

News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

MAY 2021

A photograph of a man with a beard and short hair, wearing a dark polo shirt, standing in front of a city street with buildings in the background. The text "Hungry, miserable and brokenhearted," is overlaid in large yellow letters.

**Hungry,
miserable and
brokenhearted,**

Felix was just about out of hope. Then, a kind passerby told him Los Angeles Mission could help . . .



You Show Neighbors Fighting Homelessness Their True Worth

Dear Caring Friend,

It's almost impossible to love yourself when you're homeless. When everything has gone wrong, all your relationships are broken, and it all feels hopeless, it's tough to see any value in your own life. You almost start to believe you deserve to suffer.

I know, because I lived it. I spent more than seven years on the streets.

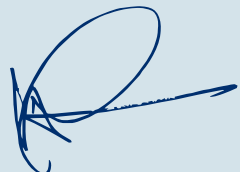
Today, I know better. I know every life is priceless. That's why Los Angeles Mission goes to any and all lengths to help our neighbors who are trapped out there. While many of our guests don't want to hear anything good about themselves, they *are* at least hungry.

So they come for a meal . . .

And that meal opens a door for healing, for relationships and for new hope.

Today, Los Angeles Mission is determined to help our homeless and hungry neighbors not only see how valued they are, but also obtain a better life off the streets and out of poverty. That's why our Matching Grant is so critical, and why your support is more deeply appreciated than ever before — especially since requests for food have increased 200% during this pandemic.

Thank you for showing your neighbors experiencing homelessness how much you care.



Troy Vaughn
President/CEO



Hungry, Hurting and Heartbroken

Felix was starving. Alone.
Without help, he thought
he would die . . .

When Felix broke up with the mother of his son, he was devastated. Overnight, he'd gone from a happy home to alone and heartbroken. A relative saw his misery and offered to "help him forget his sadness" — *with drugs*. In a moment of weakness, Felix accepted.

As is almost always the case, what started as a temporary release from pain turned into a raging addiction. Very quickly, Felix lost his savings, his job and his home.

For two weeks, he suffered on the streets — starving, lonely, miserable. He realized that if he didn't get help, he was going to die.

Felix Came for a Meal and Safe Shelter

When Felix was at absolute rock bottom, someone mentioned Los Angeles Mission. They said he could at least get a meal there. So he came for food and a chance to escape the dangers of the street.

While he was here, Felix saw someone he knew who'd gone through a lot of the same troubles. Only now, his friend was doing great. He was clean and sober, and there was a look of joy on his face. The Mission had restored his life, he told Felix, and it could do the same for him.

That gave Felix a glimmer of hope. Instead of returning to his addiction, Felix entered the program. He got clean, gained important life skills, grew in his faith and changed his future.

Today, Felix isn't just back on his feet. Because of your generous support, he's a completely transformed person. He has a job driving a forklift, he's rebuilding relationships with his family, and he's staying connected and accountable with the Mission. Thank you for changing Felix's life! Only through your ongoing gifts and prayers can we continue making real change possible for more people whose lives are on the line.

**Your support gave Felix a chance to rebuild his life.
Thank you for helping him get back on his feet!**

Catching Up with Allison

Allison spent three years on the streets. She never wanted to come to the Mission. But today, thanks to your support, she's made incredible progress rebuilding her life . . .

When we last told you about Allison*, she was making good progress in the Anne Douglas Center at Los Angeles Mission, recovering from a three-year struggle with homelessness. Today, we want to share an update, because Allison's story captures both the challenges and triumphs of the recovery journey.

"Back then, I didn't want to be here," she remembers. "I was scared I was going to end up right back on Skid Row. Being out there makes you a very negative person. But since I've been at the Center, I've gained an inner peace. I know I'll never go back out there."

One of the key components to Allison's healing journey has been therapy to help her work through the trauma she suffered on the streets. "Having people to speak with, who love me for who I am, it changes everything."

This compassion, coupled with the stability, safety, Bible studies, and guidance, has transformed Allison. "There was a time when I was weak, pathetic and hopeless," she says. "I'm not any of those things anymore. Now, I'm positive, disciplined, a hard worker. I'm searching for a job, I'm rebuilding broken relationships with my family, and I have new hope for the future."

Your support provides more than just food, clothing and shelter. You give people like Allison a second chance — and the tools to succeed. Thank you!

