Dear Friends,

Los Angeles’ staggering homeless population is a brutal reminder of what happens when we fail to care for our most vulnerable community members. To our credit, we all made a historic commitment to end the homeless crisis in LA County when we voted for Measure H last year. Together, we recognized that every person deserves a life of dignity and a safe place to call home. Thanks to these new dollars, Union Station will be able to expand our street outreach teams and provide adults and families with motel vouchers and rental subsidies.

However, government alone cannot end homelessness. These new government funds are highly restricted. They allow us to provide important services, but do not help us provide wholesome meals, emergency shelter, laundry services, or family counseling. They do not help us give a child a new toy, or a new suit to a parent going on their first job interview.

If we are to live in a community where every human life is valued, we must all be part of the solution.

Without your generous support, we would not be able to provide the comprehensive support needed to help people like Marc, whose life was transformed at Union Station.

Marc discovered alcohol when he was just 13 and struggled with substance use throughout his 20s. He kept a job and got married -- but after a workplace accident, he began to mask his chronic pain with alcohol and painkillers.

He admits he stopped being “high-functioning” and became a “full-blown” addict. He winces now to think of the years of pain he caused his family during that time.

After his wife left him, Marc began sleeping on the streets. He was arrested often for disorderly conduct, and frequently ended up in the ER. Even in that state, Marc recalls “I was proud. I would never have asked for help. If it hadn’t been for (an outreach worker) approaching me on the streets, I don’t think I would have sought out Union Station.” Thankfully, our staff befriended Marc and quickly found him a safe place to live. Once housed, Marc addressed his mental and physical health issues and started substance use counseling.

“I literally owe my life to Union Station!” says Marc. “No amount of money can pay back what you did for me." Marc is proud to tell you that he has lived in his apartment since 2015. In that time, he has had no visits to the ER or jail. He has peace of mind, friends, and community. “I have so much clarity and purpose in my life now!” he beams. His next goal is to repair his relationship with his family.

Marc overcame so much to arrive at where he is today: housed, happy, and hopeful for his future. Government funds enabled us to house Marc, but it was your generosity that helped us make him whole again. Thank you for being part of the solution!

Sincerely,

Howard A. Kahn
Interim Chief Executive Officer

To read more client stories, visit unionstationhs.org/clients.
Recently, I celebrated my 30-year anniversary with Union Station Homeless Services. I’ve seen a lot of changes in those 30 years. When I joined the staff in 1988, there were only about 10 of us! It was a small but passionate crew, and I remember feeling incredibly fortunate to spend my days with people I admired so much; not only my coworkers, but volunteers, clients, and donors as well. I worked closely with each of these groups over the years according to whatever my position was at the time.

Of course, in 30 years, I have changed as well. I’m married to the best husband ever, and mother to three amazing children who have grown up (my youngest is now 19!) with Union Station almost literally in their blood. When I lost my parents, I will never forget the way my Union Station family comforted and uplifted me.

Anyone can look up our website and read all about Union Station’s history and see the timeline which describes programs and services developed over the years to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness and poverty. An agency made up of individuals who are always looking for better ways to serve is bound to change over time.

I’ve given 100% of myself to this work, and yet I’ve received so much more in return. It’s been an incredible adventure! Life lessons learned, enduring friendships, and a daily living laboratory of how love works. In the end, all the money, services, and trainings in the world don’t mean anything without love.

Love moves us to action and keeps our hope alive like nothing else can. And love is why I’ll be back here tomorrow and every day after that for as long as Union Station lets me.

Liz Shelby
Care Coordinator

To read the unabridged letter, visit: unionstationhs.org/aletterfromliz

Meeting Them “Where They Are At”

This past year, we engaged people living on the streets in a dynamic new way. Our new Multidisciplinary Outreach Teams (MDT) are equipped to provide services in the field that are generally provided at more traditional office or clinical settings. Our teams bring professional services to individuals where they’re at while engaging them in the housing process.

Each of our 5-member Multidisciplinary Outreach Teams consist of a nurse, substance use counselor, mental health clinician, formerly homeless peer, and generalist outreach worker. Together, they engage homeless folks in encampments, public transport, parks, libraries, hospitals and more to connect them to housing, supportive services, and other vital resources.

“This past year, we have been grateful to partner with the L.A. County Department of Health Services (DHS) and ChapCare to address the needs of some our homeless community members in an increasingly proactive and holistic way,” says Ryan Izell, Union Station Homeless Services Chief Program Officer.

