

News from Los Angeles Mission

# CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

July 2025



## From Rock Bottom to Management Material

For Dimson, your support provided a meal that led to a complete transformation!

# JUST ONE STEP



Dear Caring Friend,

Just one step makes such a difference. We frequently talk to folks who are just one step away from losing everything and becoming homeless. 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. There are a host of reasons.

**The good news is**, thanks to the generosity of friends like you, Los Angeles Mission is here to offer 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.

For many, like Dimson and Jessica, lasting change started with just one step inside our doors for a meal, a shower, a place to get a good night's sleep.

**Your compassion provides struggling men, women and families with those vital necessities and much more.** You make sure all who come to the Mission are surrounded by loving friends and a loving God.

**Thank you for sharing your compassion with those most in need.**

Dennis Oleesky  
Interim CEO

## Thanks to You, Dimson Is No Longer Walking in Shame.

*Dimson is grateful for friends like you who made his transformation possible!*



Dimson grew up in the Philippines. His father was often away, working overseas. By the time his family moved to America, rebellion was already at work in Dimson's life. He enlisted in the Navy and served five years, but life spiraled afterward and before long, he was arrested for drug possession. After his release, Dimson spent the next seven years unhoused. Ashamed and not wanting his family to see how he was living, he made his way to Skid Row.

Robbed at gunpoint the first night, Dimson was left with nothing to his name except the clothes on his back and a gnawing hunger in his belly. **"I needed to eat. That's when I walked into Los Angeles Mission for the first time,"** he shares.

### Recovery Began With a Meal

Soon, Dimson learned about the programs available to him at the Mission. However, it wasn't until that rock bottom moment that he took the next step. He explains, "I have three children. One day I was watching a family on the streets and started thinking of my kids and how far gone I was. That was my turning point."

Dimson recalls how he entered our program in 2012 so full of shame. But, he says, "I saw that Jesus' disciples sometimes didn't want to get close to people who were diseased. But Jesus would hold them, talk to them and eat with them. **Jesus looked at them with no shame, and I realized . . . that's my God!**"

### What a Renewed Life Looks Like

In the years since Dimson graduated, he's met his goals to pay back child support and became involved in each of his children's lives. One of his daughters is now born again and two are living with him in L.A.

**Dimson is extremely proud of the job he started** at a local Jiffy Lube after graduation. He is still amazed that he went from not being able to manage his own life to managing an auto shop! Today, he is the lead mechanic and trains other new personnel — including two other graduates from the Mission.

***Your ongoing support gives life-changing chances to all those who turn to Los Angeles Mission. Thank you!***



## When Jessica needed one more chance, she found it here, thanks to you!

Trauma from Jessica's past kept her locked in a desperate cycle of destruction. Her life went from teenage rebellion . . . to becoming pregnant at 17 . . . to surviving attacks from her verbally, physically and emotionally abusive boyfriend who was seven years her senior.

She tried to escape by turning to drugs and alcohol, but things only went from very bad to worse, and she was eventually arrested.

When Jessica had her day in court, the judge said, "I see such good in you," and gave her the option of serving eight years in prison or coming to the Anne Douglas Center for Women at Los Angeles Mission.

Now Jessica says, **"The Christian program here is different than others. This allows you to get into the Bible . . . to learn about Jesus . . . and that there is a purpose for your life."**

Thanks to friends like you, Jessica has had the opportunity to deal with past trauma and find healing and hope here. "One of my favorite classes is relapse prevention," she shares. "They get to the core of your triggers and teach you prevention skills."

Of her life before, Jessica says, "I was completely broken, just at the end of everything. Today, I see someone with strength and ambition." She now hopes to regain custody of her 9-year-old son and start what she calls "a normal life."

***Jessica is deeply grateful for the support of friends like you who have given her this chance. Please continue giving generously to provide crucial meals, shelter and healing to more neighbors in need.***



***Your support gives people like Jessica the opportunity to heal and thrive. THANK YOU!***

## SUMMER SHOULD BE FUN, NOT SCARY

Helping L.A. Families With Children



School is out! For most boys and girls, that's cause for celebration. But close to 70% of the families with kids in L.A. County depend on school breakfasts or lunches throughout the school year.

For children whose working parents are struggling to provide and for families experiencing homelessness, summer break means no more meals at school. Wondering where your next meal will come from can be pretty scary.

Los Angeles Mission is working to provide meals for families facing hunger, and we could really use your help.

**Your compassionate support will help them enjoy a summer filled with fun memories instead of a scary summer of hunger.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

### Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering with Los Angeles Mission is a wonderful way to share God's love. Find meaning and purpose by serving your neighbors in need. Visit [lamission.volunteerhub.com](http://lamission.volunteerhub.com) or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 412 to learn more about volunteer opportunities.



## Now and Later: *Tax-Wise Giving from Your IRA*

Many Los Angeles Mission supporters increase their generosity's impact and tax efficiency by giving now or later from their individual retirement accounts.



1. **Give now.** If you are over 70 ½, you have an exclusive giving option that's far more tax-efficient than giving from your checkbook or wallet. You can give up to just over \$100,000 (indexed annually for inflation) in qualified charitable distributions. This will satisfy your required minimum distributions and lower your taxable income.
2. **Give later.** Extend the impact of your giving well beyond your lifetime! When you leave your IRA to your loved ones, you create a taxable event for them since it will be treated as income. However, when you name Los Angeles Mission as a beneficiary, the entirety of your gift goes to the ministry — tax-free!

**Whether you give now or later, or both now and later,** giving from your IRA is a smart way to eliminate taxes and further this ministry that means so much to you.

### To learn more, contact:

*Cliff Marshall, Interim Chief Development Officer,  
at (213) 629-1227, Ext. 326, or [CMarshall@lamission.net](mailto:CMarshall@lamission.net).*

## Change Lives All Year!



Every month, thousands of men, women and families turn to Los Angeles Mission for nutritious meals, shelter and other life-changing resources. You can help meet their needs by becoming a **Meals-A-Month partner**. By committing to a monthly gift, you will provide a steady stream of support that helps transforms lives every day, all year long.

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

## NO SUMMER HUNGER!

You can help neighbors who have nowhere else to turn. Please send back the enclosed reply form with your gift today. Your compassionate support will provide the meals, care and resources vulnerable, unhoused neighbors need to get back on their feet. Thank you!



### 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