Dear Friends,

We begin the New Year – Union Station’s 45th – with some unexpected news. Though word may have begun to filter out, I want to let you know that John Brauer accepted a position with another agency. The Board of Directors has selected Howard Kahn as our interim Chief Executive Officer.

Howard, the former CEO of L.A. Care, has more than 30 years of experience in top-level management of major non-profit organizations and public agencies. As a long-time supporter of Union Station and an active member of our Program Committee, Howard is intimately familiar with our core services. We are very fortunate to be able to tap someone of Howard’s ability to guide Union Station in the coming months.

We are also fortunate that Howard has a strong, committed and experienced executive management team to work with, and that former Union Station CEO Marv Gross has agreed to serve as a consultant.

We have the leadership in place continue to do what we do best – serve our most vulnerable community members with grace and compassion.

John was a wonderful leader for Union Station over the past year, and we wish him only the best, but now we look to the future.

The Board already has formed a special search committee to find a permanent CEO with strong leadership capabilities who shares our deep passion for our mission and the work we do in helping individuals and families end their homelessness and rebuild their lives.

With your continued support, I’m confident we will succeed in that endeavor.

Thank you for all you do for Union Station.

With respect,

Alan Maltun, Board Chairman

Message From Our Interim CEO

Having spent over 30 years serving the health needs of low-income people, it's long been clear to me that addressing homelessness has to be a top priority. Union Station has a great reputation for doing important work very well. I'm excited to lead Union Station’s strong and committed staff through this transition period.

Sincerely,

Howard Kahn

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HELPING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES
REBUILD THEIR LIVES
AND END HOMELESSNESS
What’s Next With Measure H?

L.A. finally has the funds to end homelessness. What’s Next?

When 69% of voters passed Measure H last March, we all made a historic commitment to ending homelessness in Los Angeles County. The new quarter-cent sales tax will generate $355 million annually, and is expected to help 45,000 families and individuals escape homelessness within five years and prevent homelessness for 30,000 others. In June, a 50-member panel made up of homeless service providers, faith-based and business leaders, formerly homeless adults, and governmental officials, worked together to carefully determine how to allocate the funds to outreach, shelter, housing, employment and homeless prevention strategies.

Here at Union Station, these restricted dollars are already ramping up our programs in the following ways!

• Our Multidisciplinary Outreach team is growing! These teams are made up of nurses, substance use counselors, mental health clinicians, and formerly homeless adults, who outreach to homeless people in the street, libraries, parks, campgrounds, washes and on Metro;
• Our Coordinated Entry teams for adults and families are expanding to improve L.A. County’s “no wrong door” system, which quickly connects people to the housing and services they need;
• We’ll have additional dollars for housing, including permanent housing vouchers and motel vouchers. We’ll also have rapid rehousing funds and homeless prevention dollars for people who are at-risk of homelessness.

We all want to live in a community that cares for our most vulnerable neighbors. Thanks to these new dollars, Union Station’s life-saving programs can grow – but we still need your help. These dollars are highly restricted and we will continue to depend on your generous support to keep our lights on. To those of you who have invested in Union Station with your time, your dollars, and your vote: Thank you!

For a video about the impact of Measure H, visit Vimeo.com/209969172.

Spotlight on Outreach

An Interview with Keith Hendriksen, CES Manager at Union Station.

What is CES?
The Coordinated Entry System (CES) streamlines the process of finding housing for those who are homeless — with the goal of housing the most vulnerable people first.

What do you do as a Union Station Homeless Services CES outreach worker?

Our outreach team goes into the community to build trust and tell people who are experiencing homelessness about the services we offer. We do outreach on a weekly basis and also dispatch our outreach workers in response to requests from city officials and community members.

When you approach someone for the first time, what might that interaction look like?

There is no one particular way to approach a person. We have skilled outreach workers on our team who have been doing this for a long time. Intuition is a big part of it. You come with a gentle approach and some type of offering, like a lunch, a hygiene kit, or warm socks. If they’re willing to talk to us, the next step is to listen.

Why is trust and relationship so important when you do outreach?

Sometimes we meet people towards the end of their lives, which is really hard, but at least we know they had a compassionate end. At least they didn’t die alone on the street. Every positive story starts with outreach and trust. Through years of doing this, I see how important trust is. The rate of staying housed goes up when the relationship starts with trust. I try to place people with the right case manager — I want to set them up for success and place them with the right fit.

For the full and unabridged version of this interview, visit www.unionstationhs.org/outreach.
SUNDAY, MAY 6

MASTERS
OF TASTE

eat more, give more.

a premiere food & beverage festival
on the field of the iconic Pasadena Rose Bowl

Enjoy unlimited tastings from over 75 Culinary,
Beverage, & Sweet Masters!

For sponsorship information, contact:
Dana Bean | dbean@unionstationhs.org | 626.240.4558

Early bird tickets on sale now at MastersOfTasteLA.com!

Saturday, March 3

Register Today!

Join March Home, a family-friendly 5k walk through Pasadena. 100% of proceeds benefit
Union Station Homeless Services’ life-changing programs!

www.unionstationhs.org/marchhome
Evening for the Station

On November 1st, hundreds of guests joined us for a sold out performance of Evening for the Station at The Rose in Pasadena. For the first time, Evening for the Station entertained with a Night of Magic, featuring the top talents of Mike Caveney, Tina Lenert, Chef Anton and Johnny Ace Palmer! This event raised over $100,000 in support of Union Station – the most for the event in over a decade! Guests enjoyed a VIP reception, silent auction, Italian dinner, and an entertaining magic show.

We are so grateful to our generous talent, guests and sponsors. We would like to especially thank Michael R. Whalen, President of the Georgia B. Ridder Foundation for their Alchemist level support!

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

ALCHEMIST
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OTHER SPONSORS

For a full list of sponsors, visit unionstationhs.org/efts

Dinner in the Park

Union Station’s favorite tradition continued this year! On Thanksgiving Day, hundreds of volunteers showed their holiday spirit and compassion as they gathered at Union Station Homeless Services’ 47th annual Dinner in the Park.

Volunteers helped prepare and serve over 2,700 meals—including turkey, stuffing, green bean casserole, mashed potatoes, green salad, rolls and pie—to all who were hungry at Pasadena’s Central Park on Thanksgiving. Meal recipients included individuals and families experiencing homelessness or poverty, senior citizens, and those who were alone for Thanksgiving or unable to afford a holiday meal.

This event would not be possible without the outpouring of support we received! In addition to our day-of volunteers, many volunteers assisted in the kitchen leading up to the big day. We are also grateful to so many individuals and businesses who contributed by donating items off of our wish list.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

TSUTAYO ICIOKA & SATSUKI NAKAO CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

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• CenterPlate
• Citizen’s Business Bank
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For a full list of sponsors, visit: unionstationhs.org/dip