

News from Los Angeles Mission

# CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

APRIL 2024



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



*Anne Douglas*  
Center for Women  
at the Los Angeles Mission



*With great need comes powerful*  
**OPPORTUNITY**

As homelessness and hunger escalate across Los Angeles, your compassion for men, women and children in desperate need is restoring hope to many broken hearts.

See page 2 to learn how a simple meal can inspire real, permanent change. ►



## New Hope on the Streets, in Homes and Across L.A.



Dear Caring Friend,

I've often said that new hope begins with a meal at Los Angeles Mission. And for individuals who are experiencing homelessness, it's very true. A nourishing meal served by kind people who are willing to do whatever they can to help absolutely has the power to inspire someone to begin rebuilding their life.

However, not everyone we serve is on the streets. In this economy, many families are struggling just to stay housed. That's why we're delivering nourishing food boxes to vulnerable communities through our *Race to Feed* program. When every dollar counts, a week's worth of healthy food can help ensure a family still makes ends meet.

Of course, there are other services offered by the Mission, too — classes and counseling to deal with grief and addiction; programs that help released prisoners integrate positively back into society; and we continue to provide meals, shelter and comprehensive recovery services for those who are committed to changing their lives.

In all of this, your support plays a vital role. You ensure Los Angeles Mission is a *Mission Without Walls*, doing good across our community wherever need exists, and I thank God for you.

Troy Vaughn  
President/CEO

## Thanks to You, Jose's Life Is Transformed



Jose has been drinking for nearly as long as he can remember.

"I grew up in a small town in Mexico where there are a lot of blue agave plants," he says. "That's what tequila is made from, and everyone drinks it. It was a cultural thing. I probably started when I was about 6. So did all the other kids."

Sadly, what seemed like innocent fun back then carried a lifetime of consequences that no child could understand. Eventually, Jose left his small village and migrated to Los Angeles, where he worked as a jack-of-all-trades — "carpentry, electrical work, auto repair, cleaning apartments, a little bit of everything," he remembers. "But I was drinking more and more, and it was hard to hold on to jobs. Many times I tried to stop, but I would always relapse."

Finally, Jose ended up experiencing homelessness on the streets. It was a dangerous life. "I believe the only reason I survived is because the Holy Spirit was always close to me, protecting me," Jose says. In February last year, Jose decided he wanted to change and joined the program at Los Angeles Mission.

"Since coming here, I've gotten closer to God, and I read my Bible every day," he says. "The Mission is not only helping me stay sober, but they're also helping me with some of my legal issues. I'm thinking a lot more clearly now, but I also have a lot of regrets. I've lost all contact with my family, but I hope, now that I'm sober, that I can find them again."

**Thanks to friends like you, Jose has every reason to hope. Thank you for changing his life!**

# What Real, Permanent Change Looks Like — Qiana's Story

When Qiana first walked into the Anne Douglas Center for Women at Los Angeles Mission, she wept, overwhelmed with hopelessness. She was determined to transform her life, but that would mean facing her past.

“I experienced a lot of abuse and trauma as a child — everything you can think of,” Qiana says. “When I was 23, I found drugs. It was just recreational for a while, and it helped mask the trauma still in my head.” But as is always the case, addiction steadily seized control of her life and destroyed it.

Five kids and a painful divorce later, Qiana ultimately lost her home, her real-estate license — and worst of all, custody of her kids. She ended up living in her car in total despair.

“Then I met the man I'm married to today,” Qiana says. “He encouraged me to get my kids back. Even though I was pretty hopeless, I started to think maybe it was still possible. He had his problems, but his mom and her pastor recommended I go to the Anne Douglas Center for Women at the Los Angeles Mission.”

She says the Center gave her the time she needed to get sober and heal mentally and physically. It gave her structure and the tools she needed to be a better mother. One year later, the court — impressed with how far she'd come — returned her kids to her.

Though she lost one of her children in a tragedy, Qiana still says, “God is faithful.” After completing our program, she ultimately married the man who encouraged her recovery years before. Now, she's a successful entrepreneur and the leader of a nonprofit that honors her son's memory by helping other young people facing homelessness and hardship. “Thanks to the donors who supported me and my children, I'm able to give back to others,” she says.

*Qiana's story is a wonderful testimony to the power of your prayers and support, and we are so grateful for your life-changing partnership!*



## Help Deserving Families For Just 2.53!

We have a powerful opportunity to share God's love with neighbors in need.

Record high prices for rent and food, shuttered businesses and general societal unrest have made this a difficult season at Los Angeles Mission. Requests for healthy meals are especially high because many hardworking parents' wages have not kept pace with bills.

At this time, your support is crucial: **Today, \$2.53 is all it costs to provide a meal and care for one person facing hunger or homelessness. Imagine how many lives you can touch!**

For some, that meal will carry them through a challenging day. For others, it may keep them housed by allowing them to afford rent or a utility bill. And for men and women on Skid Row, it can even spark their transformation journey.



Please partner with Los Angeles Mission to change lives.



A meal served with kindness can offer someone a new beginning.



For a family in need, your support means everything.

**Every \$2.53 feeds one hungry person, opening the door to hope and new life.**



## UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

### Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer with Los Angeles Mission!  
You can serve and share God's love  
with our least fortunate neighbors by  
visiting [lamission.volunteerhub.com](http://lamission.volunteerhub.com)  
or calling (213) 629-1227 Ext. 337.



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

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. It may also designate care for minor children, family members with special needs or pets. A Will takes effect at the time of your passing, and you can change it at any time for any reason.

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." Contact Kyle Patterson by email at [K\\_Patterson@lamission.net](mailto:K_Patterson@lamission.net) or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 304.*

## Help Ensure Children and Families Have Nourishing Food



As record numbers of men, women and children turn to Los Angeles Mission for meals and other services, you can help them by becoming a Meals-A-Month partner today. Your monthly support will allow us to stretch every dollar a little further and ensure no one on Skid Row or the surrounding areas needs to go hungry.

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



## ACTION ALERT! Take Action Today!

With the prices of rent, food, fuel and other basic needs at record highs, many families cannot keep up with their bills. People who have never needed help before are ending up on the streets and turning to Los Angeles Mission. We need your support today to provide meals and care to the growing number of individuals who are barely making it from one day to the next.



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### 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