

Greetings from the Island

We hear and see so much in the news these days that is negative, I want to highlight something that is working to make a major impact in a community and help end homelessness for our neighbors. I want to share a story about the "Island" in El Sereno.

Over 100 people had established an encampment, called the "Island," on the median strip along Huntington Drive in El Sereno. The tents were full of people who saw each other as neighbors, looking out for each other, bartering food, and sharing helpful suggestions to survive on the streets.

While the encampment was a community, it was not housing.

Enter Project Homekey

Building on the success of Project Roomkey (PRK), Project Homekey is the next phase in the State's COVID-19 response to protecting Californians experiencing homelessness who are at high risk for serious illness. Unlike PRK, which was a temporary measure, Homekey hotels are purchased by a combination of federal and state funds. The hotels are then signed over to nonprofits to use as interim housing for three to five years, after which they will be turned into permanent supportive housing.

Union Station was awarded two hotels in El Sereno at the end of December 2020 to offer housing to those living on the Island.

We worked closely with LAHSA and with City Councilmember Kevin De León and his staff, who were instrumental in ensuring the move was done without police presence and was handled with respect for the people experiencing homelessness. There were no demonstrations. No one was forced to move or had their

belongings "swept." Instead, we worked together to help provide an opportunity for people – a pathway that treated people with dignity.

Within 4 months, almost 100 people had moved from the streets into the two hotels. Once the Island community moved into the hotels, they voted along with the staff and partners, on the new names for the sites. The former Titta Inn is now "Casa Luna" and the former Super 8 is called "Huntington Villas."

**"With a roof over
my head, I can deal
with my issues.
I need steady
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my behaviors."**

The opening of these two hotels has been so positive for the residents and the surrounding community, that the sites have been recognized by both the City of Los Angeles and the State of California as the model for how to do these projects successfully. In fact, we were honored to host a tour of the site for Lourdes M. Castro Ramirez, California State Secretary of Business, Consumer Services and Housing, Gustavo Velasquez, Director of California Department of Housing and Community Development and Doug Guthrie of the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles.

I am glad to share that the State recently released another round of funding for more Project Homekey sites in California.

Thank you again for being part of the solution with us because in the words of Keith, a resident at the Huntington Villas, "With a roof over my head, I can deal with my issues. I need steady housing to be able to think and change my behaviors."

Sincerely,

Anne Miskey



Anne Miskey, Chief Executive Officer

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Changing of the Guard

In June, our Board of Directors came together to celebrate another year of guiding Union Station on delivering our mission to end homelessness. At the gathering, they took time to say goodbye to members whose terms had ended -- Jim Moore, Marie Queen, Holger Besch, Dianne Bukata, and Lonnie Schield. Then, four new Board members were welcomed to the Union Station family: Rita Diaz, Jordan Rettig, Bill Ticknor and Steven R. Townsend.

Learn more about our board at: unionstationhs.org/our-board

Humbled by the Recognition

The Los Angeles Business Journal named Anne Miskey CEO of the Year Finalist. In addition, Union Station Homeless Services was selected as the Annenberg Foundation Grant recipient of \$15,000!

Congresswoman Judy Chu recognized Union Station Homeless Services as the Non-Profit of the Year Award as part of Congresswoman Chu's 27th District – Congressional Leadership Awards: Hometown Heroes of the Pandemic!



Calling All Cooks to Adopt-A-Meal



We rely on the support of volunteer groups to provide daily meals to shelter residents and community members in need. If your family, corporation, or civic group would like to cook and serve a meal or drop off/cater a meal from a local restaurant at our Adult or Family Center, consider signing up to "Adopt-a-Meal!"

You can tailor the program to meet your or your organization's preference. It's also a unique opportunity to show off your creativity and add a personal touch, such as your favorite recipes from home.

