

March 2026

**Thanks to you,  
Mark is singing  
a new song.**



## ‘I am a child of God.’

Mark just wanted to make music. Songwriting was his passion and a daily escape from the life he’d been dealt. “I grew up in low-income houses where it’s rough,” he says. “My mom and father, everybody I surrounded myself with as family, was on drugs.”

At the age of 13, with no family support to speak of, Mark followed suit and began experimenting with drugs. To make matters worse, he was struggling greatly in school due to a learning disability, which caused his self-esteem to plummet. This pulled him into even harder drugs and, ultimately, a battle with addiction.

Before long, Mark was homeless and just trying to survive. “I was sleeping in a tent on Skid Row on crystal meth. Slept out there with the rats,” he recalls. Thankfully, he heard about Los Angeles Mission. And ever since he walked through our doors, God has been working a miracle in his life.

“I am so happy that I came into the Mission,” he says. “I got closer to God, and I’m no longer angry. I no longer want drugs in my system. For the first time

in my life, I am surrounded by people who see me for who I really am — a child of God.”

Today, as Mark continues on in our life-changing program, he spends his spare time making gospel music to lift up others.

Thank you for the sacrifice you make to give people like Mark a fresh start!



You helped Mark find his way off of Skid Row.

## A Season of Hope



My prayer today is that your heart will be touched by the stories of Mark and Justin, featured in this newsletter. May their testimonies serve as poignant reminders of the impact you are making on the lives of vulnerable neighbors across Los Angeles — men, women and children who are facing crushing poverty, homelessness and other traumas.

The need of these individuals and families is truly heartbreaking. But thanks to friends like you who so generously support Los Angeles Mission, many are receiving meals, shelter, clothing, spiritual guidance and other vital care. Some are entering our long-term, comprehensive recovery programs and are being restored mind, body and soul.

That's why your support during this season of hope is so special. God is working through friends like you and me to transform lives and lead them to real, permanent change.

Thank you for your compassion, your generosity and for the important part you play in the ministry of Los Angeles Mission!

Dennis Oleesky  
Interim CEO

## 'The Mission was key to my sobriety, too.'



## Justin Wanted to Roll Up His Sleeves and Help

Justin works in the entertainment industry, lives in Little Tokyo and is a true neighbor of Los Angeles Mission. Residing in such close proximity, he became acutely aware of our impact on people in crisis.

“Being in the neighborhood, I got to see some of the work the Mission was doing — like blocking off Fifth Street for their Thanksgiving and Christmas events, or their Easter dinner,” Justin says. **“The people who work here put themselves on the front lines and everyone is so dedicated to service.”**

Two years ago, Justin decided that watching was not enough. He wanted to roll up his sleeves and join in the action. So he began volunteering in our warehouse, in the kitchen and on prayer walks — where we reach out with food, water, hygiene kits and prayers to people on the streets.

“I started volunteering because I was actually at a point where I wanted to make changes in my life,” Justin says. “I was working on quitting drinking and on prioritizing things that were just more edifying to the life I wanted to live.”

**Justin credits the Mission for being key to his sobriety**, and he's deeply grateful for the hands-on opportunities to make a difference for others.

“Showing up every week to volunteer is a reminder of what I've worked to leave behind, and it's also brought me closer to the community. I don't know very many organizations that allow you to impact in a positive way the lives of people at every end of the demographic.”



## How Many Lives Will You Touch?

Every \$2.53 you give provides a meal and life-changing care. Please give generously and offer encouragement to your neighbors who are struggling to rebuild their broken lives. Thank you!

**Your Gift Will Provide Meals, Care and Hope!**  
Yes, I want to provide my neighbors facing homelessness with hearty meals, compassionate care and the hope of new life. Enclosed is my gift of:  
 \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as much as possible!

Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Smith  
123 Main Street  
Anytown, USA 12345-6789

PO Box 54059 | Los Angeles, CA 90054-0059  
Give online at [LosAngelesMission.org/Crossroads](https://LosAngelesMission.org/Crossroads)

Please make your check payable to **Los Angeles Mission** and return it with this slip in the envelope provided. To change your gift by credit card, please fill out the information on reverse side, or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 400. A receipt for your tax-deductible gift will be sent to you shortly.

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