



# The Midnight Journey

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDNIGHT MISSION

Winter 2018

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## FEEDING FOR EFFECT





# IT'S AN "&" CONVERSATION

## A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO



In 1914, a Los Angeles businessman named Tom Liddecoat provided a meal to a hungry man. One man became two, and two became more, which grew into an entire community. Meals were served in the evening after Mr. Liddecoat, a lay minister, delivered a lengthy sermon, often lasting past midnight. As the community and need continued to grow, Mr. Liddecoat's movement became known as The Midnight Mission. Now, 104 years later, The Midnight Mission serves nearly one million meals a year to those in need of a helping hand.

Over the years, tens of thousands of men, women, and children have found their way to The Midnight Mission. Many come to help, and others come to get help. Every individual who walks through our doors is an important part of our community, the beautiful patchwork quilt that is The Midnight Mission we know and love today.

As our community has changed, so has our organization. Initially, Skid Row was a community of men who lived in poverty and needed help. Over time, the population grew to include women and children as well. With every change in the community, The Midnight Mission changed as well, expanding our services in order to reach each and every person who comes to us in need of help. We welcome everyone - every race, religion, gender, age, orientation, days or years of sobriety, disability or creed. We tell everyone, "You matter to us. You deserve an opportunity to change your circumstances, and we're going to help you."

Though many things have changed in our 104 years of operation, one thing has stayed the same. A helping hand always starts with a meal. By collaborating with donors and strategic partnerships including 7/11, Starbucks, Vons and the LA Regional Food Bank, we receive and distribute more than 80 thousand tons of food a month. We have expanded our ability to help others by partnering with permanent supportive housing programs, schools in low-income areas, daycare centers, summer camps, other homeless service organizations and many others. No one should ever have to worry about where their next meal will come from, and with your help, we're doing our part to feed those who are hungry in Los Angeles.

We believe that a meal is so much more than just a meal - it's an "and" conversation. A meal provides the opportunity to get to know someone, to build trust, to take someone's hand and connect them with shelter, medical and mental health care and case management options. A meal is an opportunity to connect people to employment opportunities, permanent housing, legal help, a friend, tools to sobriety and most of all, hope that tomorrow can and will be a better day. When we open the doors of our dining hall each morning, we are not just providing a meal to those in need - we are offering a hand up to those experiencing homelessness and walking beside them on their path to a life off of the streets of Los Angeles, to a place they can call home. Thank you for helping us to help others.

With sincere gratitude,

G. Michael Arnold  
President & CEO

# Alumni Check In - Orlando Ward



In April of 1998, Orlando Ward came to The Midnight Mission by either accident or chance. Homeless on the streets of Skid Row, he was unsure how or where to find food until one day he noticed a line forming along 4th Street. He approached someone and discovered that The Midnight Mission, then located on 4th and Los Angeles Streets, was serving hot meals for free. Relieved and excited, he got in line and waited patiently to be served. Breakfast at TMM became a daily occurrence for Orlando. He came for the meals, which led him to joining our Healthy Living program. From that moment forward his life was transformed.

The Midnight Mission gave Orlando so much more than a hot meal. It gave him a second chance in life. With his basic needs met, Orlando began working on his physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing. After 18 months at TMM, Orlando had gained a lot of self-respect and self-worth. From there, he continued to create his new life and help others do the same. In the next several years, Orlando worked his way up the ranks of The Midnight Mission becoming our Vice President.

Today, Orlando works for non-profit working to end homelessness. Although he no longer worries about food or security, 20 years later Orlando still remembers how difficult it was to find food outside of Skid

Row. While many facilities would offer free or affordable food, lack of refrigeration would cause the food to spoil or it would be too much to carry around the streets. "If people really want to help end hunger and homelessness, they should begin with those in their community" Orlando stated.

Homelessness has no borders. Orlando is grateful that places like The Midnight Mission are dedicated to feeding those in need. You too can help make a difference in our community by volunteering or donating.

This is the day . . . to build a bridge to recovery with a hot meal.

## Grant Central Station

Thank you to PENTA Building Group for raising over \$35,000 for The Midnight Mission at their annual golf tournament! We are incredibly lucky to have wonderful partners like PENTA, who support our programs year after year through contributions and volunteerism.

A big thanks to UBS for their contribution of \$17,659 in support of our life-saving program services.

As one of Los Angeles' largest social service providers, The Midnight Mission has not missed a day of service since our inception in 1914. We are privately funded and do not rely on government funding. Grants like those from PENTA Building Group and UBS allow us to continue to offer our services to those in need.

# *A New Way to Thrive*

Ruth moved from New York to Nevada with her son and with the promise of a job. When that job fell through, Ruth was left in a difficult position. She had left everything she owned behind in New York and had nothing. With nowhere to go, she found her way to The Midnight Mission.

