



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE MIDNIGHT MISSION HOSTS BASKETBALL CHALLENGE WITH THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

On Thursday, April 13, 2017, the formidable **L.A. Times** basketball team will come to Skid Row for their second game against The Midnight Mission (TMM). TMM's team, comprised of TMM Program Participants and Alumni, is eagerly waiting for this match.

"Our Midnight Basketball team has been zealously practicing through our Health and Wellness program and are ready to meet **L.A. Times** on the court," said Valerie Mayers, Health & Wellness Coordinator at TMM. TMM will welcome an audience from all walks of life; from old to young, to residents who live in the lofts downtown, to those who live in TMM's courtyard, as well as **L.A. Times** employees and their guests. Prior to the basketball game start, L.A. Times employees will be serving dinner to our homeless community in our Guest Dining Room.

"We are proud to lend a hand in support of the work The Midnight Mission does, day in and day out, making a difference in the lives of our neighbors in downtown," said Jennifer Kenna, L.A. Times Associate Director of Distribution and one of the organizers of the event. "After an ego-bruising loss to TMM's squad last fall, the L.A. Times Hoopers have been practicing every week. While the gloves – and hairnets – will be on during the dinner service, they are coming off once we get back on the court."

Tip-off will be at 6 p.m. in TMM gym, located on the second floor. Parking is available in TMM's secure lot, located underneath the building. All members of the community are welcome to attend, completely free of charge. In addition, everyone in attendance will be eligible to enter a free raffle.

About The Midnight Mission's Health and Wellness Program: Health & Wellness at The Midnight encompasses primary healthcare as well as fitness classes and exercise opportunities designed to improve physical, social and emotional health of all participants, many of whom have long-overlooked chronic conditions or injuries. Handling these issues while in the Healthy Living program emphasizes the importance of life-long healthy practices. Homelessness is associated with social isolation and lack of healthy contacts with others. Men entering the program learn to respect and help each other through sports and community activities. Team sports, including basketball, ping pong, volleyball and social games offer additional ways for them to develop social skills.

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.

About the Los Angeles Times: The [Los Angeles Times](http://www.losangelestimes.com) is the largest metropolitan daily newspaper in the country, with a daily readership of 1.4 million and 2.4 million on Sunday, more than 39 million unique latimes.com visitors monthly and a combined print and online local weekly audience of 4.3 million. The Pulitzer Prize-winning Times has been covering Southern California for more than 135 years.