

HOUSING FIRST: Not Housing Only

As we continue to experience a homelessness crisis in Los Angeles, we are starting to see and hear narratives regarding the need to take a different approach. The well-researched and internationally recognized model of “housing first” is being attacked and we’re seeing a return to enforced treatment, sweeps and criminalization.

While it is understandable that people are frustrated, we need to be

careful not to jump on this bandwagon. In fact, the methods being proposed by many – especially enforced treatment and criminalization – were used for decades. Both through experience and research it has been shown that not only are these methods ineffective, they actually caused massive increases in homelessness in the years they were implemented.

So what about “housing first”? Critics like to say it’s “housing only” – that people are thrown into housing and then left without services or care. This is far from the truth. In fact, housing first service providers know that the success of this model is about the combination of housing – which creates safety, stability and dignity – combined with wrap around services.

The facts don’t lie. Using a housing first model, Union Station has between a 97% to 99% success rate – helping people maintain their housing and not return to homelessness. But what about these other models? Research has shown they are only about 35% to 45% successful – and that’s for people with few barriers. On top of that, they are much more costly. We know those models don’t work so let’s not get swept up in the false narrative we’re hearing.

Why then, if the housing first model is so successful, do we see growing homelessness in our County? The answer is simple: we do not have enough affordable housing! A Housing First Model can only be successful if we have housing!

Since the inception of Measure H, the county funded ¼ cent sales tax, we have permanently housed tens of thousands of people in Los Angeles – the highest number of any city ever in our country. But sadly, the numbers keep increasing as more and more people fall into homelessness each day due to the high cost of rent.

Let’s work together to keep bringing people home – by ensuring there are homes for them.

Sincerely,

Anne Miskey

Anne Miskey, Chief Executive Officer



A SAFE PLACE TO CALL HOME

Elena is a woman of resilience. No matter how many times life hit her hard, she keeps looking for a solution and a path forward.

Elena lived in a wonderful home with her sister and their dogs. Unfortunately, after the death of her sister in 2008, the home was foreclosed on.

Elena found a room to rent. When she sustained two serious falls while walking her dog that required hospitalization, she couldn’t make the rent. She moved to Eagle Rock. After a time, the arrangement didn’t work out, and she had to leave.

Elena and her dog Brownie, a Shih Tzu mix, began to live out of her Kia Rio.

To protect herself and her dog, Elena decided to work the night shift, searching for places to park during the day to sleep. The best places were in public view for safety but in enough shade so when people walked by, they wouldn’t see her hiding under her black coat.

Elena was among the first group to move into our new Eagle Rock Tiny Village.

“The Tiny Village feels safe because I have a roof and a bed. I can sleep during the day and not worry about break-ins. I can now move forward. I can figure this out.”

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BREAKING GROUND ON NEW SENIOR HOUSING

Anne Miskey, Gaby Cardenas, Sarah Hoppmeyer, and Shawn Morrissey represented us at the groundbreaking ceremony of Heritage Square South in Pasadena. With 70 new permanent supportive housing apartments, the three-story building will be reserved for extremely low-income, formerly unhoused seniors.

Planned property amenities include a leasing office, onsite manager, 24-hour security, laundry rooms, an outdoor courtyard and a community room. Intensive Case Management Services will be provided by Union Station Homeless Services.



