Dear Friends,

As I was walking to work one day – focused on all the paper work still to be done, the meetings to attend, the emails to answer – I was stopped by a woman who came up to me and took my arm. With tears running down her face she begged me to find her a place to live, a home.

“I can’t do this anymore,” she whispered to me. “I can’t live like this. Please, help me.”

My heart broke for her and for the thousands more like her in Los Angeles County, who, each day, must survive life on the streets. On some days the tragedy that is homelessness seems so overwhelming that there is little that we can do to stop the tide of people now living on our streets.

But then I remember the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, “Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.” And we must never lose sight of the fact that there is light – there is hope – for those who experience homelessness.

I am profoundly moved when I think of all that we have accomplished at Union Station over the past year, with the help of you, our amazing donors, volunteers and staff. Together we have brought housing, stability and hope back to thousands of individuals and families in Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley.

We permanently housed over 700 people last year and provided job skills and training, shelter, meals, mental health, substance abuse counseling, and other services to many more.

We launched our new mentor program, which matches compassionate and caring volunteers with formerly homeless clients. The mentors provide support, and more importantly, friendship to people who have often been isolated and alone.

While we celebrate all that has been accomplished this past year, we must not forget that there is still so much more to do. We desperately need everyone in our communities to say “yes” to affordable and supportive housing. It is only through housing that we will end homelessness. And we need your continued help to support the programs and services we provide that help people rebuild their lives.

I want to give a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you who has supported Union Station this past year through your generous gifts of time and treasure. We look forward to continuing to work with you to end homelessness for all people in our community.

Warm Regards,

Anne Miskey
Chief Executive Officer

For more information on how to get involved, contact us at giving@unionstationhs.org.

Anne Miskey, Chief Executive Officer

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We were proud to nominate Richard and Eric Dong as Outstanding Young Philanthropists at the 2018 Association of Fundraising Professionals Conference. The brothers recently established a $25,000 endowment at Union Station that will benefit children experiencing homelessness.

Congratulations and thank you for being part of the solution!

Prop 1 will build and provide affordable housing for veterans, working families, and seniors, while Prop 2 will help provide housing and treatment for mentally ill people who are experiencing homelessness. While it’s not yet clear if Union Station will be eligible to receive these funds, we are hopeful that they will serve to strengthen services and expand housing resources to get our homeless neighbors off the streets for good.

Mentor Program

Last year, we launched the Mentor Program and we are encouraged how successfully our vision has organically evolved. What began as a broad vision to integrate formerly homeless neighbors into their new communities has evolved into a thriving and multifaceted program, where clients and volunteers are teachers and learners, working together to create a better community across San Gabriel Valley.

The Mentor Program matches volunteer mentors with recently housed adults who have experienced homelessness. The program facilitates authentic one on one supportive relationships, hosts community events, and provides resources to aid the long term housing stability and wellness of our neighbors. Since the program’s inception, 75 clients have been provided reintegration services; 34 have been successfully matched with a volunteer mentor. In only one year, we have seen such amazing results from the program — like Jennifer and Rochelle’s story.

Like many families that come to Union Station Homeless Services, Rochelle and her five children had been living on the street. Until they were housed, the family was in survival mode, tackling each crisis as it arose. Once Rochelle and her kids moved into permanent housing at Marv’s Place, she signed up for a mentor through our program and was paired with another mother named Jennifer. Rochelle and Jennifer easily fell into a caring relationship. When Rochelle asked Jennifer to help her jumpstart her beauty business, Jennifer enrolled both of them in a social media marketing class and a beauty foundations workshop at Sephora. With her newfound knowledge and skills, Rochelle plans to use the money she will make to buy a house for her and her kids. Rochelle and Jennifer continue to meet regularly to work towards goals and simply enjoy each other’s company.

To learn more about the Mentor Program, visit unionstationhs.org/mentor.

Young Philanthropists

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Congratulations and thank you for being part of the solution!

There are many ways to make a planned gift. If you wish you could do more to help end homelessness in our community, look no further than Union Station’s Legacy Society. By including Union Station Homeless Services in your will, you can ensure that our work will continue into the future.

To learn about planned giving and our Legacy Society, visit unionstationhs.org/legacy.
Ralph M. Parsons Foundation

Union Station Homeless Services is deeply grateful for a recent grant of $100,000 from The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation. This grant will provide critical support to Union Station by sustaining and improve vital client support services with an emphasis on innovation and best practices; and improving organizational capacity to sustain anticipated growth over the next five years. This very generous gift will have an immediate impact on the lives of the individuals and families that we serve every day by providing essential support to our intake and assessment, shelter, housing and employment services.

As we celebrate our 45 year anniversary, Union Station remains committed to our mission to help individuals and families rebuild their lives and end homelessness. Their gift is an investment in our shared vision that everyone deserves a place to call home. We thank them for their commitment to Union Station Homeless Services and to the people we serve.

For more information on ways to give at Union Station, visit unionstationhs.org/giving.
Evening for the Station

Union Station recently hosted an Evening for the Station: A Night of Magic! Over 350 guests gathered for a sold out performance at The Rose in Pasadena. Magic Castle performers Tina Lenart, Ardan James, Rob Zabrecky, Mike Caveney and David Kovac delighted the audience with a great show and close-up magic!

Evening for the Station raised $115,000 for Union Station, exceeding our fundraising goals. Guests enjoyed a VIP reception with a silent auction and a new selfie-station!

We are so grateful to our generous talent, guests and sponsors. Also a special thank you to our clients Jessica and Joel who made moving comments about their journey through our program and finding hope at Union Station! 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!

ALCHEMY
Georgia B Ridder Foundation
Michael Whalen, President

ILLUSIONIST
Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Kauffman Wealth Management
Douglas & Jane Krech
Hannah & Russell Kully
Vickie & Alex Taylor

Dinner in the Park

On Thanksgiving, Union Station Homeless Services celebrated its 48th annual Dinner in the Park! Hundreds of volunteers brought compassion and hope to Central Park in Pasadena as community members gathered for a beautiful Thanksgiving meal!

Community members enjoyed over 1,700 meals, prepared by volunteers, Union Station staff, and CenterPlate. Individuals and families experiencing homelessness, senior citizens and those who were alone or unable to otherwise enjoy a holiday meal were welcomed and served!

This event would not have been possible without the incredible outpouring of support from our community! Volunteers assisted in in the kitchen during the days leading up to the event and all day in the park! We are truly grateful for our strong community of friends and for all the individuals and businesses who contributed by donating items from our wish list to this tradition!

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

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

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