

News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

JANUARY 2023



Los Angeles
Mission
The Crossroads of Hope™



Anne Douglas
Center for Women
at the Los Angeles Mission

A large background photograph of a man named Michael. He is a middle-aged man with short brown hair and a mustache, wearing a dark blue button-down shirt and a green patterned tie. He is looking slightly upwards and to the right with a thoughtful expression. The background shows a city skyline with various buildings under a clear blue sky.

**"After living in
a tent, sleeping
on concrete and
going without meals,
Los Angeles Mission
means everything to me."**

**You've given Michael fresh hope
and purpose for the new year.**

Read about your impact on his life on page 2 ►

Hope and Healing in 2023



Dear Caring Friend,

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”
Romans 8:28

When a person comes from a place of brokenness, they sometimes feel like that season of life was wasted — that the hardship was unnecessary or unproductive. And that’s especially true for our guests who come from Skid Row, because out there, every day feels the same. It’s always about survival — finding a meal, finding a bathroom, getting water or shoes or out of the rain. It’s never about progressing or working toward a goal.

But that’s why a meal at Los Angeles Mission is so powerful — because it begins to break that survival mindset. Here, our guests see that hope is alive, and that kind neighbors like you still see them and care. Thanks to you, they have access to everything they need to build a better future: meals, shelter, counseling, employment training and placement, spiritual growth and more.

In time, as a person progresses through our recovery program, they see the truth of that verse from Romans — that God can redeem the hardship they’ve endured for good. It wasn’t wasted time — just the opposite.

As we begin a new year with many challenges, I thank you for helping so many lost and hurting neighbors rebuild their lives and see the truth of God’s transforming love.

Troy Vaughn
President/CEO

Thanks to You, Michael Doesn’t Sleep on Concrete Anymore

“You were a mistake.
We never wanted you.”

Those were the cruel, soul-crushing words Michael first heard from his parents when he was only 9 years old. As you can imagine, it tore the boy apart.

He continues: “My parents never wanted me, and they made that very clear. They never loved me at all when I was little. I was abused mentally, physically and emotionally.” Understandably, that abuse led him to a very dark place. By the time he was 13, Michael had run away, turned to prostitution, drugs and a gang as he looked for comfort and belonging.

“The first person who told me I wasn’t a mistake was my grandfather,” Michael says. “His words made me want to prove to everyone that I could accomplish something.” But even when he excelled in the classroom and on the football field in high school, it was never enough for his parents, and it’s no surprise that the pain of his childhood derailed his life. Michael ultimately became a meth addict, and spent time in prison and on the streets, including four years on Skid Row.

Finding New Hope and Another Chance

When Michael’s life seemed absolutely hopeless, he had a conversion experience at a local church. From there, he came to the Mission to get the help that would change his life.

“After living in a tent, sleeping on concrete and going without meals, Los Angeles Mission means everything to me. I have an amazing chaplain and an honorary dad. Most important, I have the Lord.”

Today, Michael is not only transformed, but he’s engaged, and he’s got a future full of hope and love. “The people here gave me life and purpose,” he says, “and I will always be grateful for what they’ve done for me.”

Your ongoing generosity is helping Michael and so many other men, women and children recover from heartbreak and homelessness!



After spending years on the streets, Michael’s life is totally changed — and you made it possible.

With Your Help, Michelle Is Reclaiming Her Life and Dignity

She's moving past the pain toward a future of hope . . .



Michelle grew up in a dysfunctional family, and it haunted her in adulthood. For years she's felt plagued by brokenness, separation from her family, anxiety and other mental health challenges. But when she arrived at Los Angeles Mission's Anne Douglas Center for Women, she immediately sensed a glimmer of hope about what life *could* be.

At the Center, residents focus on life and the recovery of spirit, body and mind. Thanks to the support of caring friends like you, Michelle has benefited from a multitude of life-changing services, including spiritual counseling and chapel, fitness programs, medical care, career skill development, job readiness and placement, family reunification, and much more.

Michelle's transformation has been amazing to behold, and she's quick to credit her time here for the positive changes in her life. "I'm doing well with my sobriety and therapy, and have a positive outlook for my future," she says. "I'm doing very well with my children and my mom. My family has all reconnected in good ways."

