

# New Life and the Beauty of Spring



Happy times last year as we watched children being greeted by the Easter Bunny!



## Spring is Almost Here!

That means Easter and Passover are just around the corner. The Midnight Mission is busy putting together all of the pieces for an amazing celebration for the homeless and low income communities. Easter baskets for children are being assembled, volunteers are signing up to help out at the event and our head chef has come up with a delicious menu. And, we need your help!

Nicole is one of our newest guests in The Midnight Mission's program for women. She came to us in need of shelter after losing her apartment. When Nicole came down with an unexpected illness she could no longer keep up with the requirements expected of her to do her job. The loss of her job meant she did not have the means to stay in her apartment so she started living in her car. She managed to keep that up for awhile but eventually the repairs the car needed were too much for her to afford. Too scared to live in a tent on the street, Nicole searched for a program that accepted women and that's how she found us.

After just a month in our women's program Nicole has a renewed sense of hope. Her health has improved significantly and she is now on the hunt for a new job. Nicole is excited for all the new possibilities ahead of her and sees the circumstances she's in as a learning adventure. Your support of The Midnight Mission allows us to continue to help women like Nicole. Thank you!

With so many people experiencing homelessness, hunger and struggling with food insecurity, we all play a very important role in making certain that all who walk through our doors will have a nutritious meal to eat. Help us make this year's Easter feast one to remember.

### Upcoming Events

**Nowruz Friday March 27, 2020**  
**Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020**



# The MIDNIGHT JOURNEY

Winter 2020

A QUARTERLY NEWSPAPER OF THE MIDNIGHT MISSION



Incarceration, living on the streets and unsuccessful attempts at sobriety. It took David two visits to The Midnight Mission but his second attempt has been life changing!

Thanks to supporters like you who never give up, David is now sober and rebuilding his life with a renewed faith in God and a bright future ahead.

**Read David's story of hope inside.**

## A Story of Hope and Recovery!

You can help bring warmth to the lives of people who are homeless and hungry.

**25th Anniversary**  
**Mother's Day**  
**Celebration**

**Crowne Plaza LAX, 5985 W. Century Blvd, LA 90045**  
**Saturday, May 2, 2020 . 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
***Celebrating the heart of a mother...***

You are invited to celebrate the success of HomeLight Family Living. On this day, we will honor mothers of the HomeLight program, past and present.

While enjoying a full catered lunch, we will have guest speakers including celebrity supporters, sponsors, residents, and past graduates.

Please join us as we raise awareness for HomeLight Family Living and honor these courageous mothers.

**(213) 553-2328 • [kaskar@midnightmission.org](mailto:kaskar@midnightmission.org)**

# Winter Streets are Cold and Dangerous

## A Letter from our President & CEO



The Midnight Mission is all about changing lives. And springtime reminds us of new beginnings. As I meet and greet our participants and guests each day it thrills my heart to

see hope and joy that only can happen because of you.

I am reminded of how thankful we are for our faithful donors who support The Midnight Mission with a grateful and loving heart. We love you and appreciate you and are overjoyed that you chose to bless us and those we serve with your time, talents and treasure. We cannot say it enough.... Thank You!

In the spirit of gratitude, I wanted to also let you know that we carefully guard your personal information. We live in different and challenging times where it seems that unscrupulous people are continually looking for ways to prey on generous people like yourself. So, as a charity, we have to be extra careful.

We have a Donor Privacy Policy and a Donor Bill of Rights that we take very seriously. We do not sell, rent or exchange our donor lists.

We remain vigilant and protective, but at the same time open in our appreciation and thanks to you. Without your gifts the work would not go on and lives could not be transformed.

With Sincere Gratitude,  
G. Michael Arnold,  
President & CEO of The Midnight Mission



David is looking to one day be active in the Midnight Mission Alumni Association

## A Better Life in the Making

Open minded, humble and easy going is how David describes himself. But David has a darker side that led him to addiction and a terrible year of incarceration

At just 20 years old, David received a one year prison sentence resulting from his drug use. He was broken, alone and had lost everything.