Ruth is a current client in our Crisis and Bridge Housing Program, an emergency shelter program for single men and women seeking shelter. When she first arrived, Ruth was only hoping for hot meal and a safe place to sleep while she figured out her employment situation. After making use of TMM's connections, she came out with a lot more than she had expected.

Ruth is 59, and has worked her entire adult life. But in the 40 years that Ruth spent working, she has never taken the time to take care of herself and her health. Carpal tunnel and cataracts have taken a toll on her body and limited her job options.

Until her move, Ruth had never been homeless and didn't quite understand how one ended up homeless and in shelters like TMM's. She never thought it would happen to her. Now, at TMM Ruth has become the "dorm mom" and is helping women with their daily needs. The experience has given Ruth the purpose she has always longed for. She feels fortunate that she is able to see the other side of the coin. TMM's career counselor has also helped her son find a trucking job. Ruth's experience has given her compassion for those who need help and end up in shelters. TMM is giving Ruth the time she needs to address her health issues and discover alternate employment options that don't aggravate them.

Giving hope and the opportunity to those trying get back on their feet is a great feeling. Thank you for empowering families and individuals like Ruth through your donations and support.

This is the day . . . to discover a new way to thrive.





# *The Midnight Mission is Awarded the 2018 Bank of America Neighborhood Builders® Award*

The Midnight Mission is honored to announce that we have been chosen as a recipient of the prestigious Bank of America Neighborhood Builders® Award. The award is the nation's largest investment into nonprofit leadership development, and is given to just two high impact, community-based non-profit organizations in Los Angeles each year. As an awardee, The Midnight Mission will receive \$200,000 in funding over the next two years, as well as leadership development training for our President & CEO and staff.

As the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles has worsened, The Midnight Mission has demonstrated a unique flexibility and responsiveness to growing and changing needs in the homeless and low income-low-income community. Over the last two years, we have expanded and enhanced our programs that serve women, youth and those identifying as LGBTQ. The Neighborhood Builders® grant will help us increase our organizational capacity through staff trainings, collaborative partnerships, and new tailored services and offerings for women, youth and the LGBTQ community to ensure that their unique challenges are addressed while on the path to self-sufficiency.

Bank of America has been a loyal supporter of The Midnight Mission for more than a decade, providing support for our life-saving basic needs and self-sufficiency programs through generous grants, sponsorships, employee giving, matching gifts and regular volunteerism. Not only is Bank of America one of our top providers of volunteers – many Bank of America employees serve in critical volunteer positions for our organization, including Maria Beckman (Board of Directors), Gwendolyn Givens-Jones (Event Committee Member & Volunteer Lead), Rowena McCann (Volunteer Lead) and Anh Nguyen (Event Committee Member).

The Midnight Mission is deeply grateful to have received this honor, and we look forward to better serving our community by providing even more opportunities for economic mobility and self-sufficiency to those experiencing homelessness and poverty.

This is the day . . . to address the growing and changing needs of people experiencing homelessness.

## Reduce

### Your Tax Burden

Even if you don't itemize!  
If you would like more information about how to make an IRA charitable rollover gift, please visit our website or call us to request a brochure by mail

Do you own an IRA or other qualified retirement plan? Are you looking for a tax-wise strategy to make gifts to support our mission? If so, consider making an IRA charitable rollover gift.

This is the Day to Support The Midnight Mission!

#### An IRA charitable rollover gift

- ✓ Satisfies your annual required minimum distribution, or RMD, up to the amount of your gift
- ✓ Allows you to give from pre-tax assets and your distribution is excluded from taxable income
- ✓ Helps avoid limits on charitable deductions and prevents you from being pushed into a higher tax bracket
- ✓ Simplifies the giving process. It's easy to do—just notify your IRA custodian
- ✓ Minimizes the effect your giving has on your cash flow. The gift is from your assets, not your checkbook



Contact Tami Phillips for more information  
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## Turkey Trot Los Angeles

Presented by UAE USA United

### THANKSGIVING DAY

November 22, 2018  
Los Angeles City Hall

Sign up as an individual or team at [turkeytrot.la](http://turkeytrot.la)

Gift cards, sports tickets and other great prizes for top fundraisers!



NOVEMBER 10 - DECEMBER 21



THIS IS THE DAY... TO GIVE



Donate new toys today to help make the holiday season magical for children experiencing homelessness throughout Southern California.



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

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## COURTYARD CORNER

Before the OC Courtyard OC opened in October of 2016, many of those experiencing homelessness wandered the streets of Orange County without access to resources. Similarly, many large-hearted citizens wandered as well, using their own money and their own time to feed those in need.

When the County of Orange, teamed up with us at The Midnight Mission, we knew we needed to partner with an agency that had a big heart and a wide net; a company that could harness the positive energy of these good Samaritans. City Net is that agency.

Thank you to City Net for all that you do in partnership with The Midnight Mission, for the Courtyard OC, and for those who utilize its services every day.

