

January 2025 Edition



After years of isolation and alcohol, Anderson has found a new purpose for his life.

## Your Support Helped Anderson Find His Divine Plan

“I always hated parties, celebrations, holidays and things like that,” Anderson says. “I just wanted to isolate myself from people as much as possible.”

Anderson grew up in a home where his parents provided for him financially, but there were never any hugs, affirmation, parenting — or real love.

“It really affected my self-esteem,” he confesses. As a result, he never wanted to get close to anyone or let anyone get too close to him. Maybe that’s why he chose a career as a long-haul trucker. The isolation of the road and the long miles were perfect.

Two years ago, however, Anderson opened his heart enough to get married. Unfortunately, it didn’t last. He fell into a deep depression — and turned to alcohol. His employers encouraged him to come to Los Angeles Mission for help.

### Opening Up to a New Life

“When I first got here, I wasn’t religious or anything,” Anderson confesses. “It was total chaos for me. I didn’t like going to classes, I didn’t like being told what to do and I hated the job assignments. But the people, especially the chaplains, wouldn’t give up on me. They said God had a divine plan for me.”

**Slowly, Anderson opened himself up to Jesus and to his chaplains. He paid attention in classes and Bible studies, and his life began to change.**

“A couple of months ago, I realized my life was completely turned around,” he says. “I began to see the divine plan God has for me. I started going to Bible school, and I’m even preaching here. **Los Angeles Mission is the greatest thing that ever happened to me.**”

*That’s the power your support makes in the lives of people like Anderson!*

## 2025 NEW YEAR CHALLENGES

Families and individuals across Los Angeles are struggling with homelessness, generational poverty, trauma and other crises. Your ongoing generosity is critical to help:



### MEALS

**Serve thousands of nutritious meals per day.**

*During the course of this year, we hope to serve or distribute millions of meals to neighbors facing hunger.*



### 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.*

# 'This Is Such a Healing Place'

## Elizabeth spent years struggling with homelessness and mental illness. You're giving her hope.



"Sometimes people ask, 'How does someone like you end up on the streets?' It's so easy."

At 25, Elizabeth married and started a family. At the same time, however, her life started to unravel.

"After my first child, I had postpartum depression and suffered my first bipolar episode," she explains. Five years later, her husband divorced her, and she lost permanent custody of her kids.

Traumatized, hurt and angry, she moved to California, where she soon ended up homeless. She spent years living on the streets of Los Angeles, smoking meth and trying to cope with her pain and illness. Last year, after getting arrested, she was finally ordered to come to the Anne Douglas Center for Women.

### Much-Needed Help and Support

"Through the grace of God, I'm finally getting the care I need and can deal with everything I've been through. I have a routine now, which helps. I'm going to Bible classes, and I have a supportive community of people who want to help me. **This is such a healing place.**"

Elizabeth is also grateful for the donors. "From the clothes I'm wearing to the food I eat to the support I get — I don't have to worry about anything. Donors have changed so many lives here, including mine. I feel like God rescued me."

**Thank you for helping hurting women like Elizabeth rebuild their lives.**



*"Through the grace of God, I can finally deal with everything." — Elizabeth*

## More Than Just a Home

*What can you do when you've lost everything you call home?*

For individuals rebuilding their lives, Los Angeles Mission is *Home*. Our guests receive everything they need to feel safe and secure — meals, shelter, love, friendship and more — so they can reclaim their lives and get back on their feet.

**Housing**  
 Anne Douglas Center for Women  
 Residential Rehabilitation  
 FreshStart  
 Bridge Housing  
 Emergency Housing

**Health**  
 Mental Health Recovery  
 Dental & Medical Outreach



**Food**  
 Race to Feed  
 Free Meals Daily  
 Food Box Distribution

**Preparation for Life**  
 Legal Clinic  
 LifeStart  
 Career Fair  
 Mommy & Me  
 Workforce Development Center

**Real-life change begins with the comprehensive healing services you help provide. Please help give men, women and children more than just a roof, but a place to call home.**

## Transform Lives in 2025

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!



## 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](http://Give.LosAngelesMission.org). Or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 334 to join by phone.