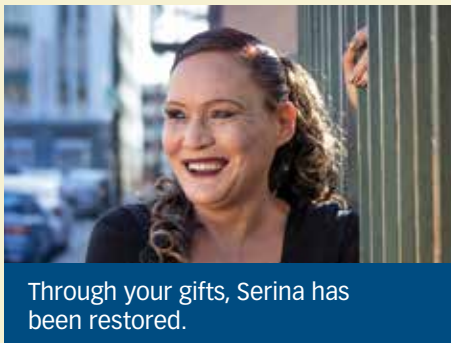
"It really kills your spirit," she says of the abuse she endured. "I didn't have anyone to protect me" . . . until she came to the Anne Douglas Center at Los Angeles Mission.

The feeling of finally being in a safe place, where she could do something as simple as brush her hair without being harassed, was "pretty overwhelming," she remembers. "I wouldn't be alive today if it wasn't for this place. I really felt like God led me here."

After 10 months of nutritious meals, Bible study, prayer support, and guidance, Serina says she's starting to feel normal again.

**"I have goals and dreams now,"** she says. **"I've gotten back my dignity and self-worth."**

Hundreds of women at the Anne Douglas Center have come out of homelessness and have hope again because of your generosity. Thank you for continuing to support the life-changing programs that give hope and real help to women every day!



Through your gifts, Serina has been restored.



## Keeping Homeless Families Together Is One of Our Top Priorities

More families are becoming homeless for the first time than at any time in Los Angeles history. Sadly, many have no choice but to separate — dads going one place, moms and kids ending up somewhere else.

But at Los Angeles Mission, one of our top priorities is to get family members back together as quickly as possible. We do this through innovative programs like:

- **The Anne Douglas Center**, offering counseling, career skills development and transitional housing to women looking to transform their lives and regain their dignity after a tragedy.
- **LifeStart**, helping men and women overcome the obstacles they face so they can successfully meet the challenges of being in a work environment.
- **Signature programs** that provide mental health treatment, medical and dental services, and financial management classes to help prevent homelessness the next time a crisis hits.

Thank you for allowing us to provide this type of life-changing help to families facing an uncertain future. Because of your support, there will always be hope for them!



## 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.



## Could This Have Been Written by Your Children?

*“Dear Mom and Dad,*

*Throughout my life you have given me so much, but there’s one more thing I need from you. I need you to talk with me about the future.*

*I know you may be uncomfortable talking about aging or death, but what if something unexpected happens? Losing you will be much more painful if I’m left trying to handle your estate while I’m grieving.*

*Do you have an up-to-date Will? Can we talk about it? I’d like to know what you have planned and why.*

*I am a part of your legacy, and I want to live my life in honor of God, our family name and the legacy that has made me who I am.”*

Could this letter have been written by your adult child? Estate planning can be a simple and powerful way to communicate love and connect with your loved ones on a deeper level. Talking about the future can create certainty, peace and even inspire them to get involved with the values, passions and causes you care about — like the work of Los Angeles Mission.

***For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of “What Your Adult Children Need from You” by contacting Troy Vaughn at (213) 629-1227 Ext. 305 or [ceo@lamission.net](mailto:ceo@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.

## ACTION ALERT! Urgent Help Needed!

A 200% increase in requests for food is wreaking havoc in the lives of so many people in Los Angeles, particularly those on Skid Row. Not only is the impact of the coronavirus pandemic keeping people from going back to work, but it’s forcing more and more families who have never needed help before onto the streets. We urgently need your help today to provide meals and care to the growing number of people who are barely making it from one day to the next.



Los Angeles Mission  
303 E. 5th Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
(213) 629-1227 Ext. 400

### Stay Connected

Keep track of the latest Mission news, make safe online donations and more.  
[LosAngelesMission.org](http://LosAngelesMission.org)



**LOS ANGELES MISSION  
DONATION DROP OFF**  
316 Winston Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90013