Our pilot MDT team launched in June 2017 in El Monte and has since made contact with 140 homeless individuals. Nearly 60% of those individuals completed assessments and more than 30% of were connected to services. 24 individuals have already been placed in shelter, and 4 have already been permanently housed! Thanks to Measure H and a partnership with the Pasadena Public Health Department, we will be able to fully implement three more MDT Teams this year in Pasadena, Irwindale, and Pomona!

To read more about the programs Union Station offers, visit: unionstationhs.org/programs.

Volunteer Mentor Program

The effects of homelessness extend long after someone receives the keys to their new home. Individuals emerging from homelessness often experience extreme isolation and face many of the same challenges that contributed to their homelessness. Volunteer mentors provide emotional support and resources to set individuals/families up for success.

A new grant helps us match volunteer mentors with recently housed individuals and families to stabilize in their new community, work towards goals, and build life skills. The goal is to keep people housed, provide extra support in order to reduce the risk of repeat homelessness, and keep individuals feeling connected to their communities.

You have to power to help us change a life and take steps towards ending homelessness! If you are interested in playing an active and unique role in someone’s life, or would like more information, contact Emily Fredrickson.

626.240.4550 ext.209  |  efredrickson@unionstationhs.org
Join us on Sunday, May 6, for the 3rd annual Masters of Taste, a premier food and beverage festival on the field of the iconic Rose Bowl. Walk the field of the Rose Bowl and enjoy unlimited samplings from more than 85 of L.A.’s top chefs and restaurants, wineries, craft breweries, mixologists, and more!

For more information on how to partner with us, contact Dana Bean. 626.240.4558 | dbean@unionstationhs.org

100% of proceeds benefit Union Station Homeless Services

#eatmoregivemore

FEATURED PARTICIPANTS

CHURCH & STATE / SPRING
Chef Tony Esnault

POPPY + ROSE
Chef Michael Reed

BONE KETTLE
Chef Erwin Tjahyadi

XO
Chef Michael Hung

AYARA LUK
Chef Vanda Asapahu

THE BELLWETHER
Chef Ted Hopson

and many more...

GOLD SPONSORS

www.MastersOfTasteLA.com

Corporate Partner

Avery Dennison recently made a $50,000 donation to Union Station, kicking off a year-long partnership! On March 6th, employees of the Glendale office learned more about Union Station’s programs and made 200 sack lunches for our Adult and Family Centers. Avery Dennison employees also committed to volunteer throughout the year! Thank you, Avery Dennison!

“Avery Dennison is committed to enriching the communities where we live and work. Homelessness is a growing issue in San Gabriel Valley, and it impacts families every day. That’s why we’re proud to support Union Station’s efforts to combat homelessness through supportive housing, employment and life skills training. With an opportunity for our employees to volunteer with Union Station, our impact can be even greater.” — Alicia Procello, VP Corporate Social Responsibility

For more information on how to partner with us, contact Dana Bean. 626.240.4558 | dbean@unionstationhs.org
Thank You, Oaktree!

Oaktree Capital Management hosts fundraisers for Union Station Homeless Services throughout the year. Last year, they raised more than $25,000 for our life-saving programs!

“As part of the Our Communities Matter program, Oaktree Capital dedicates its time and resources to meaningful and much-needed organizations, especially within our own local community of Los Angeles,” says Todd Molz, GC & CAO of Oaktree Capital Management. “We are proud of our longstanding support of Union Station Homeless Services in its mission to help individuals and their families rebuild their lives and end homelessness in LA and beyond.” Thank you for being #partofthesolution, Oaktree!

Want to host a fundraiser?
Would you like to host an event to raise funds for Union Station Homeless Services? Whether it’s a wine tasting, barbecue, recital, or something totally different, we’d love to give you all the tools needed for a great event!

For more information, visit unionstationhs.org/fundraiser or contact Amanda Green. 626.240.4559 | agreen@unionstationhs.org

There are many ways to make a planned gift. Designate Union Station as your beneficiary and continue to rebuild lives for years to come! We can provide more information about:

- Bequests
- IRA Rollover
- Charitable Gift Annuity
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Donor Advised Funds
- Gifts of Appreciated Assets

For more information, visit: unionstationhs.org/legacysociety or contact Dana Bean. 626.240.4558 | dbean@unionstationhs.org

Annual Report
Our Annual Report is now available! This year saw us achieve remarkable growth. We hope you enjoy this report and the highlights we are sharing with you—as we acknowledge that none of this is possible with your support!

View the report online at unionstationhs.org/annualreport or contact Sevana Keshishian to get a hard copy sent to you by mail. 626.240.4562 | skeshishian@unionstationhs.org