

News from Los Angeles Mission

# CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

OCTOBER 2023

**The number of people experiencing homelessness and hunger is rising sharply, and Thanksgiving presents major challenges — but also major opportunities . . .**

Los Angeles Mission is doing everything possible to provide meals, shelter and more for neighbors in need — and you can help.



Los Angeles  
**Mission**  
The Crossroads of Hope™



**Inside: A Special Thanksgiving Message . . .** (see page 2)







Dear Caring Friend,

There's no doubt this has been a tough year. Across Los Angeles, more people are experiencing homelessness than ever before. High prices have led many of our neighbors who were previously on solid footing to experience food insecurity. On a personal note, my mom passed away, and that has also been difficult to deal with. But through it all, God is faithful.

And I'm grateful because He is not only bringing healing to my family, but He has provided compassionate neighbors like you, who stand with Los Angeles Mission to serve our neighbors in need. Each of them is hurting, but He cares for them — as do you. When I reflect on God's goodness and grace at a time of urgent need, I am amazed by His ability to heal the most broken of hearts.

There are many such people among us. This Thanksgiving, the Mission will serve our guests turkey and all the trimmings — potatoes, stuffing, apple pie and more. Each person will be treated with the dignity they deserve. We'll all bow our heads together in thanks for our food — and the good people like you who provide it — and a quiet peace will fill the room.

For many, it will be the first peace they've felt in years. It will be the start of hope, healing and the recovery journey. And you make it possible. Thank you again, and God bless you for giving your least fortunate neighbors a reason to be grateful this Thanksgiving.

Troy Vaughn  
President/CEO

# Hunger and Homelessness in L.A. Rise Sharply

## The Thanksgiving meals and hope you give inspire real, permanent change . . .

According to the latest research from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), the number of people living on the streets in our community is now over 75,000. With record homelessness and costs of rent, gas and food still rising, more people than ever before are in need of help. That's why this will be the busiest Thanksgiving season ever at Los Angeles Mission.

For someone who is facing the holidays on the streets alone, a warm meal and loving companionship will go a long way.

A Thanksgiving meal at the Mission is a powerful tool that shows love and compassion at a time when many are overcome with sorrow and hopelessness. **These are meals that can inspire real, permanent change.** But we need your help to prepare for everyone who will come to us for assistance this year.

Please send your generous gift today to provide hope-filled Thanksgiving meals to men, women and children in critical need.



Thank you for giving our guests a reason to be grateful this Thanksgiving.



Hope and transformation can begin with a good meal.



Give hope to hurting women, families and children with a \$2.53 meal.

**There's no better way to spend  
\$2.53 this Thanksgiving!**

# Because of You, Timothy Has a New Life This Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving always reminds Timothy of great food, the warmth of home and special times with family. Although his parents both struggled with addiction, Timothy was raised by a grandmother who loved and provided for him.

Coming from such modest means, Timothy says, “I worked hard and earned scholarships to attend USC and law school.”

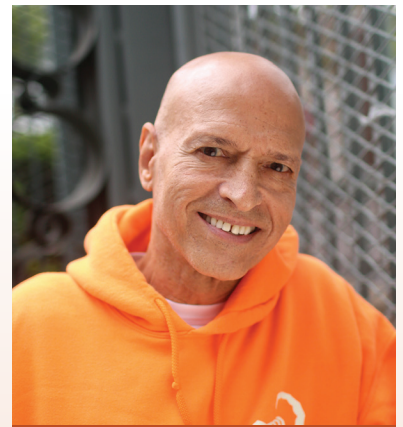
After graduating, he was hired by a law firm in Beverly Hills. Timothy experienced a tremendous amount of success that allowed him to purchase a home in Playa del Rey. “I never thought I could accomplish so much,” he remembers. “But before long, I no longer had any relationship God. Then I started snorting cocaine with one of the partners at the law firm. It became a full-blown addiction. I spent so much money on that habit, I became unreliable at work. The law firm fired me, I lost my home and I ended up enduring homelessness for more than 20 years.”

Timothy tried recovery programs, but nothing worked — until he came to Los Angeles Mission.

