

News from Los Angeles Mission

# CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

September 2023



## **This Thanksgiving, Enrique Has a New Purpose — Because of You!**

*As we approach the Thanksgiving season, Enrique takes special joy in helping provide nourishing meals to his neighbors experiencing homelessness. Not that long ago, he was the one who needed help . . .*





## Our Biggest Thanksgiving Yet

Dear Caring Friend,

Thanksgiving and the holidays are just around the corner, and this year has felt a little like a rollercoaster. There has been good news and progress dealing with homelessness and poverty in our community, but also challenges and a growing number of people in need.

Here at Los Angeles Mission, we're preparing for our biggest-ever Thanksgiving season. By God's grace and with your help, our kitchen team will prepare an estimated 432,358 meals to serve our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Additionally, we'll distribute around 200,000 more meals to neighbors in need through our Race to Feed program. This food plays a vital role in nourishing those on the edge of homelessness, who need every bit of help to keep a roof over their heads.

Making it all happen will require a tremendous effort, including about 1,000 volunteers (if you're not already, we'd be honored if you'd be one of them!). But it's worth it, because together, our efforts create real, permanent change for men, women and children fighting to survive on the streets.

There's no better time to celebrate this life-transforming care than during Thanksgiving. Every corner of Los Angeles Mission is filled with a spirit of gratitude during this season. And I thank God for you too, because you truly care about our least fortunate neighbors — and you turn that caring into action.

Thank you again, and God bless you.



Troy Vaughn  
President/CEO



## Meals that Inspire Transformation

When a judge told Enrique he needed to go to Los Angeles Mission, he was devastated. "It felt like I had lost everything," he remembers. However, it wasn't long before he realized that coming here was a great opportunity to rebuild his life.

Things had been going downhill for a while, and he had ended up living out of his car for a while. But after a week or two at the Mission, life was already looking up. Enrique began to enjoy the program. He took classes, went to Bible studies, made friends and took important steps to get back on track.

### Providing Meals for Neighbors in Need

Enrique found his work in the Mission's kitchen especially meaningful. He did a bit of everything. "I would help organize deliveries of bread, meat and produce. I kept the food area clean. Sometimes I'd even serve the meals," Enrique says. On certain occasions, he would go and help deliver food to neighbors experiencing homelessness on Skid Row. "Being a part of a team serving hundreds of meals makes me feel really happy. Seeing people who are so hungry get the food they need makes me smile."

As we come to the Thanksgiving season, Enrique will do everything he can to ensure his hungry neighbors receive the meals that lead to transformation — just like he experienced! He's incredibly grateful for friends like you, who gave him another chance.

*Thank you for changing Enrique's life. Your support will help many more neighbors experiencing homelessness this Thanksgiving.*

**Enrique found new purpose in the Mission's kitchen, serving his neighbors in need and sharing God's love with them.**



# This Thanksgiving, Yolanda's Heart Is Full of Hope

With tears in her eyes, Yolanda remembers the crisis that destroyed her life. "My son died. I didn't know how to handle it." Her life hadn't been easy before, but now things really fell apart. Her heartbreak was unbearable.

Descending into severe addiction to escape the pain, she suffered through homelessness and poverty, violence and abuse. She went to prison multiple times. Filled with shame, Yolanda was a broken shell of a person. "I didn't want to live," she says. "I was ready to give up."

After years of suffering, she cried out to a God she didn't really believe in for help. That very day, just a short time later, Yolanda got arrested. At first she was furious. But then she thought to herself, "God didn't say *how* He was going to help me." So she accepted her situation — went to jail, did her time and then came to the Anne Douglas Center for Women at Los Angeles Mission.

"When I got here, I was rebellious. I was a handful. Nobody could tell me anything. But the difference between this place and other programs I tried is that they help you change on the *inside*. I know God now, and I'm filled with His love."

A few years ago, Yolanda was alone for Thanksgiving. "I didn't have anything to be thankful for," she says. This year will be very different. She'll celebrate with her family. Her heart will be filled with new joy and confidence for the future, and she's grateful to friends like you who made it possible.



There was a time when Yolanda didn't want to live. Thanks to you, she found the help and hope that leads to real, permanent change . . .

## The \$2.53 Thanksgiving Meal That Inspires Change

There's no doubt: the holiday season ahead will be the most demanding Los Angeles Mission has ever faced.

Thousands of men, women and children 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! They can inspire the real, permanent change our community desperately needs.*

That's why our kitchen team is already busy planning for the event. We're preparing menus, gathering supplies and making sure each guest is well cared for.

**Your faithful support is crucial.** Without generous friends like you, our guests would likely be hungry and alone on Skid Row.



**Every \$2.53 you give provides a Thanksgiving meal and care at Los Angeles Mission. Imagine how many lives you can impact!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS/SAVE THE DATES

### Volunteer Opportunities

We love our volunteers — especially during the holidays! Please visit [lamission.volunteerhub.com](http://lamission.volunteerhub.com) or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 337 to learn about current volunteer opportunities.

**Thanksgiving Event**  
(11/22/23)

**Christmas Event (12/22/23)**

## How Much Should I Leave to Ministry?

“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. However, many families consider one of three giving models.

1. **Percentage or Tithe.** Many individuals allocate a certain percentage of their Will toward Los Angeles Mission and other Kingdom causes. Some designate 10 percent to reinforce tithing to their families.
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 estate, and the remaining 1/5 could go toward charity.
3. **Gifts of Assets.** People often designate real estate, business interests, retirement assets, machinery or even personal collections as gifts to Los Angeles 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 the options to determine the best fit for your goals and circumstances.

Through Los Angeles Mission's partnership with Barnabas Foundation, you have direct access to 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 supports your favorite ministries. Learn more by calling Kyle Patterson at (213) 629-1227, Ext. 304, or email [k\\_patterson@lamission.net](mailto:k_patterson@lamission.net).

## Change Lives All Year!



With demand for food and other services at record highs, more families and households than ever before are depending on Los Angeles Mission for meals, shelter and help. Beginning this Thanksgiving season, please help meet their most pressing needs by becoming a Meals-A-Month partner. Your monthly commitment is one of the best ways to provide a steady stream of support that leads to real, permanent change — all year long.

Go to [Give.LosAngelesMission.org](http://Give.LosAngelesMission.org) to sign up online, or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 334 to join by phone.

## THANKSGIVING ACTION ALERT! Urgent Help Needed!

Homelessness and hunger continue rising across Los Angeles. Many families and individuals never needed help before. We're depending on you to provide meals and care to our neighbors experiencing homelessness this Thanksgiving season. Thank you for your faithfulness!

### Stay Connected

Keep track of the latest Mission news, make safe online donations and more.  
[LosAngelesMission.org](http://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