

Grant Central Station

The Midnight Mission is excited to be partnering with The McMillen Family Foundation in their dedication to help those in need of assistance with recovery from substance abuse. We are grateful for the impact their grant award of \$100,000 is making.

The Bob and Dolores Hope Foundation has been a long-time supporter in the fight against nutrition and food insufficiency. We're grateful to continue our partnership in providing healthy meals to those in need.

The Croul Family Foundation continues to be a valued partner in assisting the economically disadvantaged in Orange County and surrounding areas, and we are thankful for their support in ensuring that shelters like the Courtyard OC provide healthy meals.

Thank you to Mr. Rick Harmon, longtime supporter of TMM's program services. In addition to his generous monetary contributions, he also works to increase awareness for our cause, especially at the OC Courtyard, by hosting a fireside chat at his Capistrano Beach home.

PLANNING WITH PURPOSE

Giving to The Midnight Mission through your estate is a wonderful way to help those affected by homelessness in our community and potentially save on your taxes. Here are some options:

BEQUESTS - Bequests are the cornerstone of most estate plans and among the easiest ways for you to arrange a gift. To set up a bequest in your will or trust, ask your attorney or financial advisor to draft your plan to include The Midnight Mission as a designated charity.

LIFE INSURANCE - Life insurance is a wonderful yet often overlooked tool for making a gift. A gift can be set up by selecting The Midnight

Mission as a beneficiary of all or a portion of a policy's proceeds. There are other options as well.

RETIREMENT PLANS - Individuals with a retirement plan, whether through their employer or their own Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or pension plans can ordinarily select your favorite charity as a beneficiary of any remaining balance. Or, if you are required to take mandatory distributions from your IRA, you can direct payment to a charity and get a tax deduction, thereby possibly avoiding the tax on the distribution.



Save the Date!



19th Annual Golden Heart Awards



SAVE THE DATE!
Friday, October 4, 2019

TIME
Reception: 6-7 pm · Dinner: 7-9 pm

LOCATION
Beverly Wilshire Hotel
9500 Wilshire Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA 90212

HONOREES
Smokey Robinson · Susie Siverts
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COURTYARD CORNER

Meet Donald Holt! The Courtyard OC's new Director of Program Administration. Prior to working with TMM and The Courtyard, Donald words for Los Angeles Homless Service Authority for 7 years. His total 14 years of experience has allowed Donald to address homelessness from both the policy side of the issue as well as in direct services. His new position at The Courtyard OC allows him to marry these two sides of the issue together in an effort to make more impactful strides in addressing Sothern California's homeless crisis.

"My goal is to create an environment that is conducive to the success of the participants and TMM staff...I am truly dedicated to the task at hand; I'm committed to the goal of ending homelessness. I truly enjoy the residents and watching them grow and obtain the ultimate goal of permanent housing."

