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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2019

Alfre Woodard Leads Celebrity Cast Reading for Kickoff of Homeward LA, April 23, 2019

Stars Lend Their Voices to Raise Money for The Midnight Mission

(Los Angeles, CA) **The Midnight Mission** in downtown Los Angeles' Skid Row is pleased to announce the kickoff event for **Homeward LA** with a celebrity cast reading of monologues based on real stories from people who have been homeless, led by **Alfre Woodard** (Oscar-nominated) and directed by **Lisa Cholodenko** (Oscar-nominated), **April 23, 2019** at The Egyptian Theater in Hollywood, California. Confirmed stars participating in the benefit reading include: **Jeff Ross** (host), **Jeremy Sisto**, **Patrick J. Adams**, and **Jon Huertas**. More celebrity participants to be confirmed. Tickets for the kickoff event can be purchased at <https://homewardlakickoff.bpt.me>. Tickets are \$125 for general admission and \$500 for VIP. The Kickoff event is sponsored by Soylent. For the second year Homeward LA staged productions of monologues are set to take place in venues all over Los Angeles and surrounding areas for ten days, **April 26 – May 5, 2019**. "The Midnight Mission is proud to partner with Homeward LA in telling stories of people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles" says Mike Arnold, President & CEO of The Midnight Mission. "The Midnight Mission's goal is to restore people to self-sufficiency and combat the issues surrounding homelessness. There is no one solution that will end homelessness. It will require all of us working together."

Personal stories of men and women in Los Angeles who have experienced homelessness come to life in the staged productions for the second year of Homeward LA, a fundraiser for The Midnight Mission. The collective collaboration of close to 500 actors, 50 directors, over 70 producers, and over 50 venues will make it possible for every community in the city to participate in the fight against homelessness. Tickets for the productions can be purchased at www.homewardla.org for \$20 each. Each production has a fundraising goal of \$2,000.00. Jason Lesner, Homeward LA Founder/Project Director, explains, "I think, by hearing a story from someone's life, you see yourself in them, and they can no longer just be a "homeless" person. Ultimately, it is about raising the level of compassion in our community."

About Homeward LA: Homeward LA is a 10-day citywide event where multiple productions of monologues, based on stories from people who have been homeless, are performed all over Los Angeles, bringing attention to the homeless crisis and raising funds for The Midnight Mission, a nonprofit organization on Skid Row committed to ending homelessness. The inaugural productions were staged in 2018 and were seen by nearly 2,000 people, raising over \$55,000 for The Midnight Mission. Founder, Jason Lesner describes his inspiration for Homeward LA, "As a writer, I've always believed that people connect through stories, that we see the humanity in each other through the sharing of stories. I also knew we had a great entertainment and theatre community in Los Angeles, and I felt if I gave that community an opportunity to spread real stories from people who have been homeless, they would jump at the chance, and the community would be inspired to do more. To find out more about Homeward LA visit their website and social media pages, www.homewardla.org or @homewardla (Instagram).

About the Midnight Mission: Founded in 1914, The Midnight Mission offers paths to self-sufficiency to men, women, and children who have lost direction. Their 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. The Midnight Mission provides an environment that removes obstacles and provides the accountability and structure that people who are experiencing homelessness need to be productive in their communities. The conviction and commitment of the men and women to their success defines The Midnight Mission. For additional information, please visit www.midnightmission.org.

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