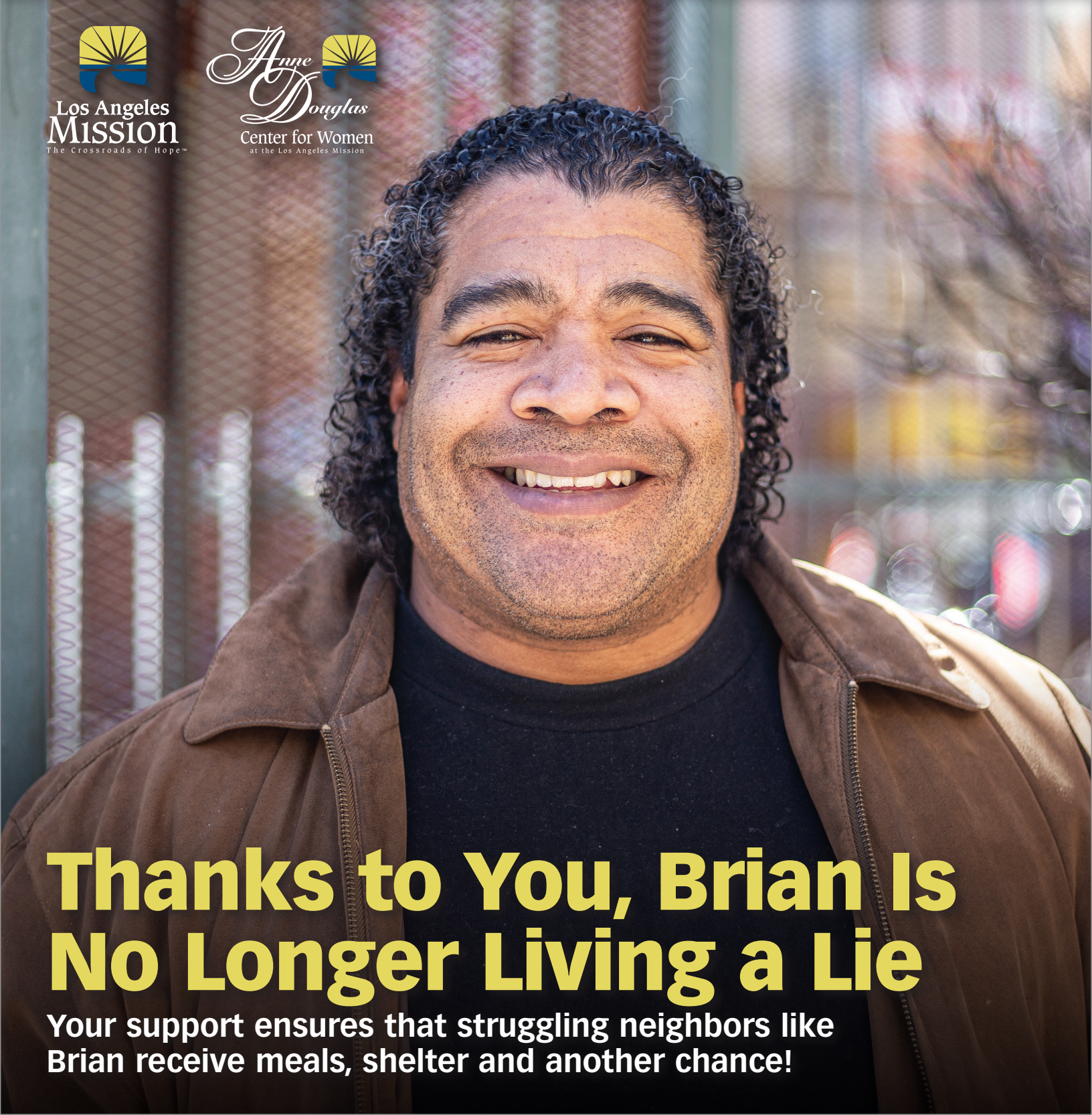


News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS


Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

July 2024



Thanks to You, Brian Is No Longer Living a Lie

Your support ensures that struggling neighbors like Brian receive meals, shelter and another chance!



You Fuel the Change

Dear Caring Friend,

People fall into homelessness for many different reasons: Lack of affordable housing. Broken family relationships. Childhood and domestic abuse. Addiction. Mental health issues. Unemployment and under-employment. Lack of job skills and education. Legal issues.

Thanks to the generosity of friends like you, Los Angeles Mission offers holistic solutions that address every area of a person's life. We serve the *whole* person: spirit, soul and body, and address all issues from a relational life-recovery approach.

Your compassion provides struggling men, women and children with safe shelter and nutritious meals, as well as classes dealing with addiction, healthy relationships, financial management and more. Your support helps sharpen education and job skills, and also provides counseling services and spiritual nurturing. Most important, it's love that changes lives. You make sure all those who come to us are surrounded by loving friends and a loving God — just like Brian on this page.

It takes an entire community to come together and transform someone's life. But in this community, no partnership is more vital than yours. You are the fuel that makes everything that happens at the Mission possible. Your financial support and prayers really are helping break the cycle of homelessness in Los Angeles. Thank you for sharing your compassion with those most in need.



Troy Vaughn
President/CEO



Thanks to You, Brian Is No Longer Living a Lie

Brian is grateful because YOU made his new life possible!

When Brian realized his life depended on getting help, you were there to make sure he got it.

