

News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

NOVEMBER 2023

As Record Need Continues, Your Faithfulness at Christmas Inspires Real, Permanent Change

More people than ever before
are turning to Los Angeles Mission.
With your help, we're providing
meals, shelter and toys for
deserving children and other vital
resources that inspire hope and
transformation.



**Inside: A Special
Christmas Message . . .**
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Christmas Miracles



Dear Caring Friend,

Have you ever seen it snow in Los Angeles? Probably not — but children at Los Angeles Mission have! Bringing in snow machines is just one of the ways we make it special for kids here. You should see the joy in their young eyes as the miracle of Christmas takes over their imaginations.

While our ministry to adults may not be as “fun,” it can be every bit as rewarding. That’s because your support ensures we can provide our guests with whatever they need, from meals and shelter to warm clothes, job training, addiction recovery and more. Whatever they need, we’re here for them.

By *really* seeing people and treating them with dignity, Los Angeles Mission shows men, women and children who have endured all manner of hardship that they matter. They’re valuable. Their future is not on the streets. It’s living a productive, triumphant life!

Your faithful prayers and support make these miracles of transformation possible, and I am deeply grateful. As we prepare for our most daunting Christmas ever, I am so grateful for your partnership. You are giving one of the greatest gifts a person can receive — a second chance.

Thank you and God bless you,

Troy Vaughn
President/CEO



We're spreading Christmas cheer for tens of thousands of neighbors in need.

Reaching Out With Christmas Goodwill



Together, we're helping more people than ever before . . .

Every Christmas season, Los Angeles Mission does everything we can to ensure our neighbors in great need can also celebrate. Thanks to you, we're helping record numbers of children and families across our community.

This includes meals at the Mission and groceries delivered through our *Race to Feed* program. Hardworking parents are receiving toys for their children, and neighbors experiencing homelessness are rebuilding their lives in our comprehensive recovery program.

Men, women and children on Skid Row and throughout Los Angeles urgently need what the Mission has to offer, and we're depending on you. That's why your help is so critically important this holiday season. Thank you!

Just \$2.53 — that's all it takes to help change one life this Christmas!

Every \$2.53 you share today will provide a nourishing Christmas meal and loving care for someone who is hungry and alone.

Because of You, Ever Has New Hope This Christmas

This Christmas, Ever is thanking God for a second chance at Los Angeles Mission — and the friends like you who made it possible.

His troubles began when several “friends” encouraged him to try drugs. Unfortunately, peer pressure and curiosity got the best of him. What followed is a story we’ve all heard too many times: addiction, followed by poverty and hopelessness.

“I lost everything,” Ever remembers. “I lost my car, my job and my home.” When Ever had no other options besides the streets, he finally had to face what he had become.

Desperate for change, Ever came to Los Angeles Mission to avoid homelessness and change his life.

Help and Hope in Time for Christmas

Right away, Ever was so glad to be at the Mission. “Los Angeles Mission put a roof over my head and gave me food to eat. I was so grateful.”

But the support he received didn’t stop there. As the days passed and Ever attended classes and activities, he gained a whole new perspective and motivation for life. “They put me on a better path. I had withdrawn from church, but now I’m growing much closer to God. I’m really looking forward to having a stable life, working and getting back on my feet.”

This holiday season, Ever will celebrate with a grateful heart — for the change he’s experienced, and the good neighbors like you who showed him such kindness.

Thank you for giving Ever and so many other Mission guests the gifts of hope and recovery for Christmas!



Ever is so grateful friends like you helped him get back on his feet!

Finding the Love and Acceptance She Needed

“I’m lucky I’m not pushing up daisies.”

That’s what Gertrude says when she remembers the abusive relationship she survived. He seemed charming at first, but alcohol turned him into a monster. “We all want love and acceptance, but he beat me, bruised me, broke my arms,” Gertrude says. “I just didn’t know how to leave.” To cope with the pain and violence, Gertrude began drinking herself.

Eventually, he got arrested, and Gertrude ran for her life. She spent several more years on the streets of Pasadena, her hometown. She was estranged from her family and without hope or prospects, suffering from alcoholism and PTSD as a result of enduring extreme abuse for so many years. “Being a woman, it’s just not safe. It’s so hard finding a place to go.”

Finally, after so much hardship, Gertrude came to the Anne Douglas Center at Los Angeles Mission. And here at last, her life began to change. “Out on the streets, I thought I knew what I was doing, but I didn’t. Not until I got here and they showed me a better way.”

Gertrude poured herself into the program and into recovery. She says, “It’s not just the food and shelter. They’ve shown me how to make better choices, avoid negative situations and live right. Sometimes, all you want is a smile and a hug. We get that here. I finally found the love I needed!”

“The Anne Douglas Center for Women saved my life,” she concludes. Today, she has a restored relationship with her children, and her future is still bright. After so many holidays filled with despair, this Christmas will be filled with joy — and Gertrude could not be more grateful.

Thank you for giving Gertrude one of the best gifts imaginable — a transformed life. Your ongoing support will change more lives this Christmas season.



Thanks to you, Gertrude is healing from many years of abuse and homelessness!



Anne Douglas
Center for Women
at the Los Angeles Mission

UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

Volunteer Opportunities

"Good news that will cause great joy . . ."

Bring the spirit of Christmas to life for your neighbors in need when you serve at Los Angeles Mission this holiday season. Visit lamission.volunteerhub.com or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 337 to learn about volunteer opportunities.



A Meaningful Gift That Changes Lives All Year!



More children, families and individuals are depending on Los Angeles Mission than ever before for meals, shelter, clothing and much more. By becoming one of our Meals-A-Month partners today, you can provide steady support that shares God's love and changes lives all year long.

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

When You Can't Agree on an Estate Plan

If will planning is a hot-button conversation for you and your spouse, you're in good company! **Here are five steps to help you move past your differences.**



1. **Call it out.** This is a difficult topic and likely very emotional. Commit to listening and honoring one another.
2. **Put away your boxing gloves.** Don't treat this conversation as a battle. Come prayed up and determined to find common ground.
3. **Discuss shared values.** You have faith and values that have become the bedrock of your marriage. What do you *really* want to accomplish?
4. **Identify areas of difference or concern.** Where do you see things differently? Listen carefully to one another with the intent to understand.
5. **Explore creative solutions.** Look for the solutions that support your shared values.

Many couples enlist the help of a trusted ally to guide them through these difficult conversations. Through Los Angeles Mission's partnership with Barnabas Foundation, you can speak with someone who not only understands the tax-wise options available, but who also approaches planning from a values-driven, God-honoring perspective. And all at no cost to you.

To learn more and to schedule your complimentary and confidential planning conversation, call Kyle Patterson at (213) 629-1227, Ext. 304, or email k_patterson@lamission.net.

ACTION ALERT! Urgent Help Needed!

Christmas is just around the corner, and Los Angeles Mission is doing everything possible to care for our neighbors facing hunger, homelessness, trauma and other crises. With prices on food, fuel and other basics through the roof, we urgently need your help this holiday season. Please send your gift today.

Stay Connected

Keep track of the latest Mission news, make safe online donations and more.
LosAngelesMission.org