Pictured: Anne Miskey, Gaby Cardenas, Sarah Hoppmeyer, and Shawn Morrissey

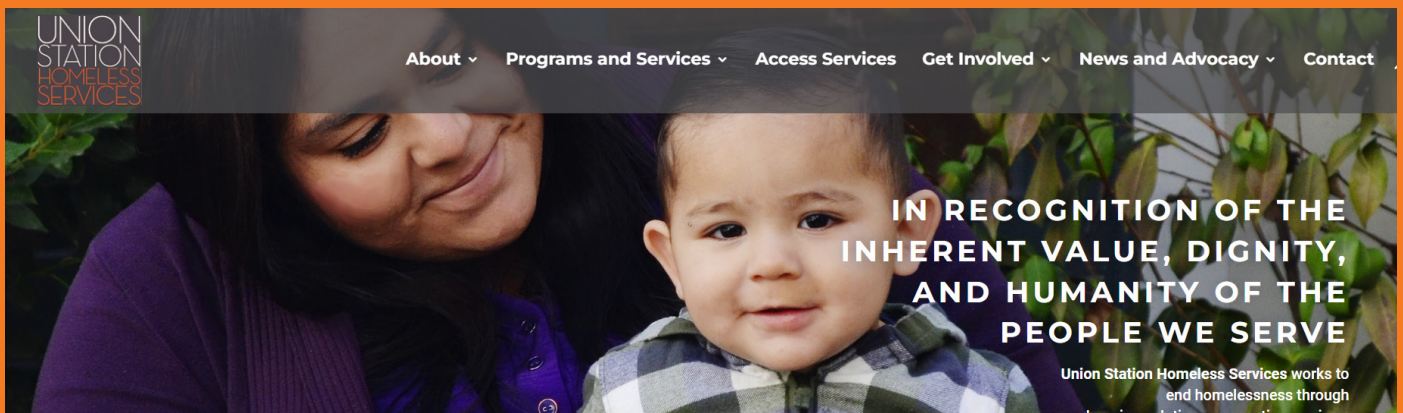


CALLING ALL UNION STATION ALUMNI

2023 marks Union Station's 50th Anniversary – 50 years of making a difference in the lives of our clients and in the community. To truly celebrate this major milestone, we are reaching out to reconnect with past clients, volunteers, donors and staff.

We want to let everyone know about our year of celebration and collect stories to share the impact Union Station has made in the lives of so many. If you want to be part of the celebration or want to share the names of past friends who may not receive this newsletter, please fill out this contact form [<https://bit.ly/3TQi9k5>]. Looking forward to sharing stories and celebrating with everyone!

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW WEBSITE?



We are excited to announce that Union Station Homeless Services has a new website that better showcases our work and mission. Now our website is more modern, user-friendly and mobile responsive!

Many hours went into this project with the help of our staff, board of directors, and Lived Expertise Advisory Panel (LEAP) members. Everyone helped us dramatically upgrade the site and we are so pleased with the results.

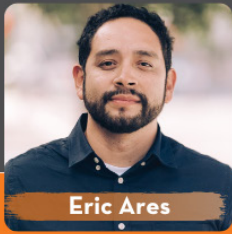
Thank you for being a part of our successes in helping to end homelessness. It takes everyone from volunteers and donors to staff and the board working together alongside our clients to make a difference.

Check it out at unionstationhs.org.



CHANGING THE NARRATIVE SERIES

What Works to End Homelessness



Eric Ares



Gary Blasi



Dorothy Edwards



Shawn Morrissey



Anne Miskey

OCTOBER 26, 2022 | 5:30 -7 PM | Zoom and Facebook Live

SAVE THE DATE

Join in for an open and frank discussion that will address current headlines about criminalizing those who are unhoused by returning to old and antiquated systems that prefer fines and jail time to actually providing true solutions.

The upcoming **Changing The Narrative: What Works to End Homelessness** brings together four leading experts in the sector to share their insights and knowledge on **October 26, 2022 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm**.

[Register to join us \[https://bit.ly/3eHZaYK\]](https://bit.ly/3eHZaYK).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need your assistance this holiday season with donations and in-person volunteer help!

Halloween is nearly here, and we could use your assistance collecting costumes for all ages for our shelter residents. In addition, our annual Thanksgiving Dinner in the Park is right around the corner, and we will need your help collecting Thanksgiving food items such as cans of corn, cranberry sauce, stuffing, and gravy mix! Be on the lookout for how to sign up for volunteer shifts around Thanksgiving to help us prepare meal boxes, cook in the kitchen, carve turkeys, and more.

If you have any questions about donation needs or volunteer opportunities, please contact the Volunteer Department at volunteer@unionstationhs.org.



YOU CAN BE #PARTOFTHE SOLUTION

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NEWSLETTER

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WHY I GIVE: MARK AFRAM

Growing up in Pasadena, Mark remembers being distressed about people experiencing homelessness as far back as middle school. Now a high school teacher himself, Mark has also been a Sustaining Neighbor monthly donor since 2015. He has “seen homelessness increase in severity over the years” and even though he no longer lives in Pasadena, he recently increased his monthly donation amount.



“As my income has increased, I wanted to dedicate more towards giving. I believe in the work Union Station does and its efficacy.”

For Mark, it has “been rewarding to see how Union Station has grown” since he joined the Sustaining Neighbor monthly giving program. “I feel like Union Station is a larger and more effective institution than when I first started. I recognize that I’ve played a small role in the mission.”

To join Mark in supporting Union Station’s efforts all year long or to increase your current monthly gift, please visit: unionstationhs.org/sustaining_neighbors

MAKE YOUR GIFT GO FURTHER!

Did you know? About 10% of the US workforce is eligible for corporate matching gifts. Are you or your spouse one of those people?

To find out, visit unionstationhs.org/help/donate/ and search for your company using our **FREE** Double the Donation tool. And if you volunteer with Union Station, your employer may also provide us with a grant as a way to recognize your ongoing donation of time!



Double the Donation
matching gifts made easy

WANT TO HELP, BUT DON'T KNOW HOW?

Last year, Aion Training in Pasadena held a special workout to benefit our life-saving work, raising over \$1,000! Host a fundraiser for Union Station in your own creative way!

Please visit unionstationhs.org/events/host-an-event for ideas, tips, and inspiration on how YOU can create our next fundraising event. Get your friends and family involved and you will all be part of the solution!