Upon release from prison he was court ordered to come to The Midnight Mission. He stayed for nearly 18 months but was still not able to walk away from the terrible controls of addiction.

Sadly, after leaving The Midnight Mission, David's older brother found him living on the streets. His brother told him that there was simply no other way forward and that he would have to re-enter rehab to try to get his life back on track.

This brought David back to The Midnight Mission for his second stay. It was not easy for him to come back. He did not feel ready to walk away from his addiction and felt negative about what lay ahead. Addiction is a terrible thing that does not want to let go of those who are struggling with it.

But, there was hope! It only took two weeks before David started to see that The Midnight Mission's recovery and addiction program was working! David even met a friend who encouraged him to go back to church, helping him to connect with God. The program was working and his renewed faith in God was working too!

The news about David is great! His is now sober and going to school for heating and air conditioning. He is also working at The Midnight Mission as a development assistant. His life is finally back on track and he has found a renewed sense of hope!

David is already looking ahead and hopes to be a member, and possibly even president of The Midnight Missions Alumni Club. He has some advice to those coming to The Midnight Mission for help. "Stay out of your own way and give sobriety a chance".



## Being homeless wasn't part of the plan

Married with two kids and a college degree Michelle never thought she would become homeless. But a series of difficult circumstances led her into a dark and scary situation that she could never have expected.

Her husband was verbally abusive and was not able to hold down a steady job. Even though her family was intact, Michelle felt as if she was alone and living the life of a single mom, a big burden to bear both financially and emotionally.

Michelle and her family lived in her parents' house. Unfortunately her parents passed away, and because of conflict with a sibling she and her family were forced to move out. After moving from place to place, unable to afford the high cost of rent, her family was eventually forced to move into a hotel. With one income, little hope and a now collapsed marriage it was not long before the money ran out and Michelle was left alone with her children and no place to stay.

But things started to change when a city program referred her to The Midnight Mission. She found that at The Midnight Mission's Homelight Family Living Program, without the heavy weight of mounting bills, she was able to start getting back on her feet and she was able to provide a stable life for her children. She was once again filled with hope and started to build the kind life she always wanted and needed.

Michelle, like so many others, was living just one step away from complete homelessness,. But it is programs like Homelight that help save lives like Michelle's, before its too late. Your generosity makes this happen for so many just like her.

Michelle is doing well while she and her children have learned so much about life's difficulties. Her self-esteem is on the rebound, and she is finally able to start using her skills to help improve her life. She dreams of owning her own home one day! Such a great goal after all she has been through.



**PROTECT YOUR LOVED ONES AND CREATE YOUR LEGACY**

**YOUR LOVED ONES NEED YOU, BUT WHAT WOULD THEY DO IF YOU WERE NOT THERE?**  
With just a little planning, you can have peace of mind knowing you have taken care of your family and secured their future.

**ARE YOUR PLANS UP-TO-DATE?**  
A current estate plan is vital to making sure your wishes are carried out and can help you leave a lasting personal legacy. While each person's and family's situation is different, there are some planning strategies that can help you provide for your heirs and leave your legacy.

To assist you with making or updating your future plans, we can provide you with our **FREE Estate Planning Guide**. Many of our supporters have found this guide useful in helping them think through their goals. To obtain a copy, please **contact Chris Doyle at (213) 553-2327 or cdoyle@midnightmission.org**

[www.MidnightMission.org](http://www.MidnightMission.org)

**We want to thank our partners at The Macy's Foundation and The Macy's Store located in Downtown Los Angeles (DTLA).** They have been generous



supporters of The Midnight Mission (TMM) and HomeLight Family Living with generous grants given to both programs. Their DTLA store staff regularly volunteers to serve meals at TMM, and most recently they nominated us to be their "Round-Up" campaign recipient. From February 1st to February 15th shoppers can round up their purchase and donate the change, up to \$0.99, and The Midnight Mission receives 100% of the donations.

**Thank you Macy's where Giving is in Fashion!**