



January 2024 Edition

Anne Douglas
Center for Women
at the Los Angeles Mission

After years of struggle, Melissa is grateful that you've given her a bright, new future!

"It Feels Like Everything Is New" — *Thanks to friends like you!*

As Melissa enters 2024, she's filled with joy. Years of hopeless suffering are behind her, and a better life awaits. "It feels like everything is new," she says. "I see things with a completely different set of eyes, and I have a bright future."

The past that Melissa had to put behind her was a childhood poisoned by child abuse, molestation and rape. That destruction of her innocence led her to use drugs at 13, and addiction left her on the streets of Los Angeles.

"Life on the streets isn't pretty," she says. "I got beat up a few times and ended up living with random people in an abandoned apartment."

Then, people she loved started dying — first a cousin, then a former babysitter she called "Nana" and a beloved uncle. "It really shook me," she says. "My parents were getting older, and I didn't want them to pass away before I got my life together."

Building a New Life in 2024

When she was finally ready for help, Melissa came to the Anne Douglas Center for Women at Los Angeles Mission. What began with meals and shelter soon led to total life transformation.

"I've been here for six months and I got a therapist who's helping me heal from my past," she says. "I'm clean and sober, I pray every day, and I'm more secure and alive now. I'm stable, and I'm learning about Jesus and what He sacrificed to make this possible for me. I'm happy, and I want to enjoy every minute of it."

Today, Melissa is reconnecting with her children, and her heart is filled with gratitude for friends like you who made her recovery possible. "I know my life will never be the same," she says.

Your generosity is helping men and women like Melissa build new lives for themselves in this new year!

2024 NEW YEAR CHALLENGES

The new year is going to present unprecedented challenges as we continue to serve those experiencing homelessness, poverty and other crises. Your ongoing generosity is critical to help:



MEALS

Serve thousands of nutritious meals per day.

It costs \$2.53 to provide a meal and care at the Mission — but with your help, it's free for our guests.



SHELTER

Provide hundreds of beds for our guests each night.

A warm bed is one of the most important steps toward restoration and stabilization.



CLOTHING

Distribute clothing as needed.

Clothes provide appropriate work attire and restore a sense of normalcy to everyday life. Donations of gently used items are deeply appreciated.

How Your Caring and Compassion Saved Juan's Life

Moving past the pain, Juan now has a renewed relationship with his daughter . . .

When Juan's wife abandoned him for another man and took his only daughter with her, he felt lost and totally alone. For the first time, he turned to drugs.

"After that, I lost my job and ended up living on the streets," Juan says.

On the streets, Juan's anger at his circumstances grew, and he got into a fight with another man which landed him in jail. After his release, he came to Los Angeles Mission for help.

Juan Escaped the Streets and Rebuilt His Life

"They've helped me so much," Juan says. "When I came, I felt a lot of shame and guilt. The chaplains encouraged me to have faith in God, and they showed me who I really am. Now, I keep my Bible close to me to become a better father, friend and person."

By God's grace, Juan has made tremendous progress. His life is stable, he's rebuilding a relationship with his daughter and he's eager to begin working and get his own place again. For all these reasons, he's grateful and hopeful going into 2024.

Homelessness is a tragic crisis in Los Angeles, but caring friends like you are helping many people like Juan rebuild their lives. Thank you!



"I keep my Bible close to me to become a better father, friend and person." — Juan

Why a Meal Matters

A \$2.53 meal at Los Angeles Mission is about so much more than just food.



Real-life change begins with the meals you help provide. Please help feed men, women and children experiencing homelessness and hunger with your gift today. - Troy

Transform Lives in 2024

Send back the enclosed reply form with your gift to provide meals, care and life-changing services to people who need help in the new year. Please give generously and offer encouragement to your neighbors who are struggling to rebuild their broken lives. Thank you!

Your Gift Will Provide Meals, Care and Hope!
Yes, I want to offer my neighbors on Skid Row a hearty meal and compassionate care in the new year. 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.

New Year, New Commitment



The challenge to provide meals, shelter and care to children, families and individuals experiencing homelessness is growing by the day. One of the best ways to help Los Angeles Mission meet that need is by becoming a Meals-A-Month partner. Monthly donors provide 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.