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**The Midnight Mission New Women's Crisis and Bridge Housing Center Receives Gift
from the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates**

Contribution will Support Operations and On-Site Services Offered to Women at the Center.

On Wednesday, March 8, 2017 – International Women's Day – The Midnight Mission held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new Women's Crisis & Bridge Housing Center. The center is the first and largest of its kind on Los Angeles' Skid Row, and includes 42 beds for women and access to services to help women quickly end their episode of homelessness. The Midnight Mission was honored and privileged to be joined at the event by LA City Council Member Jose Huizar, representatives from Mayor Garcetti's office and other local community leaders. In addition, senior diplomats from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), including Shaima Gargash, Head of Communications for the UAE Embassy in Washington, DC and Abdulla Alsaboosi, the Consul General of the UAE in Los Angeles, participated in the event.

At the event, the UAE diplomats announced a gift, on behalf of UAE Ambassador to the US, Yousef Al Otaiba, to support on-site services offered to women in the Crisis and Bridge Housing center. Those services include medical and mental health care, temporary housing, meals, case management, access to an education and computer learning center, job training and connections with housing resources.

"It is heartening to know that the Midnight Mission and its partners are working so hard to help get local women affected by homelessness off the street and into recovery programs," said Gargash. "Rising homelessness among women is not just a problem in Los Angeles, but a global challenge that is made worse by economic hardship and conflict. There is no better time to draw attention to this issue than International Women's Day."

The UAE government is involved in many projects to empower women and combat homelessness all over the world. In Los Angeles, UAE Diplomats have supported the Midnight Mission through donations, event sponsorships and volunteer activities.

"The work that Midnight Mission is doing right here in Los Angeles – and at this Women's Crisis Center – will help ensure that women can lead lives filled with dignity and self-determination," said Gargash. "As a woman and a mother, I can only imagine the obstacles these brave women must overcome, just to survive and give their children a chance for a better life."

"The Midnight Mission is deeply grateful for the support of UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba and all of the Diplomats at the UAE Embassy, as well as its partnership with the UAE Consulate and Abdulla Alsaboosi," said G. Michael Arnold, President & CEO of The Midnight Mission.

"We are incredibly heartened by the fact that the Embassy has made the homelessness issue a priority in its global humanitarian activities," added Arnold. "The Midnight is especially honored and privileged that the Embassy has provided immediate support for our Women's Crisis Center to help us provide life-saving services, and a pathway to self-sufficiency to women who experience the trauma and tragedy of being homeless."

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.