Eduardo’s Unexpected Journey at the Mission

Eduardo didn’t want to be at Los Angeles Mission, until he made a discovery that changed his life . . .
Dear Caring Friend,

Right now, there are thousands of people experiencing homelessness across our community. Some wound up on the streets because the pandemic cost them their jobs, then their homes. Others fled abusive relationships, while a few were crippled with grief after the loss of loved ones. Many are struggling with addiction.

Whatever the cause, the result is the same: rock bottom on Skid Row.

But thanks to your prayers and support, that’s not the end of the story. Today, Los Angeles Mission has our doors wide open, welcoming each person with meals, shelter and clothing. With compassion, hope based on the love of Jesus Christ and the promise of another chance.

In Jeremiah 29:11, God told the Israelites exiled to Babylon, “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’” It’s a great joy of mine to see our guests learn that God has a future for them, too.

And when they learn that Christ is able to lead them to a new future, free from addiction, crushing poverty or whatever other crisis has devastated their lives . . . well, it opens up a world of inspiring possibilities. Lives are renewed, families are restored and our entire community is strengthened.

Now, we’re busy preparing to meet the growing need in Los Angeles, and I thank you for doing your part to help those with nowhere else to turn.

Troy Vaughn
President/CEO

YOur Support Transformed Eduardo’s Life

Eduardo only came to the Mission to avoid jail. He didn’t want to be here, but what he experienced changed his life forever.

Just before the pandemic began, legal authorities told Eduardo he should consider Los Angeles Mission. At the time, he wasn’t exactly grateful for the opportunity, even though it kept him out of jail. In fact, he didn’t want to be here at all. He came from a difficult background and had many challenges at home before experiencing trouble with the law.

However, he decided to give the Mission a chance, and it wasn’t long before he realized he was in a very good place.

At first, he appreciated the three meals a day and a safe place to sleep. But what really changed his mind, he says, is that “the chaplains made it clear they really cared about me.”

He continues: “They taught me so much about having faith and being humble, just like God wants me to be.” Eduardo began working in our kitchen, a job that gave him tremendous satisfaction. “Knowing that we were feeding people who wouldn’t get to eat without us makes me feel really good.”

Health Crisis

During the height of the pandemic, Eduardo got COVID. He spent three days in a coma and nearly six months in the hospital. Today, he’s still recovering from the disease. But the care everyone has shown him at the Mission, coupled with their joy at his return, demonstrated to Eduardo just how loved he is.

Now, his life is transformed. His family has seen so many positive changes in him, and Eduardo prays for God’s blessing on everyone who made his recovery possible — including you!

Thank you for changing Eduardo’s life, and for continuing to provide critical meals and hope for our neighbors experiencing homelessness at Los Angeles Mission.
Regaining Her Hope

Claudia grew up in South Central Los Angeles, and — like so many of our guests — had a very challenging childhood. She faced difficulties in her home, in her community and with the “wrong crowd.” She also lacked positive role models. The result was that, at an age when most kids are still playing or riding bikes with friends, she had been introduced to drugs and other self-destructive behaviors.

No child is equipped to deal with those issues, and they wreaked havoc on Claudia’s life. As she grew older, she was desperate to change — for herself and for her children. But she just couldn’t, and eventually the state was compelled to take her children because she was unfit to care for them.

After two miserable years on the streets, Claudia got in trouble. She was facing a lengthy prison sentence when a judge ordered her to Los Angeles Mission. “I came here with almost no hope,” she remembers. “Nothing I had done was working. I was so broken. I thought I had nothing to live for.”

But little by little, she learned she was wrong. “They helped me continue in sobriety, and I started growing in faith.” As the days passed, she grew closer to her family and began reconnecting with her children.

“I had nowhere to sleep and nothing to eat,” Claudia remembers of her time on the streets. “Now I have everything I need, and I have my hope back.” Best of all, she says, “I can tell my children I love them.”

Your compassion gave Claudia another chance, and your ongoing support will provide more neighbors experiencing homelessness with vital meals, shelter and transformation.

Help Schoolchildren in Need

According to reports, well over 60,000 students across Los Angeles County experience homelessness during the school year. Many others are from households on the cusp of homelessness, struggling to make ends meet. As inflation and prices have risen to record highs, more and more families don’t have enough for utilities and rent, let alone food or other basic needs for their children.

Now, Los Angeles Mission is preparing to distribute hundreds of backpacks filled with school supplies to these vulnerable boys and girls. We also intend to provide struggling families with nutritious groceries and other vital resources.

You can help! Your generosity today will ensure more neighbors in need receive these essential supplies. Thank you.
UPCOMING EVENTS/SAVE THE DATES

Volunteer Opportunities
Los Angeles Mission cherishes our volunteers! 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.

3 Critical Components of an Estate Plan

Want a say in how your resources are transferred to the people and causes close to your heart? Your completed estate plan ensures the legacy you envision is carried out for generations to come.

Here are three critical components every plan should include:

1. **Will or Trust**
   A will or trust specifies who will inherit your assets when you no longer need them. If you don’t create a will, the court will make these decisions for you. Having these documents in order offers you peace of mind, knowing your values will be honored, your wishes will be carried out and your resources will not just go to the government.

2. **Beneficiary Designation Forms**
   An important part of the will planning process is designating your beneficiaries of retirement accounts, insurance policies and other financial accounts. This ensures your assets will be given to the people and causes close to your heart, in alignment with your will.

3. **Power of Attorney Documents**
   Power of attorney documents allow you to appoint trusted representatives to handle your financial and health decisions in the event that you’re no longer able to make decisions on your own. These documents shield your loved ones from costs and conflict, reducing confusion or arguments over what’s in your best interest.

What else should your plan include? Request your free copy of “Roadmap to a Completed Will” by calling Yolanda Breland at (213) 629-1227 ext. 417 or email YBreland@lamission.net.

Change Lives All Year!

Demand for food remains 200% above historical averages. Thousands more men, women and children are turning to Los Angeles Mission for meals, shelter and recovery. Please help us meet their most pressing 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.

Please Change Lives Today!

Please send back the enclosed reply form with your gift to provide meals, care and life-transforming services to people who are alone with nowhere else to turn. Los Angeles Mission is busy preparing to meet greater needs, and your generous support will give a second chance to men, women and children with nowhere else to turn. Thank you!

From Mr. and Mrs. John Smith, Please provide Meals, Care and Hope!

Yes, I will provide hearty meals and compassionate care for women, children and men facing homelessness by sending my gift of:

$_____ to help as much as possible!

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

LOS ANGELES MISSION DONATION DROP OFF
316 Winston Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013
Hours of operation are Monday-Friday: 7am-7pm; Saturday: 7am-5pm; Sunday: Closed