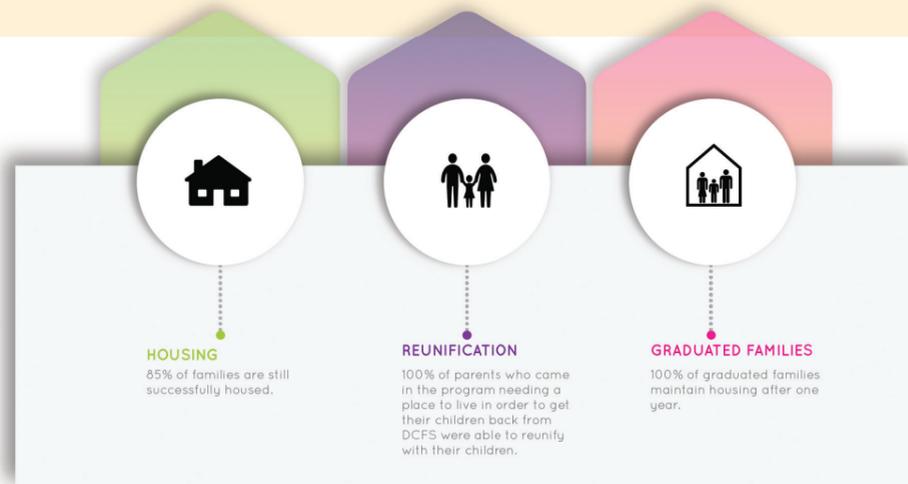


# Program Successes!



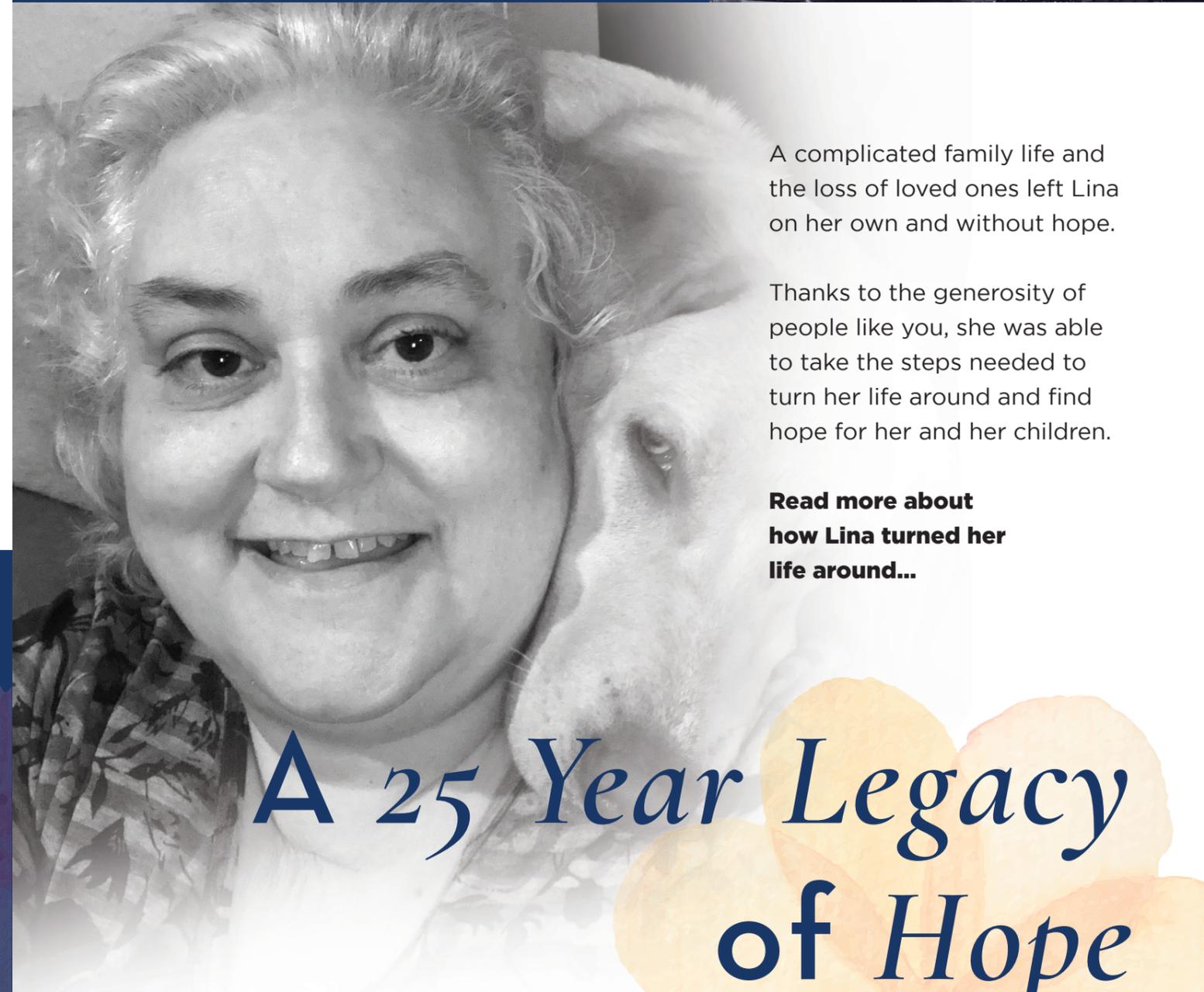
*“100% of graduated families maintain housing after one year”*



## The MIDNIGHT JOURNEY

A QUARTERLY NEWSPAPER OF THE MIDNIGHT MISSION

Spring 2020



A complicated family life and the loss of loved ones left Lina on her own and without hope.

Thanks to the generosity of people like you, she was able to take the steps needed to turn her life around and find hope for her and her children.

