

News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

August 2023



Standing Tall on His Own Two Feet

Ricardo came to Los Angeles Mission after three months on the streets. Your support ensured he received the meals and care necessary to rebuild his life . . .



Preparing for a Very Busy Season

Dear Caring Friend,

During the holidays, our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness often feel a heightened sense of loss, remorse and isolation. While they need food and shelter to rebuild their lives, the brokenness of their past means basic needs are not enough. **They also must feel like they belong.**

Men, women and children who turn to Los Angeles Mission have had almost every relationship severed. They feel hopelessly alone, worthless and invisible. But a sense of belonging changes that, and helps them live with new purpose.

While it's still summer outside, the holidays are fast approaching and our preparations are already well underway. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, we'll do everything we can to welcome in guests and serve our neighbors by providing meals, shelter and clothing. More than that, we'll show each person how loved they are — by us and by their Heavenly Father. As they feel His presence and acceptance, many lives will be permanently transformed.

Thank you for doing your part to welcome those who have nowhere else to turn, and for ensuring they know they belong.



Troy Vaughn
President/CEO



Meals, Shelter, Transformation! Your Support Changed Ricardo's Life.

After three months of homelessness, Ricardo came to the Mission to rebuild his life.

Ricardo is grateful to neighbors like you for giving him another chance.

After escaping a toxic marriage that led him to alcoholism, Ricardo left his hometown of Savannah and took a Greyhound across the country to Los Angeles. He was determined to start over.

Even before Ricardo found a permanent place to live, he landed a good job at a popular restaurant in Santa Monica. Life was looking up . . . but his managers at the restaurant were heavy drinkers, and they encouraged Ricardo to join them. As a recovering alcoholic, the pressure was more than he could handle. "It went from just a few drinks at work behind the counter to me showing up to work drunk," Ricardo says. "I ended up losing that job."

He had been in the process of finding a place to live, but anything permanent became impossible without a job. Still experiencing homelessness, his life quickly fell apart. One night while intoxicated, Ricardo fell and severely injured his face. "It was a wake-up call. I was disgusted with myself," he says. "I kept asking, *'Why do you keep doing the things you're doing?'*"

New Life Begins With a Meal

Ricardo experienced the difficulties of homelessness for three months before he entered Los Angeles Mission. Here, his basic needs were met and his life began to change. He was greeted warmly, treated with dignity and given nourishing food. This compassionate care didn't just meet his physical needs — it began to transform his life.

"Slowly but surely, I found myself opening up," Ricardo says. "I started speaking with the counselors and realizing I'm not the only person going through these things."

He continues: "Being here has helped me rebuild my relationship with God. I'm just amazed at what He's been doing in my life. I've found a church family, and I'm even part of the welcome team." Today, Ricardo is sober and walking in faith. His future is bright.

Thank you for changing Ricardo's life, and for continuing to provide critical meals and hope for our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

Finding the Father's Love

Growing up, Jakura always longed for a loving father-daughter relationship with her dad. Sadly, it didn't happen. "He abused me physically and mentally, and that really messed me up," Jakura says. "I was going into relationships looking for the love my father never gave me. But I didn't really know what love was."

Living life "without a purpose," Jakura turned to drugs to numb her pain, losing herself in addiction for five long years. The drugs took their toll and emotionally and spiritually broke her. Then a friend referred Jakura to Los Angeles Mission's Anne Douglas Center for Women.

Coming here wasn't easy. "I had so much fear, and I let my pride get in the way of so much," Jakura says. "I felt like I wasn't strong enough to go through this program, and I just wanted to leave. But then I started talking with the chaplain and taking a tour of the place, and my mindset just completely changed. By the end of the tour, I told her, *'This might be the best thing that has ever happened to me.'*"

She was right. Through the support of compassionate friends like you, all of Jakura's basic needs were met — food, shelter, clothing, friendship and more. Today she's a brand-new person, changed by God from the inside out.

"I feel His love so much. He gives me the love I never received from my dad, and I'm so grateful for Him and all the people who changed my life."

Your compassion gave Jakura the chance to experience God's love, and your ongoing support will bring healing to more neighbors in need.



After a traumatic childhood filled with neglect and abuse, Jakura has been made whole by her Heavenly Father's love.



New Hope Starts With a \$2.53 Thanksgiving Meal!

You probably aren't thinking about the holidays yet — but we are. When you're planning on serving *thousands*, you have to prepare early. Record numbers of people are on the streets right now, and so many of them will turn to Los Angeles Mission for hope and healing throughout the Thanksgiving season.

Recovery starts right here with a meal at Los Angeles Mission.

Please give generously today. Every \$2.53 you contribute provides a complete Thanksgiving meal and care for hungry men, women and children. When they come to the Mission, your compassion will ensure each one receives a delicious holiday meal and a reason to be grateful.

Will You Help Schoolchildren in Need?

More than 60,000 students across Los Angeles County will experience homelessness this year. School is hard enough, but when you have no shelter . . . it's almost impossible. At the same time, many other children are from households on the cusp of homelessness. In ultra-expensive Los Angeles, their parents struggle to afford basic needs.

That's why 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.

Will you please help? Your compassion for our neighbors in need will transform the lives of many struggling families, especially the children. Thank you, and God bless you.



UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers live their faith and find meaning as they help change lives! 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.



Smart and Powerful Giving

Tax-wise options that boost your impact . . .

Did you know there are smart and powerful ways to increase the impact of your giving — often while benefiting your family, too?

By understanding the available options, you can multiply the end results of your generosity in ways that are simple, flexible, cost-effective and powerful.



Smart and powerful options include:

- Gifts that reduce your taxes — such as stock, real estate and other non-cash gifts
- Gifts that pay you income
- Gifts in your Will

If you're ready to discuss these smart and powerful giving options, please reach out to Kyle Patterson at K_Patterson@lamission.net or (213) 629-1227 Ext. 304.

Inspire Hope All Year!



Thousands of men, women and children will turn to Los Angeles Mission this fall — especially during the holidays — for meals, shelter and recovery. Please help meet their most pressing needs by becoming a Meals-A-Month partner. Your monthly gift 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. 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 this summer. 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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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