

News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

February 2023



From the Streets to the Mission to a Whole New Life

"Mission donors changed my life. They restored my dignity and my future, and I'm very grateful."

To see how your gifts lead to lasting hope, turn to page 2



Essential Care For Healing Homelessness



Dear Caring Friend,

When a person endures a period of homelessness, it's not just their physical health that suffers. There is an emotional anguish that can impact every part of their being — especially their mental health.

As a result, true recovery requires more than just meals and a bed (although those are essential). Real healing requires a holistic approach that includes physical, mental, emotional, financial and spiritual care.

Thanks to your support, that's exactly how Los Angeles Mission serves our guests. Here, men, women and children receive comprehensive services that address all of their needs. They're treated with dignity and respect, and sheltered in a positive, nurturing environment that meets their individual needs. It takes time and effort, but in the end, lives are transformed for good.

This approach is how we solve the homelessness crisis. This is how we restore hope and bring new purpose not just to Skid Row, but to our entire community. Thank you so much for being a part of this vital work, and for giving our neighbors experiencing homelessness a reason to believe that life really can get better.

A blue ink signature of Troy Vaughn, written in a cursive style.

Troy Vaughn
President/CEO



Your generosity rescued Katrina from the streets and helped her back onto her feet.

What Life Transformation Looks Like

Last year, Katrina was kind enough to share her story with us. Now, we're happy to provide an encouraging update.

Two days before Katrina was scheduled to undergo necessary surgery for a significant foot injury suffered at work, her procedure was cancelled by the hospital as a result of the pandemic lockdown. Because she could no longer work, she soon lost her car, and then her home.

After five months on the streets, she learned about Los Angeles Mission's Anne Douglas Center and came right away. "I felt like I was finally safe," she says. "I was so grateful to have a roof over my head again."

Shortly before graduating from our year-long recovery program, the Mission helped set up Katrina to get the foot operation that she needed. She went through rehab, and then secured a job where she provides case management and care for other people experiencing homelessness. As you can imagine, the work is very personal for her. "It's been a life-changing job," she says. "Helping them is a new passion."

Today, Katrina is continuing to stay at the Mission while she saves money, but now that she's healthy and mobile again, it won't be long before she has her own place. Since she's been here, she's gained a new community of support, she's earned professional certifications and her future is bright. No wonder she says, "Mission donors changed my life. They restored my dignity and my future, and I'm very grateful."

Because of your ongoing gifts and prayers, Katrina has hope again. Thank you for supporting this life-changing work.

Katrina spent five months on Skid Row. Today, she has a job and is saving for her own place!

Lawrence Experienced Healing and Restoration — Thanks to You!

When Lawrence was a high school student, he loved to play sports — and he excelled. But he remembers how a number of drug dealers infiltrated his peer group. They were friendly, they seemed cool — and they persuaded a lot of young men to try their products. Unfortunately, Lawrence was seduced by their act, and it cost him dearly.

While he had relationships, jobs and an honorable term of service in the Air Force, he also kept falling back into substance abuse. Eventually, he lost everything and wound up on the streets. For a time, Lawrence remembers, “No one could tell me anything.” But when he was at rock bottom, he called his mom for help. Lawrence remembers, “She told me the best thing anyone could tell me: Go where God is, and I’ll be alright.”

That’s why he came to Los Angeles Mission. And just as Lawrence’s mom said, his life began to change for the better. One night, he went to the Chapel, where he had a “long chat with God. I told Him, if He would just take care of my kids and keep them safe, I would serve Him the rest of my life.”

He continues: “God kept up His end of the bargain, and by His grace, I’ve done my best to keep up mine. My kids are doing great.” As for Lawrence, he graduated the program, returned to the workforce and remarried. He has lived a life that honors God and man. The Mission gave him the tools to succeed, and he’s incredibly grateful. “The Mission means the world to me. They didn’t just care for me, they reconnected me to God.”

Your support gave Lawrence a second chance. Thank you for making a better life possible!



Lawrence received life-changing help from Los Angeles Mission because of your support. Thank you!

The Crisis on Skid Row — And What To Do About It

Every \$2.53 you give provides a meal and new hope!

The pandemic, job loss, evictions and inflation have combined to create an unprecedented homelessness crisis across Los Angeles.

There is no quick fix or easy solution. But there is a *proven* path to healing available to every individual on the streets.

It starts here, at Los Angeles Mission, with a meal and a decent night’s rest. It then continues with comprehensive recovery services that rebuild broken lives. Katrina and Lawrence’s stories are just two more examples of this.

At this critical time, your support for Los Angeles Mission has never been more important. Please continue giving generously today.



UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many meaningful volunteer opportunities available at Los Angeles Mission. Visit lamission.volunteerhub.com or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 337. Come and change lives with us!



4 Wills That Won't Help

Don't Make These Mistakes With Your Estate Plan!

Your Will is one of the most powerful documents you will ever create! Through it, you can proactively care for your loved ones, minimize family disputes, reduce your heirs' taxes and legal fees AND make a powerfully impactful gift to Los Angeles Mission. However, there are four types of Wills that are *not* effective.

- 1. The Non-Existent Will** Don't assume you don't need a Will because you don't have "enough," or because you've already vocalized your desires. A completed, legal Will is the only way to ensure your wishes are met and your resources (home, business, vehicles, personal collections, finances, etc.) are quickly and smoothly passed to your chosen people and charitable causes.
- 2. The Incomplete Will** Meeting with an advisor, discussing your plans with loved ones and documenting your intentions are all important steps toward completing your Will. But until you have a properly written and signed Will that meets your state's legal requirements, your plan is just a concept or piece of paper with no legal bearing.
- 3. The Lost Will** An estate plan does no good if your loved ones don't know that it exists or where to find it. Once you have a completed Will, make sure to communicate important details to your family, such as the location and any password or keys they will need to access it.
- 4. The Out-of-Date Will** Things change over time — and so should your plans. Key life transitions that warrant an update include children moving out of the house, retirement, marriages, births or adoptions, deaths, changes in financial situations, and more.

If you're ready to begin discussing your plans, call Kyle Patterson, our VP of Fund Development & Donor Relations, at (213) 629-1227 Ext 304 or email K_Patterson@lamission.net to request your complimentary copy of "The Roadmap to Your Completed Will."

The Simplest Way To Make a Difference!



Thousands of men, women and children experiencing homelessness depend on Los Angeles Mission for meals and another chance. We depend on kindhearted people like you to meet the growing need in our community. To provide crucial help all year, please consider becoming a Meals-A-Month partner. This dedicated group of donors provides 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.

Give Hope That Leads to New Life

Send back the enclosed reply form with your gift to provide meals, care and life-changing services to people who need hope and a second chance. Please give generously and offer encouragement to people who are looking to rebuild their lives. Thank you!

Your Gift Will Provide Meals, Care and Hope!

Yes, I want to offer my neighbors on Skid Row hope in the form of hearty meals and compassionate care. Enclosed is my gift of:

\$_____ to help as much as possible!

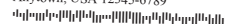


PO Box 54059 | Los Angeles, CA 90054-0059

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.

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



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LosAngelesMission.org



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Hours of operation are Monday-Friday: 7am-7pm
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