

News from Los Angeles Mission

CROSSROADS

Encouraging hearts . . . celebrating recovery

July 2026



**'No One
Loved Me.'**

**You helped Brent overcome a
childhood of abandonment.**

HOPE AT THE HEART OF L.A.



Dear Caring Friend,

All across our community, individuals and families are struggling greatly. For some, it's financial strain. Others are battling physical addictions. And many are feeling lost, alone and disconnected from God. But thanks to you, they can find real help and hope at Los Angeles Mission — the heart of L.A.

Partners like you have made the Mission a place that goes well beyond providing meals and shelter. It's a safe haven where hurting Angelenos can begin a journey toward healing and restoration.

Through your continued support, our goal is for vulnerable neighbors to find freedom from addictions and homelessness ... to be physically and spiritually transformed by God ... and to become equipped to participate in the workforce and live as productive members of our community.

Despite the incredible suffering in our city, our heartbeat is strong, thanks to you. I can't wait to see how God works in the days and weeks ahead to draw more struggling souls to Him — to hope, healing and lasting change.

Thank you for your amazing support!

Dennis Oleesky, CEO

You Let Brent Know He Is Loved.

*"From the bottom of my heart,
I couldn't be more grateful."*



There was nothing fair about the way Brent grew up. At the age of 3, he was taken away from his mother and father because of their drug use. Over the next handful of years, he was bounced around between relatives and foster care until the age of 15, when he was arrested. "I went to juvie and then they sent me to these group homes," Brent says.

In his late teens, Brent graduated from high school and reconnected with some of his family members. But he was never able to shake deep feelings of abandonment or the notion that no one loved him, which he carried into adulthood.

Feelings of Abandonment

"It broke me," Brent says. "I had no sense of self-identity. I did not know who I was, didn't know what I wanted to be, who I wanted to be. It made me insecure about myself. I also had a hard time making friends because I was bouncing around so much. I felt like I didn't fit in anywhere."

Desperate for some semblance of community, Brent started hanging around the "wrong people." By his early 20s, he was homeless and overwhelmed by addiction, which eventually brought him to our door.

Called to Pray

With the support of friends like you, we welcomed Brent into our life-changing recovery program, and he's never looked back. "Spiritually, I've grown to the point where I'm praying like 10 times a day," he says. "I read my Bible every day, and these things have helped me cope with my anger and addiction issues."

Brent has made such tremendous progress that he is now a chaplain's assistant here at the Mission and is a blessing to many. "I enjoy praying over people in the community. I feel like that's part of my calling."

Your impact on Brent's life is undeniable, and he has a note of thanks for you: "God used you as His hands and His feet. And from the bottom of my heart, I couldn't be more grateful."



'The best thing that has ever happened to me.'

Like most girls growing up, Jakura longed for a close, loving relationship with her dad. But as she got older, she realized this would never happen. Instead, she experienced deep pain that shaped how she saw herself and others.

"He abused me physically and mentally, and that really messed me up," Jakura says, recalling how she would dive into other relationships searching for the love her father didn't give. Feeling empty, she turned to drugs as an escape, and that turned into a five-year addiction that left her emotionally and spiritually broken.

When a friend convinced Jakura to seek help at the Anne Douglas Center for Women at Los Angeles Mission, fear nearly held her back.

"I felt like I wasn't strong enough to go through this program, and I just wanted to leave," Jakura says. "But then I started talking with the chaplain and taking a tour of the place. By the end of the tour, I told her, **'This might be the best thing that has ever happened to me.'**"

Thankfully, Jakura chose to stay, and life for her quickly began to change. In addition to receiving food, shelter and clothing, she was surrounded by compassionate care and could feel real healing taking hold. Today, Jakura is renewed, changed by God from the inside out.

"He gives me the love I never received from my dad, and I'm so grateful for Him and all the people who changed my life."

Because of your compassion, lives like Jakura's are being restored every day.



Your generosity gave Jakura the chance to experience God's love. THANK YOU!

Help Keep L.A.'s Children Fed

No School Means No School Meals



Nearly 70% of the families with children in L.A. County depend on school breakfasts or lunches during the school year.

So now, with school out for summer, you can imagine the worry and stress these parents are experiencing as they wonder how they'll keep their children from going hungry.

That's where you come in.

Through your support, Los Angeles Mission is working to ensure families facing hunger receive the food they need to get through the long summer months and beyond.

Just one more way you are strengthening individual families and our community as a whole!

VOLUNTEERING IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL

Discover new purpose by serving your neighbors in need. Join our community of Los Angeles Mission volunteers today!

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



4 Reasons to Give from Your IRA

More and more supporters are giving to Los Angeles Mission directly from their individual retirement accounts through what's known as a qualified charitable distribution. For those ages 70 ½ and older who qualify, there are four key reasons these gifts are so appealing:



1. You can give directly from your IRA to the Mission. It's a simple way to meet all or part of your required minimum distributions and provide meaningful support!
2. Qualified charitable distributions reduce your taxable income. This is advantageous even if you don't itemize deductions on your tax return.
3. Gifts from your IRA can be used to fulfill any charitable giving pledges you have made.
4. Any IRA distributions you make to charity will not be taxed. The entirety of your gift will go toward ministry!

To learn more, contact Cliff Marshall, Chief Development Officer, at (213) 629-1227, Ext. 326, or cmarshall@lamission.net

We Need You to Change Lives All Year Round!



Thousands of men, women and families turn to Los Angeles Mission every month for nutritious meals, shelter and other life-changing resources. Will you help meet their urgent needs by becoming a **Meals-A-Month** partner? When you commit to a monthly gift, you'll help provide a reliable stream of support that helps transform lives every day of the year.

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

SUMMER ACTION ALERT!

Summer is our most challenging time of the year as donations decline despite rising needs. Please return the enclosed reply with a gift today. Or scan the QR code with your smartphone to give now. You'll bless unhoused neighbors with life-changing help and hope. Thank you!



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LosAngelesMission.org



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351 S. Anderson Street
Los Angeles, CA 90033

My Mission. Your Mission. Hours of operation are Monday-Friday: 9:30am-3:30pm. Closed on Saturday and Sunday.