Plan and purchase your menu ingredients, then you can either cook the meal at home or in our kitchen. Or you can purchase the meal from a restaurant for delivery or to drop off. Finally, you and your group can either serve the meal or enlist our staff.

Email volunteer@unionstationhs.org to sign up and learn more.

An Evening for the Station Is Roarin' Back!

Dust off those dancing shoes and get ready for Roarin' 2021! Our annual Evening for the Station event and silent auction are roarin' back on **Wednesday, October 13** at the **University Club of Pasadena**. You won't want to miss being treated to the sounds of the Gerry Rothschild Band and enjoying a variety dance show by Todd Elliot Entertainment.

Sponsorships, in-person tickets, and one-of-a-kind live virtual tickets are available now! *To learn more about the event or to start perusing auction items, visit unionstationhs.org/EFTS2021.*

THE VENUE



THE BAND



THE DANCERS



THE SILENT AUCTION



Give Thanks and Give Back this Thanksgiving



Year after year, community volunteers have stepped up to serve thousands of meals at Thanksgiving. We have a variety of volunteer opportunities to make each of our Dinner in the Park programs possible, including food sorting, preparation, cooking, packaging, and serving. Volunteer opportunities will be available for sign up beginning on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 9 am.

If you'd like to provide the food and supplies needed for these meals, visit our *Amazon Wish List* at unionstationhs.org/wishlist. Corporate and community partners can help end hunger and homelessness in our community! Donate or Sponsor Dinner in the Park today. Learn more at unionstationhs.org/dip2021.

Masters of Taste Returns!

The fifth annual Masters of Taste returns with Host Chef Vanda Asapahu of Ayara Thai on the field of the iconic Pasadena Rose Bowl Stadium. On Sunday, April 3rd, 2022, L.A.'s top tastemakers will reunite to sip, savor and celebrate with 100% of the proceeds directly benefiting Union Station Homeless Services.

Buy your tickets now at mastersoftastela.com/tickets.



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A Summer Full of Support!

We are incredibly grateful to our community for being part of the solution. Thank you for helping your neighbors experiencing homelessness. *Learn more about how you can host a fundraiser or event benefiting Union Station at unionstationhs.org/events/host-an-event.*

You can also support Union Station through the **Vroman's Gives Back** charitable program that donates a portion of customers' purchases to local nonprofits. *To sign up to give back with Vroman's or other companies that are giving back, go to unionstationhs.org/help/shop.*

Changing the Narrative Series Presents *Rethinking Mental Health: Radical Inclusion for our Unhoused Neighbors*

Tuesday, October 19, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Join us for a compelling and honest conversation to rethink mental health. We'll discuss how accessible mental health services can offer recovery and transformation. Speakers include Dr. Mark Ragins, Kerry Morrison, Anthony Ruffin, and Anne Miskey. *Register at unionstationhs.org/CNS6.*

Tech Makes an Impact

Not having access to the internet means not having a connection to critical information and lifesaving services. Helping bridge the technology divide for those who are experiencing homelessness, Glen and Natalie Kraemer, Hirschfeld Kraemer LLP, and Xantrion donated 40 Dell Chromebooks to Union Station Homeless Services and are making a major difference.



A Moving Donation

When our van at Centennial Place broke down, we were in urgent need of a new way to transport our residents. We are so grateful to Patron Saints Foundation who stepped up and donated a Honda Pilot as part of their 35th Anniversary celebration.

"The purchase of a vehicle to transport residents of Centennial Place so they may receive health care services fulfills our mission because transportation is a barrier to gain access to the resources they need," stated Alysia Carroll, Secretary of the foundation's Board of Directors. Thank you, Patron Saints!



Your Passion Can Be #PartoftheSolution

Looking for the opportunity to make a real difference in your community and advance in a meaningful career? Join us! We have numerous job opportunities, a friendly environment, and the opportunity to work alongside teammates who value dedication, integrity, and passion for our mission to end homelessness.

Check us out at unionstationhs.org/about/employment.