For years, Brian lived a kind of double life. In person, he was outgoing, self-assured, happy and the personification of a true salesman — his chosen profession. But underneath the mask was a man filled with insecurity, shame and overwhelming fear that someone might find out the truth about him.

The truth was, Brian had spent years enduring homelessness on the streets. As the years went by, he couldn't hold onto jobs because of drugs and alcohol. It got harder to hide the truth, and his fear and insecurity grew.

The Drink That Changed His Life

“Early last year, I went to a party,” he says. “I picked up a bottle of Gatorade and drank it. I didn't know it, but it was laced with some kind of drug. Next thing I knew, I ended up in the emergency room. I almost died. God got my attention. My life was at stake — I needed help.”

When Brian came to Los Angeles Mission, he finally had to admit he wasn't the man he pretended to be — or who God wanted him to be.

Surrounded by a Community of Love

“I never really had a spiritual life before,” Brian says. “When I came here, I started learning about God. But the big thing was being around so many people who loved God, who loved me and who spoke truth to me. They show me who I really am, hold me accountable and help me change. I'm building a network of godly people that I'll take with me for the rest of my life.

“I'm grateful for the donors, because they're the ones who made it possible for me to grow into the man I know I really am.”

Thank you helping neighbors like Brian. Your ongoing support gives second chances to all those who turn to Los Angeles Mission.



When Kelley Needed to Start Over, You Made It Possible

After graduating from Los Angeles Mission in 2006, Kelley stayed sober for 17 years. In her South-Central neighborhood, she modeled the powerful presence of Christ, serving her neighbors in need. But last February, growing drug abuse and gang violence in the area forced her to flee.

“My sobriety and mental health are priceless, right?” she says. “I wasn’t going to allow anything to affect that. So, I had to walk away and start over from scratch.”

Kelley knew just where to go — right back to the Anne Douglas Center for Women at Los Angeles Mission, where her new life started so many years ago.



The Anne Douglas Center for Women at the Los Angeles Mission means a lot to Kelley. Not only is it where she finally conquered her own long-time addiction, it’s where she learned to authentically follow Jesus. It’s where she learned to give back by pouring her life into others.

“When I called, they gave me a bed in their Bridge Housing, which allows me to stay there for free until I save enough money to afford a new place to live.”

Kelley, however, is determined to pay back the grace she has received. “I have the chance to speak life into the other women in recovery here,” she says. “I’m also leading a study of the Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book.”

In the meantime, she serves as head chef at a recovery center in Pasadena, where she not only cooks but mentors other women. “I call it ACTS — A Call to Service,” she says.

“Thank you,” she says to our faithful donors. “When I needed it, you gave me the chance to start over. You made sure I didn’t have to become homeless again.”

Thanks to you, Kelley has new hope for the future. Please continue giving generously to provide crucial meals, shelter and healing to more neighbors in need.

Your support ensured that Kelley didn’t fall into homelessness again.

THE RACE TO FEED

Help Keep Families in Their Homes

The high cost for food, housing, utilities and other necessities is devastating families throughout Los Angeles. Many are now on the brink of homelessness.

As Los Angeles Mission pursues our vision of being a *Mission Without Walls*, we deliver vital resources directly to communities in need — and you can help by supporting our Race to Feed. Your gift today will provide meals and supportive services to vulnerable children and families across Los Angeles County.

Food boxes typically include 84 meals for a four-person household. That’s a week’s worth of breakfasts, lunches and dinners — 21 meals each. They’re distributed to:

- ✓ Schools
- ✓ Churches
- ✓ Foster Families



Please help meet this basic need today. *Thank you!*



UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering with Los Angeles Mission is a wonderful way to share God's love with the "least of these" (Matthew 25:40). To learn how you can make a difference, please visit lamission.volunteerhub.com or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 337.



Eggs in the Giving Basket

Giving Commodities to Los Angeles Mission

You know not to put all your eggs in one basket.

But did you know....

Savvy farmers who put some of their eggs — or grains, nuts, berries, corn or even livestock — in the giving basket avoid taxes AND have tremendous Kingdom impact.

For many generous farmers, giving commodities is more cost-effective than giving cash!

When you give commodities to Los Angeles Mission prior to the sale, you reduce your taxable income.

You may also claim a business deduction for the production costs of the commodity (such as animal feed, fertilizer or irrigation), regardless of whether those costs occurred in the current year or prior years.

It's an over-easy giving solution for your bank account and for God's Kingdom!

Are commodities the right giving option for you? We'd love to tell you more. Email Kyle Patterson at K_Patterson@lamission.net or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 304 to learn more.



Change Lives All Year!



Every month, thousands of veterans, children, families and individuals turn to Los Angeles Mission for nutritious meals, shelter and other crucial resources. You can do your part to help meet their needs by becoming a Meals-A-Month partner. By committing a monthly gift, you will provide a steady stream of support that transforms lives every day, all year long.

Go to Give.LosAngelesMission.org to sign up online, or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 334 to join by phone.

Change Lives This Summer!

To help neighbors who have nowhere else to turn, please send back the enclosed reply form with your gift today. Your support will provide the meals, healing and encouragement they need to get back on their feet. Thank you for your compassion!



Stay Connected

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

LosAngelesMission.org



LOS ANGELES MISSION DONATION DROP OFF

351 S. Anderson Street
Los Angeles, CA, 90033

Hours of operation are Monday-Friday: 9:30am-4pm
Closed Saturday-Sunday