

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

NOVEMBER 2022

The Need on Skid Row Is the Highest It's Ever Been

As prices surge and homelessness spikes, Los Angeles Mission is determined to provide meals, shelter, toys for deserving children and opportunities for new life to every person in need.



Los Angeles
MISSION
The Crossroads of Hope™



Anne
Douglas
Center for Women
at the Los Angeles Mission



**Inside: A Special
Christmas Message . . .**

(see page 2)

Thanks to You, Anthony Takes Pride in Recovery

Anthony came to Los Angeles Mission after the pandemic lockdowns destroyed his finances, his relationship with his fiancé and his mental health. All of our guests receive work assignments as part of their recovery process, and Anthony works in our kitchen, overseeing food inventory and delivery. Since our kitchen provides hundreds of meals every day, it's a critical job — especially when the holiday season begins.

During his first few months at the Mission, Anthony didn't much care for the responsibility. "Actually, I was kind of annoyed with the position," he laughs. But then, a major event changed his perspective. "It was Thanksgiving, and I saw all these people sitting down enjoying a meal. I realized I was helping people who might not eat if it wasn't for us. Ever since, I've taken a lot of pride in my work."

Rebuilding a Solid Foundation

Today, it isn't just Anthony's attitude that's changed. "When I first got here, I was confused, anxious and lost — essentially directionless," he says. "Today, I am calm, focused and determined." The results of this transformation are there for all to see. Anthony is now sober and clear-headed, with peace in his heart and gratitude on his lips. His faith grows each day, and God has begun restoring back to him some of what he lost.

Today, Anthony is rebuilding relationships with his children and preparing for a much brighter future. He's even hoping to spend Christmas with them! For all of this, he's deeply grateful to God and friends like you for a second chance.

Thank you for giving Anthony and so many other Mission guests the gifts of hope and recovery for Christmas!



Anthony is so grateful friends like you helped him get back on his feet!

A New Purpose for Christmas — Thanks to You!

When she was younger, Pearl was always the good girl. She was trustworthy and reliable, a hard worker, a rule follower . . . but several years ago, her life fell apart. During a relatively brief period, Pearl endured a series of devastating crises that left her starving on the streets.

Her relationship with the father of her children ended, she was constantly fighting with her mom and her father passed away. For this self-described "daddy's girl," it was all more than she could handle, and she turned to addiction to escape the misery. That only led to more problems, as it always does, and Pearl's children were soon taken by child protective services.

What followed was an intense cycle of addiction, homelessness and incarceration that didn't end until a judge gave her the chance to avoid jail and enter a program.

Healing and Hope at the Mission

"I came to Los Angeles Mission with nothing more than a jumpsuit from the county prison. My kids didn't think I could change. I didn't even want to be here," Pearl says. "But after a little while, I realized this program was exactly what I needed."

Today, Pearl is sober and back on her feet. She has a new faith in God and new hope for the future. She's working again and rebuilding relationships with her children. "Last Christmas, the Mission helped me give gifts to my kids. They were so happy," she remembers. "This year, I'm hoping I can spend Christmas with them."

Thank you for giving Pearl one of the best gifts imaginable — a transformed life. Your ongoing support will change more lives this Christmas season.



Thanks to you, Pearl is recovering and rebuilding her life!

Because of You, Summer's Life is Restored

Last year, Summer was kind enough to share her story with friends of the Mission. After being diagnosed with fibromyalgia, she developed a severe addiction because her doctor over-prescribed painkillers. That addiction steadily worsened, leading to terribly self-destructive behavior, estrangement from her family and near-starvation as her life fell apart.

But thanks to your support, Summer's life was entirely transformed at Los Angeles Mission. And today, she's doing better than ever! She recently gave us an encouraging update:

"It's hard to believe how much my life has changed since I first came to the Mission. I've been sober for more than two years, and even though I still have issues due to my fibromyalgia, I really think the Mission prepared me to deal with that pain in a way that doesn't spiral out of control.

"My relationship with my family is also doing really well, especially my sister, who is my best friend. In my addiction, things were so bad between us that I feared we'd never talk again. I'm so grateful for the forgiveness and healing between us.

"I also have a really good job. It's a management position, and I love what I'm doing."

This Thanksgiving, Summer will be giving thanks for the restoration of hope, family and purpose to her life. She's come so far, and your continuing support will help many other neighbors in need get back on their feet. Thank you!



After devastating addiction and poverty, Summer's life was transformed at the Mission — thanks to you!



Thanksgiving Hope Starts With a Meal

As hardship has multiplied in southern California, Los Angeles Mission will soon face our most demanding Thanksgiving ever.

Thousands of individuals will turn to us for meals, shelter and other services. *Every one of these meals has the potential to spark a person's healing journey!* That's why our kitchen team is already busy planning for the event. We're preparing menus, gathering supplies, making orders, accepting donations . . . all to ensure that each one of our guests can see how much we value them.

Your faithful support is absolutely crucial at this time. Without generous friends like you, our guests would very likely be hungry and alone on Skid Row.

Since it costs just \$2.53 to provide one Thanksgiving meal and care at Los Angeles Mission, just imagine how many lives your generous gift will touch!



UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

Volunteer Opportunities

Experience something meaningful when you serve at Los Angeles Mission. Visit lamission.volunteerhub.com or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 337 to learn about current volunteer opportunities.

11/23

Thanksgiving Event

Serve with us at our annual Thanksgiving celebration! You won't want to miss one of our biggest events of the year.

For information on more upcoming events at the Mission, please call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 400



A Meaningful Gift That Changes Lives All Year!



With demand for food 200% over historical norms, more men, women and children are turning to Los Angeles Mission for meals, shelter and hope than ever before. Please help us meet their needs by becoming a Meals-A-Month partner. Monthly donors provide steady support that helps us budget and plan efficiently, stretching every dollar to change more lives.

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

4 Reasons to Give From Your IRA

More and more supporters ages 70 ½ and older give to Los Angeles Mission directly from their individual retirement accounts. Here are four great reasons why:



1. If you don't need the income, your IRA administrator can write a check directly from your account to Los Angeles Mission. It's a simple way to meet all or part of your required minimum distributions *and* give in a meaningful way!
2. Charitable distributions reduce your taxable income. This is advantageous even if you don't itemize deductions on your tax return.
3. Gifts from your IRA can be used to fulfill any charitable giving pledges you've made.
4. Any IRA distributions you make to charity will not be taxed. The entirety of your gift will go to the Mission!

You can give up to \$100,000 per year as a single person or \$200,000 per year as a married couple from separate IRA accounts. For those who qualify, it's a convenient, cost-effective and powerful way to help our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

To learn more about this and other smart and powerful giving options, call Ivan Klassen at (213) 629-1227 Ext. 325 or email iklassen@lamission.net.

ACTION ALERT! Urgent Help Needed!

With Christmas just around the corner, we continue to do everything possible to care for our neighbors facing hunger, homelessness, addiction and other crises. With prices on food, fuel and other basics through the roof, we urgently need your help today to provide meals and care to the growing number of people who have ended up on Skid Row this holiday season.

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