

UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

Volunteer Opportunities

Despite the pandemic, a limited number of volunteer opportunities remain. To learn how you can make a difference for your neighbors experiencing homelessness, please visit lamission.volunteerhub.com or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 337.



How Generous Christians Save Taxes

Savvy Giving Options You Should Know

Care to know a secret?

Generous Christians just like you are giving to Los Angeles Mission in savvy ways that have tremendous Kingdom impact *AND* reduce their taxes!

If you own stock, real estate, business interests or commodities, you too can get in on the tax-saving action!

When you give non-cash assets, you will receive a **fair market value deduction at the time of your gift. You'll also avoid tax liability on the sale of appreciated assets. It's more cost-effective than giving cash!**

What's more, many supporters give non-cash assets to establish what's called a "life income gift." By doing so, you can eliminate taxes, give assets you no longer need or want to manage (such as real estate or business interests), *and* receive steady income payments for you and your loved ones. It's a great way to support the Mission while caring for your family's needs.

Ready to learn more about all the smart and powerful giving options available to you? Call President and CEO Troy Vaughn at (213) 629-1227 Ext. 305 or email ceo@lamission.net.

Change Lives All Year!



Every month, thousands of veterans, children, families and individuals turn to Los Angeles Mission for nutritious meals, shelter and other crucial resources. You can do your part to help meet their needs by becoming a Meals-A-Month partner. By committing a monthly gift, you will provide a steady stream of support that transforms lives every day, all year long.

Go to Give.LosAngelesMission.org to sign up online, or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 334 to join by phone.

ACTION ALERT! Urgent Help Needed for Summer!

Life on the streets is never easy, but in hot and sunny Southern California, summertime is especially dangerous. When the sun bakes the blacktop, sidewalks, and concrete buildings, ambient air temperature can easily soar over 100 degrees. The individuals and families trying to survive out there are in constant danger of dehydration and heatstroke. Unfortunately, acts of violence often increase at this time of year too. Please help our neighbors in desperate need by sending your generous gift today, and it will be doubled in value and impact.

Stay Connected

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



News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

JUNE 2021

Henry's wounds
from childhood
were so deep, he
wasn't sure if they
would ever heal . . .

SUMMER OF SURVIVAL

Our neighbors need
you more than ever.

For just a little longer,
your gift can be
matched!





**Thanks to
You, Our Guests
Are NOT Invisible**

Dear Caring Friend,

When I was homeless, it seemed like no one saw me. No one acknowledged me, no one spoke to me. I guess it was easier for most people to look away. Sure, certain groups or leaders spoke about the problem of homelessness as a whole. But no one addressed me as *Troy, the individual*. I was just a part of “the homeless,” a nameless, faceless collective to be talked about but never personally engaged. I might as well have been invisible.

My recovery began when some kind people looked me in the eye, spoke to me face-to-face, and called me by name. Being treated as an individual was the beginning of the restoration of my dignity.


Today, that’s precisely the approach we take at Los Angeles Mission when someone walks through our doors for that first meal. Here, they aren’t “the homeless.” They’re “John” or “Lucy” or “Miguel.” They’re Henry and Tiffany, whose stories are featured in this newsletter. And ultimately, they’re Jesus, because He said, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40).

I trust God will remember the compassion you show toward our neighbors in need. Every life we touch here is a credit to you. I am so grateful for your friendship and partnership in this cause. Because of your support, men, women and children aren’t just surviving this summer — they’re getting back on their feet and beginning a new life, with hope and restored dignity. Thank you!



Troy Vaughn
President/CEO

Picking Up the Pieces of a Broken Childhood



Henry didn’t believe anyone loved him. At Los Angeles Mission, he learned that wasn’t true.

My family was dysfunctional, and my neighborhood was filled with drugs and violence. I never had a dad, and it haunted me. My aunts and uncles treated me and my mom really bad. When other kids were riding bikes or playing video games, I was witnessing things no child should see — addiction, fighting, my cousin getting gunned down . . . that’s just how life was where we lived.

