Dear Friends,

If you ask why people experience homelessness, and why it seems to be an increasing problem in our cities and counties, you’ll get a variety of answers. Many point to mental illness or physical disability as the cause. Others will say substance use, domestic violence, loss of employment, poverty – or a myriad of other serious issues that affect people in our communities.

These are all factors that create tremendous vulnerability in people, and it is, quite frankly, this vulnerability that often results in people being driven out of their homes.

But why some people, and not others? We all have neighbors, friends, family, or colleagues who deal with mental or physical illness on a daily basis, or who live on extremely low incomes, who are victims of violence, or who struggle with substance use – and yet they are housed.

So what does cause homelessness? I believe the answer is two-fold: it is the lack of affordable housing on the one hand and, for some, the lack of social connection and support on the other.

And what can we do about it? At Union Station, we have been effectively housing people experiencing homelessness for over 45 years. Through a continuum of services – from outreach to people living on the streets, to wellness services, to supportive housing, to employment, we are supporting people back into stability and helping them thrive. I believe that we have shown that we know how to solve homelessness.

But we have hit a serious roadblock – and that is the lack of affordable and supportive housing. We have hundreds – thousands – of people waiting for homes, but with no place to live.

It is for this reason that we have recently expanded our work to focus on engaging with the broader community to ensure we have enough housing that is affordable for families and individuals, and that we create career pathways to move people out of poverty.

We are thrilled to announce that we have appointed Shawn Morrissey as our new Director of Advocacy and Community Engagement. Shawn has many years working in the field, and in the San Gabriel Valley and Pasadena communities. He will be working with staff, volunteers, people with lived experience of homelessness, and elected officials to bring broader understanding of homelessness and the need for housing and services. I hope you will all join us in these efforts. It is only together – as a community – that we can end homelessness!

Warm Regards,

Anne Miskey
Chief Executive Officer

To get involved in community engagement and advocate for more housing, contact Shawn Morrissey at smorrissey@unionstationhs.org.

“Let’s end homelessness together!”

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Helping individuals and families rebuild their lives and end homelessness
Introducing: Community Allies Program

Our Volunteer Mentor Program recently celebrated its one year anniversary! Our amazing clients have overcome challenges, resolved barriers, and successfully made the jump from homelessness to housing. Once housed, they are paired with volunteer mentors who provide connection, friendship, and support to help those who have been recently housed integrate into their community.

The program has provided more than 85 clients with reintegration support and matched 45 clients with volunteer mentors. Over the past year, we listened closely to our clients as well as to our volunteer mentors, in order to build a program uniquely catered to their needs. We are encouraged to see how our original vision has organically evolved into a dynamic and thriving, multifaceted program, where clients and volunteers are both teachers and learners, working together to create a better community across the San Gabriel Valley. We’re excited to share with you our refined program strategy and our new program name: Community Allies.

In the year to come, we will focus on the overall wellness and stability of our participants, long after they are housed. In addition to on-on-one mentorship pairings, mentors and participants will build individualized community integration plans that are unique to the needs of each participant. While mentorship will remain a key pillar of our program, the new model empowers participants to decide what type supportive relationships and community involvement they are interested in; be it mentorship, companionship, or other forms of community building.

To learn more about the Community Allies Program, visit unionstationhs.org/allies.

Altadena Grand Opening

In January, we celebrated the opening of a new office in Altadena! In recent years, we have seen significant program and staff growth at Union Station, and these new offices allow us increase our capacity to meet the rising needs in our community.

We want to take a moment to reflect and give thanks to all of our supporters for how far we’ve come. THANK YOU!

For the past 46 years, we have worked passionately to rebuild lives and end homelessness, and we are excited to join the Altadena community as we continue to expand beyond Pasadena into cities across the San Gabriel Valley.

We look forward to partnering with Altadena in our efforts to end homelessness and we would like to thank the following groups for their continued support and attendance that evening:

- The Hilton Foundation
- Senator Anthony Portantino
- Supervisor Hilda Solis
- Assemblyman Christopher Holden
- McTigue Architecture
- United Interiors
- Altadena Chamber of Commerce
- Altadena Heritage
- Altadena Library
- Altadena Town Council

Dominick Correy, District Representative, Senator Anthony Portantino’s Office

Thomas’ Story

On May 30th, Thomas will be nine years sober. He’s walked a long and courageous path to come to the place he lives today. When Thomas met Union Station’s outreach workers, he had been living on the street for years. “I started thinking...I’ll keep going down and down. I was looking at a bottle and said, ‘I don’t want no more of that.’ I went to a meeting and stayed at [the Adult Center]. I stayed put, said my prayers, and worked on myself.” From the Adult Center, Thomas moved into Centennial Place, our supportive housing building in Pasadena, and then moved into his own place! “The staff at Union Station gave me a new chance at life, and life has never been so good,” says Thomas.

To learn more about client success stories, visit unionstationhs.org/clients.
To All Participants & Sponsors...

THANK YOU!

More than 2,500 LA foodies walked the field of the Rose Bowl on April 7th at our sold out 4th annual Masters of Taste, our largest and most dynamic fundraiser of the year. We raised over $500,000 to help rebuild lives and end homelessness. This is one of the largest grossing and highest attended event in Union Station’s history! More than 90 Culinary, Beverage, & Sweet Masters provided delicious tastings for guests in support of Union Station Homeless Services. This event would not be possible without the amazing support from our community, participants, and sponsors.

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Bart & Pam Wald

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Vickie & Alex Taylor
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HOST YOUR OWN FUNDRAISER
You can help change the lives of people experiencing homelessness in your own creative way!

Did you know that by designing and hosting your own fundraising event for Union Station Homeless Services, you can be part of the solution? It’s fun, simple and impactful!

There are so many ways that you can raise funds to support our mission and help us rebuild lives. Whether you host a sports challenge, a formal event, or your own unique creation, you can make a big difference in the life of an individual or family...and have a great time!

To learn more about hosting your own event, visit www.unionstationhs.org/host or contact giving@unionstationhs.org | 626.240.4557

LEAVING A LEGACY: ANISE STEVENS
Anise Stevens was a self-taught painter, produced playwright, published essayist and contributing art critic to several publications including Artillery and AEQAI.

Anise was a true lover of the arts, but didn’t pursue painting with regularity until diagnosed with breast cancer just before her 43rd birthday. Anise found painting a therapeutic outlet and motivator to persevere with inspired resilience. For seven years, she fought but ultimately lost a brave battle against cancer.

Her memory will be forever honored by the tremendous legacy that she left to Union Station Homeless Services. Her gift will allow Union Station’s life-saving work to continue for many years to come. We are inspired by her fearlessness, creativity, and commitment to those we serve.

Did you know that more than 80% of Americans donate to nonprofits, but only 8% chose to continue their support through a bequest? To learn how you can leave a legacy, visit www.unionstationhs.org/legacy.

ANNUAL REPORT
Our Annual Report is now available! This year, we achieved remarkable impact. We hope you enjoy our report and the highlights we are sharing with you—as we acknowledge that none of this is possible without your support!

View the report online at unionstationhs.org/annualreport.

To receive a copy in the mail, contact Natalie Hammond at 626.240.4557 or nhammond@unionstationhs.org.