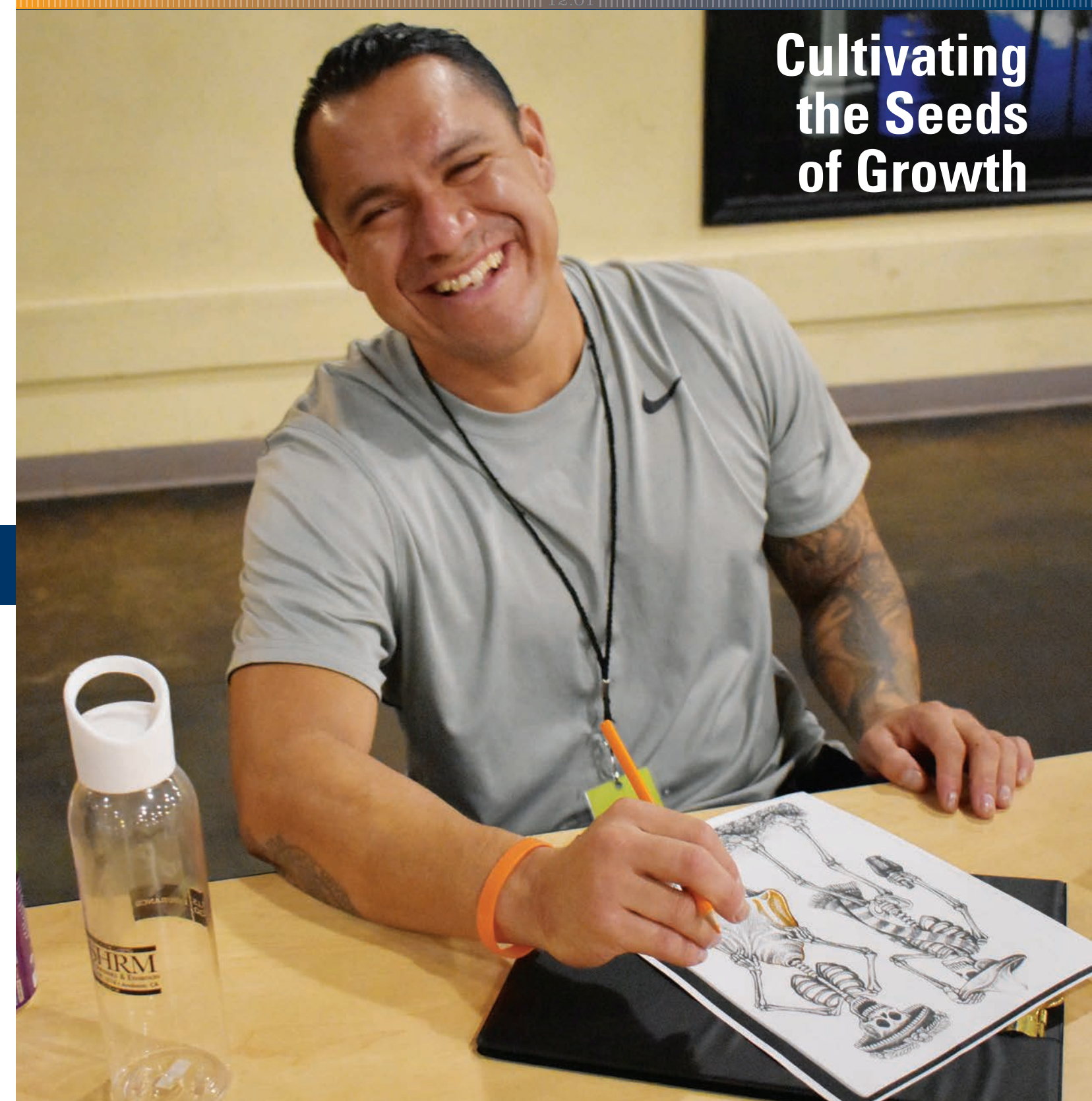


The
Midnight
Journey

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDNIGHT MISSION

Summer 2019

Cultivating the Seeds of Growth





Every year as summer approaches, I think about my youth spent on the family farm in Montana. I think about cultivating the crops and the sayings people had like “knee-high by the 4th of July” when measuring corn and “make hay while the sun shines” during the late-July wheat harvesting. These crops were essential to sustenance and sustainability and were a big part of my early lessons in self-sufficiency.

Here at The Midnight Mission cultivation isn’t about crops, but it is about sustenance, sustainability, and self-sufficiency. Every year we hold a graduation ceremony for those individuals who have completed our year-long Healthy Living Program. This often challenging program allows participants to achieve and maintain sobriety for a year before transitioning into stable housing. Throughout their

year with us, we strive to help each program participant find sustainable employment and expand their education. Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of our donors. We are grateful for our many donors who choose to partner with us in changing lives through the careful cultivation of those who come to us in need.

We often forget, or take for granted, the things around us that we value most – family, friends, community, connection – and the careful cultivation and tending needed to maintain our own gardens. As we move into the summer months – so often filled with vacations, car trips, and visits with family – I invite you to come to The Midnight Mission. Join us for a tour, volunteer to serve a meal, or ask about tutoring and educational opportunities.

This is the day... to cultivate our next crop of graduates.