**Name changed to protect identity*



If not for friends like you, Allison might still be fighting to survive on Skid Row!

\$125,000 Matching Grant DOUBLES Your Donation

Amazing news: Several generous friends who share your compassion for our neighbors suffering from homelessness have provided a limited-time \$125,000 Matching Grant to Los Angeles Mission.

To receive the full \$125,000 amount, we must match it in its entirety by June 26. At that time, all unmatched funds will be forfeited.

Please send a generous donation today — your support is crucial because we cannot afford to miss this brief opportunity. Our resources to deal with the pandemic and the 200% increase in local need are stretched thin. Whatever you give will double in value, providing twice as much help to men, women and children in urgent need.



Your gift today will double in impact to help twice as many people!



AMERICAN VETERANS ARE COUNTING ON YOU

America's veterans risked everything to protect our country. They made incredible sacrifices for our sakes. But too many of them in Los Angeles are struggling with homelessness and hunger. For these men and women, and those living paycheck to paycheck, the pandemic has intensified their hardships.

While the number of homeless veterans is down across the country, in LA that number has stayed frustratingly high — nearly 4,000 veterans still sleep on the streets in Los Angeles County on any given night.

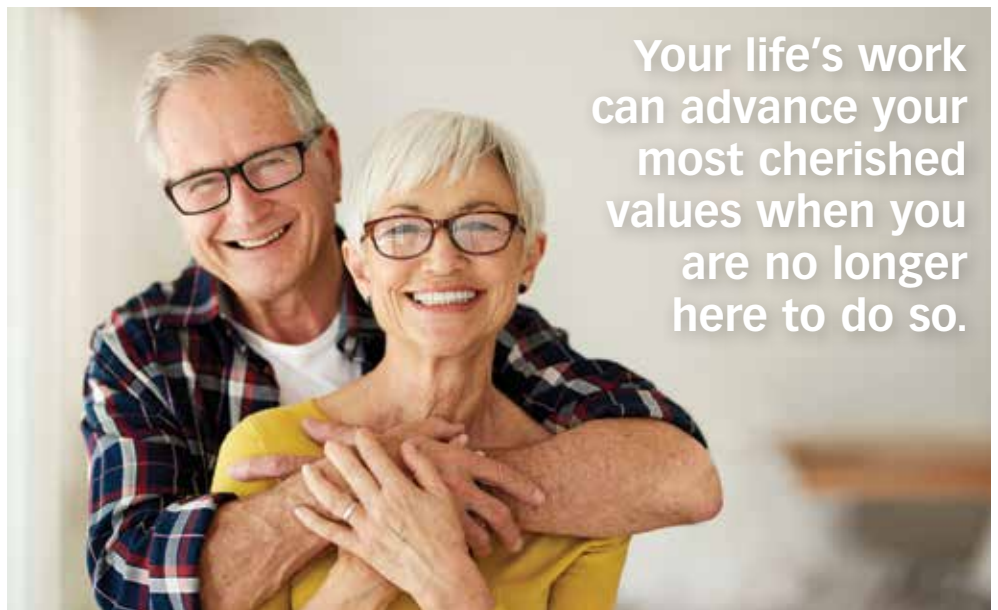
Your continued gifts to Los Angeles Mission will give them meals, care and the chance at a transformed life. Thank you.



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 or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 337.



Your life's work
can advance your
most cherished
values when you
are no longer
here to do so.

Plan a Legacy of Transformation

When you devote a portion of your life's work to Los Angeles Mission in your will, you leave a legacy of hope for men, women and children who are trapped on Skid Row. You ensure that for generations to come, our guests will receive food and the compassionate care necessary to rebuild their lives.

In addition to a gift in your will or estate plans, there are many other planned giving opportunities you can use to help your neighbors experiencing homelessness. For more information, please contact our President and CEO, Troy Vaughn, at (213) 629-1227 Ext. 305 or ceo@lamission.net today.

The Simplest Way to Make a Difference!



Every month, thousands of families and individuals struggling with hunger, poverty and homelessness turn to Los Angeles Mission for meals. Please consider becoming a Meals-A-Month partner to help us meet this need! Requests for food have risen 200%, and our Meals-A-Month partners play a vital role ensuring no one is turned away.

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!

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 leaving more and more families who've never needed help before in a desperate struggle with hunger and homelessness. 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.

Stay Connected

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



LOS ANGELES MISSION DONATION DROP OFF

316 Winston Street
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