



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Skid Row Runners to Run Marathon in Luxor, Egypt

The saga of the Superior Court Judge and a group of homeless individuals running together continues as they take the dedication and commitment to running to another level. On Friday, January 14, 2022, they will be participating in the 2022 Egyptian Marathon in Luxor, Egypt. <https://www.egyptianmarathon.com/>

Fifty people, comprised of Midnight Mission participants, alumni runners, community members, and mentors, will be leaving for Egypt on **Tuesday, January 4, 2022**, from **The Midnight Mission** at **11:30 am**. Many of those participating will be experiencing their first plane ride. They will be available for interviews beginning at **11:00 am**.

In 2012, a running club was formed as part of the Healthy Living Program at The Midnight Mission (TMM) through the collaborative efforts of **L.A. Superior Court Judge Craig Mitchell** and **The Midnight Mission**. Despite seemingly insurmountable obstacles in the first year, this group of committed athletes participated in events including the Firecracker 10k, Los Angeles and Pasadena Rock n' Roll Half marathons, the L.A. Marathon, and other races. It would soon become an annual journey for the runners, competing across the globe in various international marathons.

Since 2013, Judge Mitchell and the top runners have run several international marathons. They ran in the Accra International Marathon in Ghana, Africa. The following year, they ran in the 2015 Maratona Di Roma. The Rome group comprised participants and alumni from our HomeLight Family Living and Midnight Mission Recovery Programs and a dozen community members, making the group 25 strong. In 2016, a team of program participants, alumni, and dedicated runners from our community ran in the DaNang International Marathon in Vietnam. Mark and Gabriele Hayes shadowed them, the same film crew that followed them to Ghana and are behind the Skid Row Marathon documentary (<http://skidrowmarathon.com/>), which had been tracking their progress and personal stories since the beginning. In 2018, a team of (39) dedicated runners, including TMM program participants, alumni, community members, mentors, and spouses/non-runners, ran the Jerusalem Marathon in Israel. In 2019, (25) people, comprised of Midnight Mission participants, alumni runners, and mentors, participated in an ultra-marathon in Ecuador.

As part of the Health & Wellness department, the running club is offered to our participants. Their physical health enhances their sobriety and improves their chances of sustainable recovery and ongoing healthy living. Judge Mitchell and Skid Row Running Club (<http://www.skidrowrunningclub.com/>) can be found each Monday and Thursday at 5:45 am in the lobby at The Midnight Mission. The club is open to the community, and all are welcome.

About The Midnight Mission: Founded in 1914, The Midnight Mission offers paths to self-sufficiency to individuals and families who have lost direction. Our 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. We remove obstacles and provide the accountability and structure that people who are experiencing homelessness need to be productive in their communities. Our conviction and commitment to their success define us. For additional information, please visit www.midnightmission.org.