



The Midnight Mission

Making a Difference Since 1914

601 South San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, California 90014 213.624.9258 www.midnightmission.org

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Budget Cuts Threaten Sorely Needed HALO Clinic on Skid Row

TO: All News Assignment Editors, Business and Community and Lifestyle Reporters

WHAT: Budget cuts threaten sorely needed HALO Citation Clinic. HALO, which stands for Homeless Alternatives to Living On the Streets is composed of three components with the Citation Clinic being the latest. Created by The Los Angeles City Attorney's office, the idea is simple. Many homeless people receive citations for low level offenses, but are unable to pay fines. The fines accumulate and turn into warrants, which create legal encumbrances breaking their individual cycle of poverty and homelessness. The progressive program aims to match non-violent offenders to appropriate community resources, where they participate in fours of community services, counseling and drug treatment or other helpful services. The commitment is four hours of participation per citation, which will lead to dismissal of the charge. This fourth and perhaps final clinic will return to the Midnight Mission, where past clinics have connected with over 1,000 people. "We are excited to host this community effort, and believe that restorative justice programs like these provide intelligent alternative to incarceration in our already overcrowded jails and can truly help people take steps to break the cycle of homeless and abuse," Orlando Ward, Director of Program Services.

VISUALS: With the worst economic cycle this city is facing effect programs like HALO are on the chopping block. This is an opportunity to put the faces and stories attached to budget cuts. Learn first-hand how people are fairing and what the community is doing to help them.

With a backdrop of homeless and near-homeless people in Skid Row area, Officials from the City Attorney's Office, the Public Defender, Social Service Providers and Community Legal Resources will assist people with understanding their citations and how to get them dismissed. We expect over 150 homeless men and women to attend.

WHEN: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: THE MIDNIGHT MISSION, 601 S. San Pedro Street, Los Angeles (corner of Sixth and San Pedro Street)

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