

News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

DECEMBER 2025



Share the *Hope* of Christmas

INSIDE: Bless people like Richanne with meals and the chance for a new life filled with promise . . .

**MATCHING
CHALLENGE
DOUBLES YOUR
HOLIDAY GIFT!**

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Together, Let's Share the Hope of Christmas!



Dear Caring Friend,

During this special time of the year, as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child and the new life God promises in Him, I am reminded what a privilege it is to share this good news with local men and women who have all but given up hope.

In the face of severe poverty and homelessness, the wonder of the season can be lost on these vulnerable neighbors. But together, we can reach them with gifts of meals, shelter and the hope of Christmas.

That's why I'm so grateful for compassionate friends like you — and excited about the impact you can make through a generous \$375,000 Matching Challenge from a special friend of Los Angeles Mission.

Now, your year-end support before December 31 will double in value and go 2X as far to help ensure that every neighbor who is struggling receives the help they need.

I can't think of a more meaningful way to celebrate the season. Thank you for your continued support and for all you do to help our least fortunate neighbors persevere through these challenging times!

Dennis Oleesky
Interim CEO

'Thank You for Believing in Me!'

Richanne is a different person than she was last holiday season, and she attributes the turnaround in her life to God ... and compassionate friends like you.

At a young age, because her mother was struggling with addiction, Richanne went to live with her great grandmother, whom she loved dearly. It was during those early years that she discovered how cruel our world can be.

"Growing up was difficult because I had weight issues," Richanne says. **"People made fun of me because I was big, and it really affected my self-esteem. I've had self-esteem issues ever since."**

Richanne's insecurities only increased in high school. That's when she turned to cocaine. "I thought doing drugs would make me look better, and it made me skinnier and made me feel better about myself," she says.

In her early 20s, **Richanne's addiction graduated to crystal meth**, which amplified her resentment of the life choices she'd made. It also made her emotionally and physically angry. At her lowest point, she was arrested for a domestic violence incident and sent to jail for three months.

When time came for Richanne's release, the court referred her to the Anne Douglas Center for Women at Los Angeles Mission, where she was welcomed without judgement. With your support, she received nourishing meals, safe shelter and comprehensive recovery services. But she'd tell you that what has impacted her the most are the Bible classes.

"I needed the program to mold me in a spiritual way and to help me understand why I was angry and making bad choices," Richanne says. "Since I've been here, my spirit has been lifted, and I feel in tune with God. I know now that He will never fail me."

Richanne knows you haven't failed her either. **"Thank you for donating to the Mission and for believing in me when nobody else would,"** she says.



You're Helping Luis Become the Man God Created Him to Be

The Christmas season can be an especially lonely time for people who've experienced abandonment and broken family relationships. Sadly, until recently, Luis lived with such emptiness pretty much every day of his life.

As a young boy, Luis endured unfathomable abuse from the one who was supposed to love and protect him the most: his mother. "I used to be tortured by my mom," he says. "She would tie me up in the closet for three or four days at a time, and **I would beg God to kill me.**"

Luis was sent to a foster home for a short time, but when he returned to his mother, not much had changed. Eventually, at the age of 11, she kicked him out of the house for good. While Luis was able to stay with a friend, he spent most of his time on the streets feeling abandoned, unloved and alone.

It didn't take long for Luis to be introduced to meth, which he used to escape the pain he felt inside. And over time, his occasional use turned into a years-long addiction. But, thanks to faithful friends like you, Los Angeles



Mission was here to help Luis pick up the pieces of his shattered life — and to let him know about the God who loves him dearly.

"I feel God brought me here for a reason," Luis says, reflecting on his graduation from our recovery program. **"I have never been helped before, and this program has helped me realize what I can be as a human being. You've given me a new chance to be the man God created me to be."**

Thank you for sharing the life-changing hope of Christmas with people like Luis!

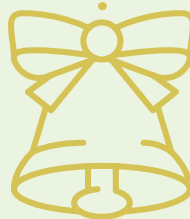
Matching Challenge Doubles Your Impact!

Right now, men and women who struggled with hunger and homelessness this past year are hoping and praying things will be different in 2026. You could be an answer to their prayers.

When you give before December 31, your support doubles in impact, up to \$375,000, thanks to a Matching Challenge from an anonymous friend of Los Angeles Mission.

That means your gift goes twice as far to reach neighbors in need with hot meals, safe shelter, life-changing services and hope.

Please don't delay. Send your generous gift today. Thank you!



UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

Christmas Event – 12/20/25

Help serve the “least of these”
(Matthew 25:40).

Visit lamission.volunteerhub.com
or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 412 to
learn about volunteer opportunities.



Deduct 100% of your charitable giving if you itemize

Don't forget to make your
tax-deductible gift by
December 31, 2025!

Make 2X the Difference for Neighbors in Need!

Please return the enclosed reply form with your year-end tax-deductible gift today. Your generous donation will DOUBLE in impact through the Matching Challenge, providing 2X the meals, care and life-changing services for neighbors facing hunger and homelessness. Gifts must be postmarked before December 31. Please be as generous as possible. Thank you!



Los Angeles Mission
303 E. 5th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013
(213) 629-1227 Ext. 400

Help Change Lives Throughout the New Year!



further to transform lives.

To sign up online, visit us at Give.LosAngelesMission.org. Or call
(213) 629-1227, Ext. 334, to join by phone.

Scripture says we'll always have need in our midst. That's why our Meals-A-Month program is so important — and why we hope you'll consider joining today. As a Meals-A-Month partner, your recurring gifts will help create a reliable stream of support in the new year, allowing us to plan more efficiently and making every dollar go even

Stock: The Perfect Year-End Gift

3 Benefits of Giving Stock

If you're contemplating a year-end gift, consider giving appreciated stock. Not only will you further the life-changing work of Los Angeles Mission, but you will also benefit from tremendous tax-wise savings!

When you donate stock or other securities that you've owned for at least a year, you . . .

1. Give substantially without restricting your cash flow,
2. Receive a fair market value tax deduction at the time of your gift and
3. Avoid taxes you would have owed on the sale.

Giving stock is the perfect, cost-effective way to close out a year of generosity.

To learn more about giving stock or other powerful ways to support the Mission and change lives, call Cliff Marshall at (213) 629-1227, Ext. 326, or email CMarshall@lamission.net.



Scan with your phone
to give now!

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