

News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

APRIL 2025



Now serving:
Hope and Freedom

Change is sweeping Los Angeles and your commitment to helping our neighbors in dire need is more critical than ever.

Turn to page 2 to see how the first step toward hope can lead to lasting change. ►

The First Step Toward Hope.

We are facing a record-breaking influx of individuals and families this year due to the new laws recently enacted that increased pressure to clear all homeless encampments in and around Los Angeles *quickly*.

This sweeping change means we will have opportunities like never before. Are you ready?

Friends like you make it possible for Los Angeles Mission to offer men, women and children who are experiencing homelessness the first step toward hope and lasting change. It may begin with a simple meal, shelter, clean clothes, a shower . . .

Each person who walks through our doors represents an opportunity to share God's love, model Christ-like compassion and bring healing to our community. The Psalmist reminds us that "God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing" (Psalm 68:6a NIV).

With your help, thousands of lives can be impacted with the transformative power of God's love this year.

Thank you for your commitment, your compassion and your incredible generosity! God bless you.



Hope and Freedom from Addiction — Marialice's Journey



Where it Began

Marialice loves her work at the Anne Douglas Center for Women at Los Angeles Mission. She took her first step toward hope over 25 years ago while trapped in cocaine addiction.

"It destroyed me," Marialice recalls. She had partied with alcohol and marijuana in her younger days, but in her early 30s, someone gave her cocaine for the first time. The grip of addiction was swift, and before long, she'd lost her job, her home — everything. "I slept in a cardboard box for 10 years," she adds.

First Steps Toward Hope

Needing help but having no idea where to start, Marialice soon discovered that the building she'd been watching get built held the answer. It was the Anne Douglas Center. She first visited for clothes and a shower, but soon became inspired by others she met whose lives had been changed here. Thinking, "If they can do it, I can do it too," she entered the program, surrendered her life to Jesus, went back to school and got her life back on track.

Desiring to help others in the same way she'd been helped, Marialice began volunteering at the Mission after graduation. Within a few years, she became an employee and was able to secure her own apartment.

Lasting Change, Deep Gratitude

Drug-free and following Jesus for the past 25 years, Marialice says, "If not for the Anne Douglas Center, I'd probably still be out there smoking, on drugs or dead. You come into a place like this and they put up a mirror and say, 'This is how we see you. This is what you're worth. Now you have an opportunity to grow into that.'"

Thank you for your faithful partnership that makes the journey to hope and freedom possible!

Breaking the Chain of Violence

Mateo doesn't have many fond memories of his childhood. His father was a very violent man, especially when he was drunk.

Initially, Mateo's mother received the brunt of his father's abuse. When Mateo couldn't take it any longer, he began to get in trouble in school so that his father's anger would be turned on him. He remembers thinking, "Instead of mom taking the beatings, I could take them for her."

The Crystal Meth Escape

With violence rooted so deeply in Mateo's heart, he began drinking and doing drugs to cope. In his early 20s, he worked day and night at two different jobs until life spiraled out of control once again — and crystal meth became part of the picture. "Alcohol would make me aggressive," Mateo explains, but not wanting to be like his father, he says, "I started using crystal meth to try to relax or escape."

That escape ultimately landed him on the streets, unsheltered, for the next five years. Mateo was arrested a few times for drinking in public, but when he was charged for theft, he was sentenced to one year of court-ordered rehabilitation at Los Angeles Mission.

New Beginnings

Mateo didn't have a relationship with God and didn't know His Word before coming to the Mission. Now he says, "God for me is the one who gave His life for our sins. I am a completely different person. I see things clearly now and didn't use to think this way."

One of the first things Mateo showed interest in was the domestic violence classes offered at the Mission. Knowing the pain of abuse, he desperately wants to break that chain in his life. "No kid should go through that. I don't want to be that dad," he says, with his heart full of hope for the future.

Mateo is extremely grateful for this opportunity, and for caring supporters of the Mission who make second chances possible.



In Time for Easter?

It's not too late to share God's love with neighbors in need . . .

Easter is April 20 this year, and more people than ever are turning to Los Angeles Mission for help.

Requests for healthy meals are especially high because many hardworking parents' wages have not kept pace with bills.

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 impact with your gift!

The meal you share this Easter could be the very thing that starts someone on the path to hope and freedom.

Please help make this a life-changing Easter season.



UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

Volunteer Opportunities

Check out meaningful volunteer opportunities at the Mission. Visit lamission.volunteerhub.com or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 337 to see how you can make an impact for neighbors in great need.



More Bang for Your Buck!

4 Gifts That Have Big Impact AND Reduce Your Taxes

Giving from your wallet is a great and familiar way to support Los Angeles Mission — but there may be more cost-effective ways for you to give as well.

If you have **appreciated stock** that you've owned for at least a year, you can receive a double tax benefit by donating this stock to the Mission. Not only will you receive a tax deduction for the fair market value of the stock, but you'll also avoid paying capital gains tax.

Do you have **real estate** that has increased in value that you no longer need? Consider giving all or a portion of the property as a gift, prior to a sale. By doing so, you can bypass the capital gain and receive a charitable deduction.

If you are 70 ½ or older, you can make tax-free **distributions from your IRA** (individual retirement account), up to a maximum of \$100,000 per year. These gifts count toward your annual required minimum distribution, and none of the IRA distribution will be included in your adjusted gross income.

Farmers can experience significant tax savings by gifting **machinery and commodities** — such as grains, soybeans, fruit and even livestock — before they are sold. You'll reduce your taxable income, and you may be able to deduct the production costs for commodities, such as fertilizer or irrigation.

To learn more, contact Breanda Valenzuela by email at Bvalenzuela@lamission.net or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 414.

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. 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.

Stay Connected

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