

News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

JULY 2021



"I made mistakes, but by God's grace, the Mission gave me another chance. All I can say is 'Thank you!'"

— Oscar, Navy veteran

Proud Navy Veteran Receives a Second Chance

Your gifts restore the lives of struggling veterans like Oscar!



An Honor to Serve

Dear Caring Friend,

Joining the Marines was a lifesaver for me. They gave me direction, taught me about brotherhood and leadership and about depending on others. The Corps turned me into a man.

Because of my time in the Marines, there's a special place in my heart for our veterans trapped on Skid Row. I have a passion to see them restored to healthy, productive living. As I'm sure you know, the transition from the service back into civilian living can be very difficult, especially for those struggling with PTSD.


Veterans across Los Angeles are dealing with so much now, including job losses, social isolation and mounting anxiety. The struggle against mental and physical health issues, hunger and homelessness can be overwhelming.

This summer, your continued support is crucial. If you can send a generous gift today, you will ensure that these American heroes won't have to fight their battles alone. Your help will meet their most pressing needs, while also providing meals, shelter and care for so many other struggling neighbors. I can't think of a better way to honor those who sacrificed so much than by ensuring they have the resources necessary to stand on their own two feet. Thank you!



Troy Vaughn
President/CEO

Oscar Finds His Safe Harbor at Los Angeles Mission



Oscar served our country, but he fell on hard times. At Los Angeles Mission, you helped this Navy veteran rebuild his life.

“The Lord led me to Los Angeles Mission, and He's changing my life here. He's transformed me from someone who was very rebellious to someone who is humble and servant-oriented.”

That's how Oscar summarizes the heart changes he's experiencing at Los Angeles Mission. This proud U.S. Navy veteran came here after his life fell off track, and he wound up in prison. Upon release, Oscar needed a place that would help him rebuild his life and stay off the streets.

“I was in the Navy for four years. When I got out, I made some bad choices that led to a lot of trouble,” Oscar remembers. “But the hospitality of the people at the Mission is so beautiful. I love my brothers and sisters in Christ here. They welcomed me in, gave me room and board, gave me so much guidance. They even helped me find a job!”

Today, when Oscar isn't working in his retail position, he loves serving the homeless population on Skid Row. “I want them to know that a better life exists, but they have to want it. If they want it, Los Angeles Mission has everything they need to achieve it.”

He continues: “I made mistakes, but by God's grace, the Mission gave me another chance. All I can say is ‘Thank you!’ I am very grateful.”

Your compassion made a life-changing difference for Oscar. Please continue your support to provide help and hope for more veterans and for all people who turn to Los Angeles Mission.

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— Oscar, Navy veteran

New Hope and Another Chance . . . Thanks to You!

Summer was just a regular high schooler. She loved her family, enjoyed spending time with friends and played soccer. Then she was diagnosed with fibromyalgia, a condition that caused her significant pain.



To help Summer live a normal life, her doctors prescribed pain medication. But over time, her body developed a tolerance for these drugs. When doctors would not increase the dosage, she felt even worse than before.

Around that time, someone she considered a friend offered her a little cocaine. She thought it would reduce her pain. Instead, it led her down a tragically self-destructive path . . .

Life Falls Apart

Summer's relationship with her family became horribly broken. "I missed so much," she remembers. "Holiday parties, my brother and sister's activities, special occasions. My parents tried to help me, but they couldn't trust me at all. I stole from them and had to move out. I lost my job, and there were a lot of days that I didn't have anything more to eat than a half bagel. I was almost starving."

When she was at rock bottom, a counselor who had recovered at Los Angeles Mission's Anne Douglas Center told her about our long-term recovery program. Desperate for healing, Summer came — and her life began to change.

"The Mission blessed me so much — food, clothing, toiletries. Little things like shampoo I couldn't afford. They gave me everything I needed," Summer says. "But it was more than that. They showed me that God loves me and cares about me. That's what changed my heart."

Today, Summer has been clean for more than a year, and she continues working hard to rebuild what's been lost. She's incredibly grateful for Los Angeles Mission, and she's creating a brighter future she and her family can be proud of.

Thank you for helping change Summer's life. Please continue giving generously to provide crucial meals, shelter and healing to neighbors in need.

Program Graduate Leaves a Legacy of Service

Los Angeles Mission honors the legacy of David Thomas, the beloved leader of our kitchen and a former graduate of our recovery program. David was an inexhaustible spirit, a fun-loving and caring soul, and an amazing human being. We will forever miss a treasured friend and an inspiring mentor. David leaves behind a legacy of service and dedication. While his loss will be felt for years, we have peace knowing his transformation at Los Angeles Mission has joyful eternal consequences.



David Thomas
March 10, 1960 – April 11, 2021

Food, Shelter and Other Rising Needs

200% INCREASE!

The ongoing fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic has put enormous strain on Los Angeles Mission. **The need for food boxes and meals has skyrocketed 200%.**

With massive layoffs, thousands of businesses and restaurants shuttered, and a long road to recovery ahead of us, thousands of people are hurting.

At the same time, life on the streets is more dangerous than ever. Violent crime is increasing, and the urgency of shelter for our vulnerable neighbors — especially women and children — has never been greater.

As record numbers of people turn to the Mission for help, your support is more important than ever before. **Please help provide meals, shelter and comprehensive care for your neighbors in desperate need this summer by sending your gift today.** Thank you!



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.



Avoiding the Cliffhanger

How Your Will Reveals What Matters Most

A cliffhanger might be an exciting way to end a novel, but it's hardly the way to conclude your own life's story.



Yet this could happen if you don't complete your estate plans. Without a will or trust, your loved ones could face their own "cliffhanger" — about how to distribute your belongings. They may have to pay unnecessary taxes and legal fees. And they won't know about the provisions you wanted to make for your family or for the causes close to your heart.

Through good planning, you can write a beautiful narrative that punctuates all the goodness of your life. Your completed will offers a powerful testimony about what matters most to you — communicating your priorities and advancing the values you cherished most.

Plus, your will protects your assets and belongings. Through it, you can provide for family members with special needs or secure guardianship for minors. Your last chapter can also transfer God-given resources to further the mission of Los Angeles Mission and other Kingdom work the Lord has placed on your heart.

So, don't leave your loved ones guessing with a narrative that's incomplete. Having a will in place completes your life's story in a smart, loving and meaningful way.

Ready to put your plan in place? Request your free copy of "The Roadmap to Your Completed Will" by emailing Los Angeles Mission 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.

Change Lives This Summer!

Send back the enclosed reply form with your gift to provide meals and comprehensive recovery services to veterans and neighbors who have nowhere else to turn. Your generous gift will provide vital help, healing and encouragement to people trapped on Skid Row. Thank you for your compassion!

