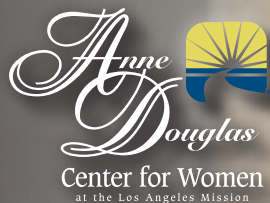


News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

February 2024



GREAT NEWS!

Your support can
be leveraged to
provide 2X the
meals and care
for neighbors
on the streets!
Details inside . . .

Also in this issue:

Thanks to you, Michael has overcome two decades of homelessness
What *real* transformation looks like: Dawn's story



The Journey From Brokenness to Lasting Renewal

Dear Caring Friend,

Before experiencing homelessness, men and women on the streets have often endured serious illnesses, domestic violence, addiction or other crises. Recovery from such severe trauma requires more than just meals and a bed (although healing always starts with basic needs). Real, permanent change requires a holistic approach to recovery.

And with your help, that's exactly what Los Angeles Mission does for our guests — during Easter and all year round. We provide comprehensive recovery services that rebuild lives from the ground up. That's how we solve the homelessness crisis — one life at a time. Thanks to our local partnerships, we're now distributing food and resources to households in need. Taken together, we are a force for good lifting up our entire community.

Thank you so much for being a part of this vital work this Easter season. Your ongoing support, doubled in value by our Matching Challenge, will give even more neighbors experiencing homelessness reasons to hope.



Troy Vaughn
President/CEO



After 20 years on the streets, your generosity rescued Michael from homelessness and addiction.

The Fall and Rise of the Big Man on Campus

"In high school, I was kind of the big man on campus," Michael remembers. "I was the starting quarterback on the football team, and I dated the head cheerleader."

After high school, Michael went into the military and served honorably. "When I came home four years later, all my friends had started careers and families," he says. It was very humbling for Michael, and he felt unsettled. "People I used to look down on now had homes. I wasn't the big man on campus anymore, and I didn't know how to handle it."

The uncertainty and insecurity he felt led Michael to begin hanging out with the wrong crowd. Before he understood the seriousness of what was happening, Michael was caught up in drug addiction. As a result, he spent more than 20 years of his life on the streets of Los Angeles. He lived in "cardboard condos" on Skid Row, ate out of dumpsters and went months without showering.

A Pathway to Renewal

Six months ago, after years of misery and suffering, Michael decided to check out Los Angeles Mission.

"Two days in, I wanted to leave," Michael says. "But my chaplain grabbed hold of me and spiritually handed me over to Jesus. It's like he said, 'Jesus, Michael is yours.' From that day, Jesus started working in me."

After so many years of going without, Michael finally had reliable food and shelter. He dove into his classes and Bible studies, faced his "character defects," slowly grew closer to God — and God started to transform his life.

"I have a vision of staying sober, being productive again and letting God use me," he says. "After going hungry and being homeless, I thank God for this place and all those who support it. Because of them, I'm surrounded by so many people who love me and are committed to helping people like me."

Your kindness renewed Michael's hope. Thank you for supporting this life-changing work.

You Gave. Now Dawn Is Giving Back . . .

Last year, we shared Dawn's story in Crossroads. Abandoned by her mother on Skid Row when she was only 10, Dawn suffered for years through homelessness and addiction. But thanks to you, she came to the Anne Douglas Center for Women at Los Angeles Mission, experienced spiritual renewal and rebuilt her life. Today, we share a special update about how she's doing.

"Coming to the Anne Douglas Center for Women led to healing and transformation that continues today," Dawn says. "After I graduated, I started working in the mental health field, right here on Skid Row where I grew up."

Serving people who were experiencing homelessness gave Dawn a tremendous sense of purpose and meaning. "I feel like everything I endured as a child made the work I do today possible," she says. "I serve people in recovery, helping them get housing and counseling. I'm helping them, not from inside of a program, but outside on the streets."

Dawn also works with parolees from state prison to help them get re-established.

Today, she is attending college to earn her master's degree so she can provide mental health services directly in the correctional facility itself. She's also engaged, and will be getting married soon.

In short, her life is entirely transformed — change she credits to Los Angeles Mission and friends like you. "The Mission donors mean everything to me," she says. "I wouldn't be here without them. They saved my life."

Your support gave Dawn another chance. Thank you for making a better life possible!

**Image changed to protect identity.*



Thanks to you, Dawn received healing and help from Los Angeles Mission. Today, her life is entirely transformed!



An Easter Matching Challenge To Help the Crisis on Skid Row

Every \$2.53 you give now provides two meals and care!

As people across Los Angeles continue wrestling with historically high prices and a tragic homelessness crisis, Los Angeles has received a critical opportunity to help twice as many neighbors in need.

A generous friend has provided a \$100,000 Matching Challenge. This special opportunity is timed to coincide with Easter, and it will help our least fortunate neighbors experience the new life that this beautiful holiday offers.

Your support today, doubled in impact, will ensure Los Angeles Mission can provide each person who walks through our doors with a meal and a decent night's rest. Then they can proceed to receive comprehensive recovery services. At the same time, your support will help distribute meals and resources to other neighbors in need throughout our community.

And since every \$2.53 you give now provides two meals and care, just imagine how many lives you can impact with your generous gift today! Thank you for your loyal support, and for sharing God's love with those who need to feel it most.



UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

Volunteer Opportunities

Many meaningful volunteer and service opportunities exist at Los Angeles Mission. Visit lamission.volunteerhub.com or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 337 to come and change lives with us!



The Hat Trick of Giving Stock

3 Ways You Score by Giving Appreciated Stock

"He shoots; he scores!" the announcer yells. Music blares, colorful lights flash and the crowd goes wild. For hockey players, there's nothing quite as exciting as achieving a hat trick — scoring three goals in a single game.

Less flashy, but *almost* as thrilling is the triple score of giving appreciated stock to Los Angeles Mission. It's a smart and powerful way to help neighbors overwhelmed by poverty, addiction, homelessness and other crises. When you give appreciated stock, you score three personal benefits:

1. Give without restricting your cash flow,
2. Receive a fair market value deduction at the time of your gift, AND
3. Avoid taxes on the sale of the stock.

You may not hear any blaring music or thunderous applause, but you can still celebrate, knowing you've accomplished a profound amount of good in a tax-efficient manner.

To learn more about giving stock or other smart and powerful ways to support Los Angeles Mission, call Kyle Patterson, our VP of Fund Development & Donor Relations, at (213) 629-1227 Ext. 304, or email K_Patterson@lamission.net.



A Simple but Powerful Way To Help!



Just like how neighbors experiencing homelessness depend on Los Angeles Mission for meals and another chance, we depend on kindhearted people like you. Please help us meet the growing need in our community. To provide crucial help all year, become a Meals-A-Month partner. This dedicated group of donors provides a steady stream of monthly support, helping men, women and children in need all year long.

To sign up online, visit us at Give.LosAngelesMission.org. Or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 334 to join by phone.

Give 2X the Help and Hope

Send back the reply form with your gift to provide 2X the meals, care and life-changing services to people in need of hope and a second chance. Your generous support will be doubled in impact by our Easter Matching Challenge, helping twice as many people who are looking to rebuild their lives. Thank you!

Your Gift Will Provide Meals, Care and Hope!

Yes, I want to offer my neighbors on Skid Row hope in the form of hearty meals and compassionate care. Enclosed is my gift of:

☐ \$_____ to help as much as possible!

Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Smith
123 Main Street
Anytown, USA 12345-6789



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



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