“When I first got here,” he recalls, “I was grateful for the bed, but I wasn’t too keen on the God thing. I soon realized, however, how much I needed and wanted God in my life. Now, I’m so grateful for the chance to study the Bible and all the classes that strengthen my relationship with the Lord. I’ve found a new purpose for my life — to glorify Him!”

This Thanksgiving, Timothy hopes to give thanks once more back home with family, where he can express his gratitude for how much God has done for him. He also wants to thank you: “Your support offered me an opportunity to build a relationship with God and experience the power of the Holy Spirit. Thank you!”

*With your support this Thanksgiving, we’ll continue making a difference — one person at a time, one turkey dinner at a time. Thank you!*



Today, Timothy is sober, walking with the Lord and grateful for the kindness you showed him!

## Two Weeks to New Hope

Latasha had a difficult childhood without a lot of love, and sadly, that trend continued as she got older. Then, three years ago, life got even worse.

“I got into a fight and ended up in jail,” she explains. “While I was in jail, I lost my home and everything I owned. When I was released, I ended up homeless, and I’ve been that way ever since.”

When she first landed on the streets, she was frightened and panicked. As the days and weeks passed, she got used to the hardship. “I just started to believe that’s how my life was going to be,” she says . . .

. . . until, that is, she came to Los Angeles Mission’s Anne Douglas Center.

“At first, I didn’t know what to expect,” Latasha admits. “I thought maybe it would be like a jail, with some kind of warden watching over me. But it wasn’t like that at all. The people here were really invested in me.”

She continues: “After two weeks, I started to feel hope again. I started to believe I wouldn’t be on the streets forever. I had three meals a day, new clothes and



regular showers. They’ve been so nice to me, showing me so much friendship and love. I’ve never experienced that. I found a family here.”

Latasha is also grateful for the chance to get closer to God. “It was so comforting to learn that Jesus felt sorrow and cried, just like me.”

**This Thanksgiving, Latasha is looking forward to spending it with her new family, and she plans to give thanks for donors like you. “I’m grateful for all they’ve given to me.” Thank you for changing her life!**



## UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

### Thanksgiving Street Event 11/22

Every Thanksgiving, volunteers play a vital role in serving our neighbors in need at Los Angeles Mission. Visit [lamission.volunteerhub.com](http://lamission.volunteerhub.com) or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 337 to learn how you can help.

Our biggest event of the year is almost here! Join us and serve the community at our annual Thanksgiving celebration!



## The Simplest Way To Make a Difference!



With demand for food and other resources way up, thousands of men, women and children are turning to Los Angeles Mission for meals, shelter and hope. To help meet that need, please consider becoming a Meals-A-Month partner. This dedicated group of monthly donors provides steady support that helps us budget and plan more efficiently, stretching every dollar further.

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

## Will vs Living Trust: Which Do I Need?

“Do I need a Will, or should I have a Trust?” Many people ask this question when planning for the future.

Both Wills and Living Trusts are effective tools to provide for the future needs of your family. Both can also be used to support Los Angeles Mission and the other causes close to your heart.

A Will contains your instructions to the court about who should receive what after your lifetime, and who should oversee the process. A Will may also designate care for minor children, family with special needs or pets. A Will takes effect at the time you go to be with the Lord, so you can change it at any time during your lifetime. Almost everyone should have a Will, regardless of what you own.

A Living Trust, on the other hand, is a way of holding your assets while you are still alive. Like a Will, it can provide future instructions, but it may also protect your family from delays and extra costs by avoiding the probate court process. You can name yourself or another person to manage Trust assets during your lifetime.

Which of these do you need? It's not necessarily an either/or. You certainly need a Will, and you might need a Trust as well. Your trusted professional advisors can assess your needs based on your goals, where you live and the complexity of what you own.

What else should your plan include? To learn more about the who's, what's and how's of the planning process, request your free copy of “The Roadmap to Your Completed Will.” Call Kyle Patterson at (213) 629-1227, Ext. 304, or email [k\\_patterson@lamission.net](mailto:k_patterson@lamission.net).

## ACTION ALERT! Urgent Help Needed!

Times are tough for people in Los Angeles. Neighbors who have never struggled before are now facing the prospect of experiencing homelessness for the first time. We urgently need your help today to provide meals and care to the growing number of people who are fighting to survive. Please send your generous Thanksgiving gift today!

### Stay Connected

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