With sincere gratitude,

G. Michael Arnold
President & CEO

Alumni Check In - Jose and Jessica

A home, in the most basic sense of the word, is a shelter where a person or family resides. It’s a place where they keep their belongings and store their food. It’s a place where they sleep at night. And while all of this is true by way of a dictionary, home from a human perspective is so much more than that.

For too long, home was something that was hard to come by for José and Jessica. José grew up in Redondo Beach where he lived with his family, including his father who was addicted to heroin. José, unfortunately, followed in his father’s footsteps and became addicted to heroin as well, and spent nearly 10 years in prison.

Jessica and José dated for 2 years before things started to fall apart. José’s father passed away unexpectedly, and on the very same day they laid him to rest, José and Jessica welcomed their first child, Zoey. From there, José spiraled.

For years the family had no permanent home. They moved from motel to motel, had another child, and eventually knew that if they wanted to keep custody of their children, they had to split up. José’s mother took custody of children, and the couple checked into separate treatment programs.

While Jessica thrived in the structure of a treatment program, it took José some time to find his footing. When he finally graduated from a treatment program, he was six months sober with nowhere to go. José thought his best option would be to check into another year-long treatment program, despite already being a graduate of one. But that begged the question, what program would accept him when he was already sober and there were so many others in need on a place to find help? The answer he was looking for came to him in the form of a stranger at a bus stop who introduced him to The Midnight Mission’s Crisis & Bridge Program.

“It was definitely a culture shock,” José said about coming to The Midnight Mission. “It seemed too good to be true. The people here actually wanted to help me.” After hearing more about José’s story, the advocates at TMM realized that what José needed wasn’t Crisis & Bridge assistance, but the HomeLight Family Living Program. HomeLight would provide José and Jessica with what they’d been searching for their entire relationship: a place to call home with their children. Families are often separated because parents cannot enter family programs without their children, but they can’t get their children

back without a home – it’s an impossible situation. But, The Midnight Mission helped José and Jessica connect all of the pieces.

“HomeLight gave me the opportunity to see what it is to be a family,” José said. “The staff wants nothing else but for you to succeed. They worked with the court and our social worker to work everything out, and provide so many opportunities.” From summer camp for the kids, to adult computer and financial literacy classes, HomeLight gave José and Jessica the tools they needed to live a self-sufficient life.

The family has been in their new home since early March. They used the money they saved while at HomeLight to purchase the first car they’ve ever owned that is registered and insured in their own name. Jessica is planning on going to school to be a Drug and Alcohol counselor. José works in landscaping. Together, which their three children, Zoey, Joseph, and Joey, they are settling into their new home.

This is the day... to reunite with family.

Cultivating the Seeds of Growth

Growing up with a mother who was a prostitute and addicted to crack cocaine was the beginning of a very long journey for Brave. She looked up to her mom and wanted to be just like her, but Brave’s constant exposure to her mother’s lifestyle meant she didn’t understand that prostitution and substance abuse could be very damaging. At the tender age of 12, Brave followed in her mother’s footsteps and began prostituting. She wanted to be good at it - even better than her mom.

Years later, Brave would realize she fostered some deep bitterness toward her mother. Even long after her mother turned her life over to God, the resentment Brave felt pushed her to continue on her self-destructive path.

Despite her mother’s best efforts, Brave was unable and unwilling to turn her life around.

Brave continued to struggle for several years before she finally decided she needed help. She made her way to The Midnight Mission with a few goals in mind. She wanted to stay sober, reconnect with her mother and children, take time to find her purpose, and eventually find a place of her own where her loved ones could visit.

Brave is a work in progress and is currently cultivating the seeds of growth she has planted since coming to TMM. Now that she is no longer worrying about where she’ll live, she has the time to focus on healing.

She is happy that she has been able to reconnect with her mother. Her spirituality grows deeper every day, and she is working on ways to help young girls who are going through the same challenges that she faced growing up. Brave’s presence is full of life, love and joy. Despite all of what she has gone through, she feels blessed and lucky to be given another chance to do things differently with her life.

Thanks to the support of our donors, Brave is one less lost soul out on the streets addicted to drugs and living a life of destruction. **Thank you.**

This is the day... to start anew.