**Read more about how Lina turned her life around...**

## A 25 Year Legacy of Hope

For over 25 years The Midnight Mission's HomeLight Program has brought hope to the lives of people who need it most

### 20th Annual Golden Heart AWARDS

Friday, October 2, 2020

The Beverly Wilshire Hotel

9500 Wilshire Blvd.

Beverly Hills, CA 90212

For event tickets and sponsorship information please contact:

Katya Askar | Kaskar@midnightmission.org | (213) 553-2328

### Event Update

The Midnight Mission has postponed or cancelled all community events that would include close contact between vulnerable individuals to limit the risk of exposure to the Coronavirus. This includes the HomeLight Mother's Day Luncheon which was set for May 2, 2020.

We are still serving meals and providing essential services to our homeless community and **we need your help more than ever. For those who wish to help us meet the urgent need during this crucial time, text the keyword "Meals" to 71777 on your cell phone to donate today.**

On behalf of the thousands of homeless individuals and families we serve each day, thank you for your continued support during this time of great need.

# Still Helping. Still Changing Lives.

## A Letter from our President & CEO



We are devoting this issue of our quarterly newsletter to a celebration of 25 years of service by our HomeLight Family Living Program.

Back in 1995, members of our board and other volunteers saw the need for assistance to families experiencing homelessness. There were many shelters available for men but very few options for women with children.

Thanks to that vision to serve this population, HomeLight Family Living was born! We acquired property in the South Bay and began a full-service program to help those in need get back on their feet, find work, obtain services, and move into permanent housing.

To date, we have been able to assist 537 families. Remarkably, we have an 85% success rate amongst our "alumni." It has been a true blessing to see families reunited, children getting an education, men and women with steady jobs, and so many in a place they can call "home."

While we have made an impact on many families, the need is still great. The latest statistics show over 18,000 women experiencing homelessness in LA County, and there are still very few shelter beds available.

Thanks to friends like you we are still able to offer help to families in need during this crisis. Thank you for your faithful support and for making these 25 years so successful for the families we serve.

G. Michael Arnold  
President & CEO of The Midnight Mission



Lina's story of success provides hope for others experiencing life's challenges.

## Lina's Story and Life Changing Help

Lost parents, a difficult upbringing and a series of life's challenges left Lina unprepared to deal with the pressures of life and motherhood. But thanks to a lot of help and Midnight Mission's HomeLight Program, she has built a lasting legacy of hope for her and her children.

Tragically, Lina lost her mother when she was just 4 years old but continued to be raised by her father and grandparents. But when she was 9 her grandparents also died and sadly this led to her entering foster care and becoming a mother herself at only 16 years old.

Later in life, after her marriage ended, she was broken and left home alone with her 4 children and just two suitcases. Her future was seriously in doubt and the pathway to a better life was not clear. Part of Lina's life's experience was that she had not had the needed role models to teach her important life skills.

In time however she was able to start learning the important things she needed by attending therapy classes which were part of the HomeLight's program curriculum. This was what helped get her life back on track.

At HomeLight she learned so much! Like not allowing herself to become a victim of life's unpleasant circumstances. She learned the skills to live life in a positive way and what was especially important was that she learned how to become a better mother to her children.

Thanks to Lina's hard work and help from The Midnight Mission she has built a great life. She has now been at a marketing agency for over 9 years and has even received her bachelors degree!

Lina says that her experiences with HomeLight have had a trickle down effect. The program profoundly changed her as a mother and that has helped provide hope and stability for her children. It has provided them with a real chance to grow up with all they need to be happy, well adjusted adults.

Lina's words say it all "I'm very proud of all my children. They are all successful, contributing members of society."

THANK YOU for your support! it's making a difference and changing the cycle in lives of people like Lina. Without your generosity so many would not have the second chances that your help provides.

# Strong Women - Lasting Successes

A graduate from October 2015, Bobbie Jo is living a happy and productive life in Los Angeles' South Bay area.

After her time at HomeLight, she began a career with the City of Los Angeles as Career Development Intern in the Coroner's office.

Grateful for her time at HomeLight, Bobbie Joe now cares for her 4 children, is self supporting and has even reunited with her father who she has the privilege of taking care of.

**"None of this would have been possible if I had not been a part of HomeLight Program."**



Verrina graduated in June 2015 and is now living in a beautiful home in Las Vegas with her 3 children. She is a Customer Experience Manager at Macy's Department stores and is in charge of two buildings there.

Previously unable to finish college, she is happy that as an executive level employee she is able to take full advantage of education support from her job and is working on her bachelors degree at Community College of Southern Nevada CSN.

**"HomeLight really changed our lives"** she says, and she is happy that The Midnight Mission still checks up on her every so often. **"We owe a lot to this wonderful program"**



Barbara graduated in July 2010, is stable and still with her employer. Her family now has a solid and stable relationship and she credits HomeLight for helping.

She is staying focused on her career and thanks in part to academic support from HomeLight, her son is now attending UCI on a full scholarship!

## A Message about HomeLight from Program Director Ricardo Rosales

What I like most about working for The Midnight Mission's HomeLight Family Program is that ... we do what we say we do. At any time, you can visit our programs and see the services we offer in action and people getting the help they need. With HomeLight, we help families rebuild and restore their lives. When parents work hard, they help build strong children who can grow up and be empowered to break the cycle of poverty.



1995  
Family Housing Opens



1996  
First Family Transitions



1999  
New Playground Dedication



200  
Families have Transitioned to Self Sufficiency



2015  
Branded HomeLight Family Living



2016  
Formal Alumni Program Launches



BEGIN  
Foster Care Family Reunification Program



2020  
537 Successful Families 85% Remain Housed