I think all of this made it easier for me to make bad decisions — with drugs and a gang. I see now how I was searching for a father figure, but I looked in the wrong places, made self-destructive choices, and spent years on the streets and in prison as a result. I remember summer being especially rough — I felt so ashamed asking people for food and water.

Through it all, my mom always loved me, but she was the only one. And when she got killed in a car accident . . . well, that’s when I really fell apart.

From Rock Bottom to Recovery

Everything was dark and hopeless. I was completely broken. After getting arrested yet again, that’s when I finally cried out to God. I told Him I needed Him because no one else loved me.

Amazingly, God heard my prayer. In that moment, my life started changing. I gave my life to Him, became a model prisoner, and when I got out, I came straight to Los Angeles Mission. I had come here for showers and meals years before. This time, I came for transformation.

“Henry found the fatherly relationships he’d never had as a child here at the Mission. Thank you for changing his life!”

Everyone here is wonderful. They treat you with such compassion. The chaplains gave me guidance I never received as a boy. They became father figures to me. That’s when I realized: everything I didn’t have back then — love, family, stability — God gave me here. Today, I’m a new man. I’m responsible, I have a good job, and I’m even close to earning a college degree! Most important, I have my heavenly Father, and I can’t put into words how grateful I am.

Thank you for giving Henry new hope and another chance. Your continuing generosity and prayers will help rescue many more people in need.

How You Helped Tiffany Overcome 'the Impossible'

Tiffany survived an abusive relationship for more than a decade. But when she was abandoned, life really fell apart . . .

When Tiffany met her partner, he was charming and seemed like good husband material. But over the years, he changed. He had one affair, then another and another. Unfaithfulness was followed by constant dishonesty and increasing cruelty. Verbal abuse escalated to physical abuse, and Tiffany was left a shell of a person.

To deal with the turmoil, she began drinking. Alcohol numbed the pain, but it only made things worse. Eventually, Tiffany could no longer hold down a job. And then one day, after 14 years together, Tiffany's partner abandoned her.

"I was totally dependent on him, and I felt absolutely worthless," she remembers. "He hadn't paid the rent, and I was asked to leave our apartment. I was so scared of becoming homeless that I was suicidal."

After several stop-gap measures didn't work, Tiffany's worst fears were realized when she wound up on the streets.

From Bad to Worse

"Every day was rough. Staying warm at night, using the bathroom . . . I barely had food. It was awful." She continues, "No one in my family would help me because of my alcoholism. I understand why they rejected me, but it was still very, very painful. A good life seemed impossible."

After two weeks on the streets, Tiffany learned about Los Angeles Mission's Anne Douglas Center for Women.

"I was really scared when I came here, but I'm so glad I did," she says. "Meals and a safe place to sleep, having a bathroom, being able to shower . . . I can't describe how much it meant."

And yet, those basics were only the start of Tiffany's journey to wholeness. "The people here helped me understand so much about myself, my scars and fears, and how to overcome them. My faith grew, and over time, my relationship with my children was restored."

Today, Tiffany has a plan to become a nurse and move into her own home. She's gaining new confidence each day, and she's deeply grateful for the life-changing help she received at the Mission.

Your kindhearted support changed Tiffany's life, and your ongoing generosity will ensure individuals trapped on the streets get the help they need.



Tiffany is so grateful that you helped rescue her from homelessness and misery!

SUMMER OF SURVIVAL MATCHING GIFT

Your gift today, doubled in impact, will provide twice as much help to neighbors experiencing homelessness this summer!

Several anonymous friends who share your deep concern for our neighbors experiencing homelessness have provided Los Angeles Mission with an extraordinary offer: a \$125,000 Matching Grant! Our friends know just how difficult it is to survive on Skid Row, especially during the summer. That's why they've promised to match every dollar you give with one of their own.

The deadline to have your gift matched is June 26. At that time, all unmatched funds will be forfeited.

Please don't miss this chance to **DOUBLE** your donation. The need for food has increased 200% as a result of the pandemic. By sending your gift today, you'll provide twice as much food, shelter, clothing, showers and other vital recovery services.