

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

OCTOBER 2022

The number of people struggling to survive on Skid Row is rising sharply, and Thanksgiving presents major challenges . . .

With record numbers experiencing homelessness and surging prices devastating many households, Los Angeles Mission is doing everything we can to provide meals, shelter and more for neighbors in need — and you can help.



Inside: A Special Thanksgiving Message . . . (see page 2)



More People in L.A. Facing Hunger and Homelessness Than Ever Before

They can have a Thanksgiving meal and hope because of you

Dear Caring Friend,

In Psalm 105:1, it says, *“Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.”*

This beautiful verse captures the heart of Los Angeles Mission at all times, but especially during this Thanksgiving season. Despite lingering difficulties of the pandemic, the rise in prices, the increase in homelessness . . . despite ALL that, my heart is full of gratitude. All of us here thank God for His abundant provision, and for raising up faithful friends like you who stand with us in times of trial. Your compassion for your neighbors experiencing homelessness is beautiful.

The Lord has indeed done great things at the Mission, and it’s our privilege to testify to His redemptive works.

By God’s grace, there are lives transformed, mercies shown and families reunited. Just as important, we’re reaching out to at-risk communities with food and other support services that can prevent homelessness from occurring in the first place. And your prayers and support play a vital role making it possible.

Now, as we come to Thanksgiving, we’re increasing our food budget to meet demand. This would be impossible without friends like you, and I thank you so much for ensuring we can continue feeding, sheltering and caring for the growing number of people in dire need of help.

Troy Vaughn
President/CEO

The need for meals is still at an all-time high, and with the rising costs of rent, gas and food, many people seeking help are experiencing homelessness for the very first time. We expect this to be our busiest Thanksgiving ever.

For someone who is facing the bleak prospect of spending the holidays on the streets alone, a warm meal and loving companionship will go a long way.

Our Thanksgiving meal is a powerful tool that shows love and compassion at a time when many are overcome with sorrow and hopelessness, but we need your help to prepare for everyone who will come to us for assistance this year.

Please support these efforts with a generous gift so we can provide hope-filled Thanksgiving meals to our neighbors who need them most.



This Thanksgiving, you can give hope to hurting women, families and children.



This time of year, new life often begins with a good meal.



Thank you for giving a happy Thanksgiving to those who need it most.

There’s no better way to spend \$2.53 this Thanksgiving!

With demand for food 200% above historic levels, your support this Thanksgiving is critical. Every \$2.53 you share today will provide a nourishing Thanksgiving meal and loving care for someone in need of something to be thankful for this holiday season.

This Thanksgiving, Juan is Truly Grateful for You

Juan hasn't spent Thanksgiving with his family in 20 years. They don't trust him — and he understands why. Because of a very difficult childhood, he's been struggling with addiction since he was barely 13 years old.

When Juan got married and tried to raise a family, his addiction created a lot of tension and conflict. His wife would often leave with their kids. Instead of taking responsibility for his actions, however, he always blamed his wife and her family for his struggles. Then his wife finally asked him to leave their home for good.

"Due to my addiction, I lost my family, jobs, self-esteem, self-respect — everything," Juan recalls. "Now I understand she did the right thing. It's the only way I would ever find God and a purpose for my life."

He spent the next 20 years on and off the streets, devastated with remorse and regret, hating his life — until he finally turned to the Los Angeles Mission.

"When I came here, they helped me a lot, not just with food and shelter, but spiritually," he explains. "The chaplain explained the gospel to me and I started studying the Bible. I was even able to understand it. Now I feel more peace with myself and I've found a new purpose for my life — to tell people what God has done in my life. I still have a hard time forgiving myself for everything I did to my family. But it's getting better. My relationship with my daughters is improving."

Juan says he'll spend this Thanksgiving at the Los Angeles Mission, and he has a lot to be thankful for — including *you*!

"Thanks to the donors, I found a place where I can shower, sleep, rest, grow in the Lord and start over in my life. I've even learned how to read, use a computer, look for a job and fill out an application. Thank you for all you did for me!"

With your support this Thanksgiving, we'll continue making a difference — one person at a time, one turkey dinner at a time. Thank you!



Your support helped Juan rebuild his life. Thank you!

Genea Continues Building Her Life on a Firm Foundation

Last Thanksgiving, we told you Genea's tragic story. She suffered for years on the streets, enduring unspeakable abuse and a devastating addiction to drugs. When she came to Los Angeles Mission, she found more than food and shelter. She found a new relationship with God — and she found hope. This Thanksgiving, we caught up with Genea to find out how she's doing today.

"After graduating from the Mission last summer, I moved into my own little apartment," Genea says. "I also got a job, working part-time as a crossing guard for a junior high, which I love."

Genea, however, knows it's only the beginning of her new life. "God isn't done with me yet," she says. "He's still working on me. But God really turned my life around at Los Angeles Mission's Anne Douglas Center for Women. That's where I first started building the foundation of my life on Jesus Christ. The staff helped me every step of the way, giving me guidance, friendship and encouragement."

She continues growing in the Lord, attending a church

led by Pastor Antoine, who also serves at Los Angeles Mission.

"I've been going to their Bible studies and classes, reading my Bible, fellowshiping with people and looking for ways to pass along what I've been given.

"This Thanksgiving, I have to say I'm most grateful for the donors. Without them, where would I be? They gave me the chance to go someplace where I was safe, protected and nourished. They saved my life — and God continues to keep me strong. I give Him all the glory."

Only with your support can we continue helping people like Genea experience real, lasting change this Thanksgiving. Thank you!



UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

11/23

Thanksgiving Street Event

Volunteers play a vital role serving our neighbors in need during the holidays at Los Angeles Mission. Visit lamission.volunteerhub.com or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 337 to learn about opportunities

Our biggest event of the year is almost here! Join us and serve the community at our annual Thanksgiving celebration!



The Simplest Way to Make a Difference!



Demand for food has spiked 200% as thousands more men, women and children turn to Los Angeles Mission for meals, shelter and hope. To help meet that need, please consider becoming a Meals-A-Month partner. This dedicated group of monthly donors provides steady support that helps us budget and plan more efficiently, stretching every dollar further.

To join, visit us at Give.LosAngelesMission.org or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 334.

Stock: The Perfect Year-End Gift

Thank you for your generosity that makes the ministry of Los Angeles Mission possible!

If you're contemplating a year-end gift, consider giving appreciated stock to stretch the value and impact of your support. Not only will you further the important work of caring for our neighbors experiencing homelessness and hunger, but you will also benefit from tremendous cost-savings!

When you donate stock or other securities that you've owned for at least a year, you . . .

1. Give in a substantial way without restricting your cash flow,
2. Receive a fair market value tax deduction at the time of your gift, and
3. Avoid taxes you would have owed on the sale.

Giving stock is the perfect, cost-effective way to close out a year of generosity. You'll experience the peace of knowing you have accomplished the greatest good with your God-given resources.

To learn more about giving stock or other smart and powerful ways to support Los Angeles Mission, email Kyle Patterson by calling 213-629-1227 ext. 304 or emailing k_patterson@lamission.net.

ACTION ALERT! Urgent Help Needed!

The need for food is still 200% above historical levels! Times are tough for people in Los Angeles and neighbors who have never struggled before are now facing the prospect of experiencing homelessness for the first time. We urgently need your help today to provide meals and care to the growing number of people who are fighting to survive on Skid Row.

Stay Connected

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

