

News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

OCTOBER 2025

No One in Los Angeles Should Go Hungry This Thanksgiving Season

Your support will provide meals that can lead neighbors in need to real, permanent change.



INSIDE:
A Thanksgiving
Prayer . . . (see page 2)



My Thanksgiving Prayer

Dear Caring Friend,

Homelessness . . . hunger . . . addiction. They're not what you'd typically associate with the Thanksgiving season. Tragically, these are the realities facing far too many of our neighbors across Los Angeles. But I know in my heart that if we come together in one spirit, God will work wonders to restore lives in the months ahead.

I've seen it time and again. Someone hanging on to their last shred of hope walks through our door in search of a meal. We welcome them in, offer them a seat at our table and set a meal before them. You can see the gratitude in their eyes, sometimes mixed with tears. They're so grateful — and suddenly maybe even hopeful.

They start sharing their story and we listen. Then we share ours. We tell them they are loved and that God can make a new path for them. And we tell them about people like you who care and give from the heart so they might gain a second chance. For many, this is the start of a brand-new life.

This Thanksgiving season, thousands of hurting souls will come to Los Angeles Mission for a meal. My prayer is for that meal to lead many to our life-changing comprehensive services, and to a promising future filled with hope.

Thank you for helping to make it all possible. It is truly a privilege to serve alongside you!

Dennis Oleesky
Interim CEO

Change Is in the Air!

The meals you help provide this Thanksgiving season will spark transformation in the lives of men, women and children.

Change is on full display inside the walls of Los Angeles Mission. People who were once bound by homelessness, addiction and other trauma are discovering real hope and experiencing transformation in Christ.

Many others will be turning to us this Thanksgiving season, including families who are struggling with the persistently high costs of food, rent and gas. Will you help them by making a generous gift today?

A Thanksgiving meal at the Mission is a powerful tool that shows love and compassion at a time when many are overcome with sorrow and hopelessness. **These are meals that can inspire healing and renewal.** But we need your help to prepare for everyone who will come to us for assistance this year.

Please open your heart and send a compassionate gift today to provide hope-filled Thanksgiving meals to men, women and children in critical need of lasting change.



Every \$2.53 provides a meal that can inspire new hope.



A meal served at the Mission can be a first step toward lasting change.



Thank you for blessing our guests with meals and so much more!

**There's no better way to spend
\$2.53 this Thanksgiving!**

Raven Will Begin a New Life This Holiday Season, Thanks to You!



Because you care, Raven will graduate from our recovery program in November!

Not long ago, Raven was living a life she loved. She had a job helping people with special needs find employment and gain independence, and she found the work immensely rewarding. Then COVID came along, things shut down and her job went away.

Discouraged, Raven started drinking as a way to pass the time. But little by little, alcohol got a grip on her life. **The breaking point was when her sister suddenly passed away.** Raven was overcome with grief, and in an attempt to escape the sadness and just get through each day, she gave in to alcohol.

“I would drink to feel normal and be able to do my day-to-day things, including caring for my sister’s kids,” she says. “That went on for about nine months, with me drinking every day.”

Just when Raven thought things couldn’t get any worse, she was involved in a fender bender and was found to be driving under the influence. Because she had three of her nieces in the car with her, Raven’s DUI charge included child endangerment. She was facing 11 years behind bars.

In lieu of prison time, the court allowed Raven to enter our Anne Douglas Center for Women, where we welcomed her with love and without judgement. She’s deeply grateful for the opportunity:

“I’m getting back in touch with God. We have different classes here that are refreshing what I’ve already known about the Bible and just getting me deeper into my study.”

As Raven works through her recovery, she’s learning new skills to help her cope with grief, as well as tools to distract her from the urges and cravings of addiction. And she’s eternally thankful for friends like you who have given her this fresh start. **“That’s Christian ... that’s what grace is,”** she says.

‘I’m in God’s Hands Now.’

Jesús knows what hard work is all about. In his early teens, he dropped out of middle school to help his family by selling bread and working fields in Mexico. Noble as that was, he quickly discovered the 14-hour shifts — from 3:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. — were too much for his young body to handle. In a desperate but misguided effort to keep up with the work, he used meth to get the energy he needed to make it through the long days.

Over time, **Jesús’s need for meth grew and grew.** It seized control of his life and turned him into a person he couldn’t have imagined. Ultimately, he spent two years in prison. Upon his release, he was deported back to the U.S., where he was born. Jesús hoped for a fresh start in Bakersfield and resumed his work ethic, toiling away on fruit farms and sending money to support his mother, who is losing her sight. But it wasn’t long before the cravings for meth came back to haunt him.

Through a series of unfortunate events, Jesús lost everything he owned. Depressed and feeling lost, he made his way to the Los Angeles area, where he spent five years on the streets struggling with homelessness and addiction. But things began to look up for him the day **he walked into Los Angeles Mission in search of a meal and hope.**

“I had tried another program before, but I ended up relapsing after two days,” Jesús says. “I really believe God brought me here because this is a place where they prepare you to go back into mainstream society and be drug-free, and I’m building a strong relationship with God. I’m really learning the Word and I’m in God’s hands now.”

During this season of thanks, Jesús would like you to know how grateful he is for the hope you’ve given him: **“This place is a blessing, thanks to you!”**



Thanks to you, Jesús is learning how to put everything in God’s hands.

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 or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 412 to learn more about volunteer opportunities.



The Simplest Way to Make a Difference!



With demand for food and other resources way up, thousands of men, women and children are turning to Los Angeles Mission for meals, shelter and hope. To help meet that need, please consider becoming a Meals-A-Month partner. This dedicated group of monthly donors provides steady support that helps us budget and plan more efficiently, stretching every dollar further.

To join, visit us at Give.LosAngelesMission.org or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 334.

Make an Impact Beyond Your Lifetime

3 Simple Ways to Give Through Your Will

When you include gifts to Los Angeles Mission in your Will, you model a legacy of hope and generosity. You also ensure your God-given blessings continue to make an impact on hurting souls well beyond your lifetime.

Here are three simple, impactful ways you can give through your Will:

Direct Gifts: Designate a specific amount or percentage of your estate directly in your Will. We can provide you with the legal language to share with your attorney.

Beneficiary Designations: Name Los Angeles Mission as a charitable beneficiary of your retirement accounts, life insurance or other assets. This approach often reduces the tax burden on your estate, thereby protecting your loved ones and allowing more of your resources to be used for God's purpose.

Give through Barnabas Foundation: Our trusted ministry partners at Barnabas Foundation can help you streamline the process of giving to one or more ministries through your Will. They will manage your gifts with wisdom and care, ensuring they are efficiently distributed to your chosen ministries at the proper time.

Regardless of the method you choose, your gift will leave a lasting impact, extending your influence beyond your lifetime. To learn more? Call Cliff Marshall at (213) 629-1227, Ext. 326, or email CMarshall@lamission.net.

ACTION ALERT! Urgent Help Needed!

Times are tough for people in Los Angeles. Neighbors who have never struggled before are now facing the prospect of experiencing homelessness for the first time. We urgently need your help today to provide meals and care to the growing number of people who are fighting to survive. Please send your generous Thanksgiving gift today. Or, to give now, scan the QR code with your smartphone and follow the link!

Scan to
give today!



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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