

News from Los Angeles Mission

# CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

APRIL 2026



## *You Are Their* **Number One Hope**

Help women in crisis at the Anne Douglas Center for Women at Los Angeles Mission.

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## You Model Christ-Like Compassion



When you partner with Los Angeles Mission to care for our most vulnerable neighbors, you aren't just impacting individuals. You are touching entire families and bringing healing to our community as a whole.

This trickle effect may start with a meal, clean clothes and shelter, but that's truly just the beginning. Through our proven programs, people like Joe are able to work through past traumas, draw closer to God and reconcile with family.

I encourage you to read your newsletter. Then I hope you will make a generous gift today to bless others who are facing homelessness, addiction and other crises.

Each person who walks through our doors represents an opportunity to share God's love, model Christ-like compassion and offer a fresh start that leads to a hope-filled life.

Thank you for your commitment, your compassion and your incredible generosity on behalf of our neighbors most in need.

Dennis Oleesky  
Interim CEO

## You Inspired Shelley With Hope



### A Rough Start

Shelley has a special place in her heart for the women in the Anne Douglas Center for Women at Los Angeles Mission. She's been in their shoes.

At the age of 13, Shelley, who lived with her godparents, ran away from home to escape increasing incidents of physical abuse. In the years that followed, she spent most of her time on the streets, struggling with homelessness and addiction.

### A Spark of Hope

Not knowing where else to turn, Shelley got on her knees and prayed, asking God for help and an opportunity for healing.

Soon after, she found a job and was able to get her own apartment in East L.A. She could feel God at work in her life, and she wanted to give back somehow. That's when she began volunteering at Los Angeles Mission's Emergency Guest Services. "I came here to volunteer and they liked my work ethic," Shelley says. "So they hired me. That was four years ago."

### Grateful and Driven

Shelley's gratitude for the turnaround in her own life drives her passion for helping women who come to the Mission in their times of crisis. "I've seen lives transformed drastically. Women come into the program off the streets, so skinny, so hopeless and scared — and they turn their lives around. Elizabeth is one of them. She went through our program, found Jesus and got a job through the Anne Douglas Center."

Shelley considers generous friends like you to be the "number one hope for those who are experiencing homelessness." **Thank you for your faithful partnership!**



# God Was Still There

Joe loved his dad fiercely, and he knew his dad loved him too. But his father traveled regularly for work, and as Joe grew older, feelings of abandonment took over and he became resentful of his dad's absence. That's when he started hanging out with the wrong crowd, stealing and reselling items for cash.

Soon after, Joe and some buddies formed a gang and things began to spiral out of control. "I started meeting some older people who introduced me to drugs," Joe says. "I went from selling small stuff to selling heroin and cocaine. And I started snorting it, not knowing it was addictive."

## Feeling Lost

Eventually, due to the three-strike laws in California, Joe served 20 years in prison. During that time, he was introduced to Christianity. "I started praying, and then God started answering my prayers and revealing Himself to me."

Despite his newfound faith, upon his release, Joe felt lost. The city had changed so much. So, he returned to the familiar: hustling on the streets and drugs. But in his heart, Joe knew God was still there. He began praying for direction, and he felt the Lord directing him to Los Angeles Mission.

## Inspired to Help Others

Since that day, Joe has rededicated his life to God and has graduated from our life-changing recovery program. "The Mission put clothes on my back, gave me a warm bed to sleep in and helped me to have discipline," Joe says. "They've helped me to open my eyes, to understand how to work at a job, how to communicate with people and just be a better person."

As for friends like you who support the Mission, Joe is forever thankful. **"You helped me understand that I have a part to live in this life and have inspired me to go out and help somebody else."**



## Holiday 2025 Report

A final tally of the joy and hope you helped make possible . . .

### THANKSGIVING

#### Served over:

3,000 pounds of turkey  
700 pounds of mashed potatoes  
800 pounds of green beans  
600 pies to our neighbors experiencing homelessness

#### Gave away:

650 Bibles  
Over 1,400 blankets

### CHRISTMAS

#### Served over:

1,685 meals to men, women and children at our annual Christmas dinner

#### Provided:

Over 350 pairs of shoes  
Over 500 toys  
Health care  
Much-needed hope

**Thank you for the difference you make!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS/ SAVE THE DATES

### Volunteer Opportunities

Lend a helping hand to bless your neighbors in need. Visit [lamission.volunteerhub.com](http://lamission.volunteerhub.com) or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 412 for information about current volunteer opportunities.



## 4 Tax-Saving Ways to Maximize Your Giving and Help Transform Lives!

Consider these savvy methods for stretching your charitable dollars in support of Los Angeles Mission:

- 1. Give Appreciated Stock** — If you've owned stock for at least a year, you can receive a double tax benefit by donating it 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.
- 2. Give Real Estate** — If you have real estate that's increased in value and you no longer need it, consider gifting all or a portion of it prior to selling. This allows you to bypass the capital gains and receive a charitable deduction.
- 3. Give From an IRA** — Are you 70 ½ or older? If so, 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 distributions will be included in your adjusted gross income.
- 4. Make a Life Income Gift** — Give cash or other property, then receive steady income for the rest of your life. The remainder of the gift will go to Los Angeles Mission.

To learn more, contact Cliff Marshall at (213) 629-1227, Ext. 326, or [CMarshall@lamission.net](mailto:CMarshall@lamission.net) today.

## Keep the Meals Flowing. Become a Meals-A-Month Partner!



As more and more 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](http://Give.LosAngelesMission.org). Or call (213) 629-1227 Ext. 334 to join by phone.



## ACTION ALERT! Take Action Today!

With persistently high prices for rent, food, fuel and other basic needs, many individuals and families are struggling to make it from one day to the next. People who have never needed help before are ending up on the streets and turning to Los Angeles Mission. Your support today will reach them with meals and care in their time of desperate need. Thank you for caring and sharing!



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### 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**  
351 S. Anderson St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90033  
Hours of Operation Monday-Friday: 9am - 4pm  
Saturday and Sunday: Closed