



The **MIDNIGHT** **JOURNEY**

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDNIGHT MISSION

Winter 2023



Mario's Story: A Life-Changing Journey, Step by Step

**"You Can't Stay Sober Unless
You Make a Better Life"**

Before Mario turned his life around, he spent 18 long years in prison. While he was there, Mario learned about our recovery program and asked to be released to The Midnight Mission.

**Read the rest of
Mario's story inside!**

Just for you...

- The Table of Grace
- "... make a better life for yourself."
- Every Dollar Makes a Difference

MidnightMission.org





The Table of Grace

Picture it: Skid Row turned into a restaurant serving thousands of people.

That's what will be happening on Thanksgiving this year, thanks to our volunteers and supporters like you. **It fills my heart with gratitude to know that so many people will have a place to go for the holiday – due in large part to your generosity.**

You see, without your help, thousands of people would miss out on a sit-down Thanksgiving meal. Some are facing the daunting possibility of losing their homes, and others are already living on the streets. *All of them are grateful.*

Mealtime is a powerful reminder of the possibilities that await. If you came in here and you had absolutely nothing, we could start you from scratch and help you build a road back to self-sufficiency. That's the goal.

So, as we enter the holiday season, please keep the many people in our community who are facing new difficulties. With the rising costs of groceries, rent, utilities, and gas, many more people are coming to The Midnight Mission for help. Can we rely on you to help again today?

With best wishes for a happy holiday season,

Sincerely,

David L. Prentice
President & CEO

"... make a better life for yourself."

That was the day his life began changing. At The Midnight Mission, **Mario learned how to live a life free from any substances.** He also was able to discover his passions and figure out the steps he'd need to take to pursue his dreams.

Mario had always loved the movie industry, so while at The Midnight Mission, he took screenwriting classes, started writing, and then started college. He graduated and became a grip – someone who helps with lighting – in the filmmaking industry!

But he didn't stop there. **He has also reconnected with his family and established loving relationships with them.** After spending the first half of his life in and out of jail, he is determined to be there for the people he loves.

In addition to college, pursuing his passions, and rekindling his relationships, Mario began prioritizing his spiritual and physical fitness. **He began running with the Skid Row Running Club and has now run in three international marathons and become a triathlete.** He even completed the world-famous Alcatraz Triathlon!

One of Mario's favorite quotes is, "You can't stay sober unless you make a better life for yourself." He has done exactly that.

Now, he's also helping make a better life for others. Mario knows gratitude is an action word, and he's giving back. He returns to The Midnight Mission to help other program participants in recovery take the steps they need to improve their lives. **Today, he is a positive mentor to other men. He shares his story to let them know what is possible!**

Every Dollar Makes a Difference

You help set the table with hope and give your neighbors something to be thankful for.

But your support provides much more than meals. Neighbors who have been hungry, and slept on the streets, are so thankful for food, shelter, and the support they need to make positive changes in their lives.

The holiday season is all about family. **Can you give \$7 today to feed a family of four? Or \$49 to provide a week's worth of meals? Only you know what you can give.** We're grateful for every dollar you donate. Thank you!

You Help Provide Meals — and So Much More!

Thanks to you, we are able to provide:

- About 2,600 meals to hungry individuals daily
- Safe shelter for homeless individuals each night
- A pathway out of homelessness through transitional housing and job readiness programs
- Stability for families who were experiencing homelessness, thanks to HomeLight Family Living



Thank
you!

Here's what
YOUR GIFTS have
provided this year!

2022-2023: Year in Review

Served
977,071
nutritious
meals



Provided
44,960
hot showers



Distributed
46,020
hygiene kits



Provided
77,391
nights of
safe shelter



Distributed
15,646
food boxes



77,391
volunteer
hours



1,444
barber/beauty
shop visits



7,933
attended
12-step
meetings



80
families in
crisis served
at HomeLight



*Thank you for your gifts and support,
which make these services possible!*



Holiday Gifts in Kind

Hunger and Homelessness Never
Take a Holiday

Your donation of food or other items will
help feed and care for those who need it
most this holiday season. Thank you!

Turkey

Butter

Glazed ham

Stuffing

Potatoes

Toys and books

Yams

To donate, please call Brent at:
(213) 624-9258, ext. 2205.

Holiday Events

Join us to help make the holidays bright for
neighbors in need!

Turkey Trot Run and Walk in DTLA

November 23

Thanksgiving Street Fair

November 23

Holiday With a Mission with KTLA

November 27 through December 31

Christmas Brunch and Toy Giveaway

December 25

For more information about these holiday
events, go to **www.MidnightMission.org/events**.



Order from The Midnight Mission's Wish List!

If you're not able to drop off donations
in person, you can order them from The
Midnight Mission's Amazon wish list and
have them shipped here!

To learn more – and for the link to our
wish list – visit MidnightMission.org.
Thank you!



Make a gift now by scanning the code or
donate at MidnightMission.org/Donate.