Grateful for You

Michelle is deeply grateful for the help she's received, and for the people like you who made such a difference. "Everything the supporters do is appreciated," she says. "I've never felt so blessed."

Thank you for opening your heart to help women in crisis find restoration, peace and self-worth. You're not only impacting lives today, but are making a difference that will last for generations to come!



*"I'm just amazed with the turnaround
in my life." — Michelle*

2023 NEW YEAR CHALLENGES

The New Year is going to present unprecedented challenges as we continue to serve those experiencing homelessness, poverty and other crises. Your ongoing generosity is critical to help:



MEALS

Serve thousands of nutritious meals per day.

It costs \$2.53 to provide a meal and care at the Mission — but with your help, it's free for our guests.



SHELTER

Provide hundreds of beds for our guests each night.

A warm bed is one of the most important steps towards restoration and stabilization.



CLOTHING

Distribute clothing as needed.

Clothes provide appropriate work attire and restore a sense of normalcy to everyday life. Donations of gently used items are deeply appreciated.

UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

Volunteer Opportunities

You can bless your neighbors in need by volunteering at Los Angeles Mission. For more information, please visit lamission.volunteerhub.com or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 337.



3 Ways to Weave Giving Into Your Will

"How much should I leave to Los Angeles Mission and the other ministries close to my heart?"

It's a practical question asked by those who are working out the details of their Wills or Trusts. Your best answer depends on your circumstances, objectives and values. To that end, many families consider one of three giving models.

- 1. Percentage or Tithe.** Many individuals allocate a certain percentage of their estate toward Los Angeles Mission and other Kingdom causes. Some designate 10% to reinforce the biblical concept of tithing.
- 2. Child Named Charity.** Some families choose to add a "child named Charity" to their Wills. By this method, for example, if a couple had four children, each of the children would receive 1/5 of their belongings, and the remaining 1/5 could go toward charity.
- 3. Gifts of Assets.** People often designate real estate, business interests, life insurance, retirement assets, machinery or even personal collections as gifts to the Mission. There are a number of reasons people do this, whether it's because the property has special meaning, their children have no further use for it or because they wish to protect their families from unnecessary taxes.

What's the right answer for you? It may be helpful to talk with a trusted ally who can help you sort through all the options to determine the best fit for your goals and circumstances.

Through our partnership with Barnabas Foundation, you have direct access to this kind of trusted planning support. At no cost to you, you can speak with a planner who will help you identify a plan that honors God, cares for your family and furthers the important mission of your favorite ministries. Learn more by calling Kyle Patterson at (213) 629-1227 Ext. 304 or email k_patterson@lamission.net.



The Simplest Way to Make a Difference!



The challenge to provide meals, shelter and care to children, families and individuals experiencing homelessness is growing by the day. One of the best ways to help Los Angeles Mission meet that need is by becoming a Meals-A-Month partner. Monthly donors provide a steady stream of support that helps us budget and plan more efficiently, stretching every dollar a little further.

To sign up online, visit us at Give.LosAngelesMission.org. Or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 334 to join by phone.

Transform Lives in 2023

Send back the enclosed reply form with your gift to provide meals, care and life-changing services to people who need help in the new year. Please give generously and offer encouragement to your neighbors who are struggling to rebuild their broken lives. Thank you!

Your Gift Will Provide Meals, Care and Hope!

Yes, I want to offer my neighbors on Skid Row a hearty meal and compassionate care in the new year. Enclosed is my gift of:

☐ \$_____ to help as much as possible!

Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Smith
123 Main Street
Anytown, USA 12345-6789

Los Angeles Mission
THE CROSSROADS OF HOPE
PO Box 54059 | Los Angeles, CA 90054-0059
Give online at LosAngelesMission.org/Crossroads

Please make your check payable to Los Angeles Mission and return it with this slip in the envelope provided. To charge your gift by credit card, please fill out the information on reverse side, or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 400. A receipt for your tax-deductible gift will be sent to you shortly.

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303 E. 5th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013
(213) 629-1227 Ext. 400

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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