



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The Midnight Mission to Hold Ribbon Cutting for New Women’s Crisis and Bridge Housing Center  
Sponsored by UberEATS and Union Bank**

- Who:** The Midnight Mission thanks our Event Sponsors **UberEATS and Union Bank**. Speakers will include **Shaima Gargash**, Head of Communications, Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Washington, DC, **Silvia Hernandez** and **Amy Turk** from Downtown Women’s Center, **Jose Huizar**, LA City Councilmember, **Louise Mbella**, Community Organizer Advocate & Former Co-Chair/Secretary, Downtown Women's Action Coalition (DWAC), and **Alisa Orduna**, Homelessness Policy Director - Office of LA Mayor Eric Garcetti and Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Women & Homelessness, There will also be a special musical performance by **Urban Voices Project**.
- What:** Ribbon Cutting for New Women’s Crisis and Bridge Housing Center
- When:** Wednesday, March 8, 2017 – 10 am
- Where:** The Midnight Mission, 601 S. San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90014
- Why:** Every night, over 14,500 women experience homelessness in Los Angeles County, most without shelter or a safe place to sleep. In response to this growing crisis, The Midnight Mission is opening a Crisis and Bridge Housing center focusing on women at its main headquarters on Los Angeles’ Skid Row. Over the past three years, female homelessness has increased by 55 percent, which is five and a half times higher than the rate of men. One of the more shocking statistics is that over 90 percent of those women have experienced physical or sexual assault.
- How:** For more information about the event, contact Katie Norris at (213) 553-2328 or [knorris@midnightmission.org](mailto:knorris@midnightmission.org). For more information about the Women’s Crisis and Bridge Housing Center, contact Rita Richardson at (213) 624-9258 or [rrichardson@midnightmission.org](mailto:rrichardson@midnightmission.org).
- Misc.:** The Women's Crisis and Bridge Housing Center is intended to work in partnership with other premier service providers serving women in the community, including the Downtown Women’s Center. The Center at Midnight Mission includes on-site medical and mental health care, temporary housing, meals, case management and service triage, access to our on-site school, computer learning center and job and career counselor and connections with housing resources to quickly end their episode of homelessness. Those who come to the Center for help will be assessed and effectively and efficiently connected to permanent housing whenever possible, or triaged into the most appropriate service-enhanced housing available. The Center will work in close collaboration with the Los Angeles Homeless Continuum of Care’s Coordinated Entry System (CES).

**About The Midnight Mission:** Founded in 1914, The Midnight Mission offers paths to self-sufficiency to men, women and children who have lost direction. Our emergency services and 12-step recovery, family living, job training, education and workforce development programs offer a compassionate bridge to achieve and maintain healthy, productive lives. We remove obstacles and provide the accountability and structure that people who are experiencing homelessness need to be productive in their communities. Our conviction and commitment to their success define us. For additional information, please visit [www.midnightmission.org](http://www.midnightmission.org).