Dear Friends,

Homelessness and the housing crisis are at the forefront of our minds. The issue makes headlines daily. It’s important to remember that chronic homelessness is a relatively modern experience. We mistakenly see homelessness as a personal tragedy, caused by an individual’s actions.

But how did we find ourselves in a society where tens of thousands of people sleep on our sidewalks? How have these so-called “personal tragedies” accumulated and reached epidemic proportions? The causes of homelessness are not personal, but rather systemic.

The shocking rise in homelessness over the past 40 years has been caused by a confluence of societal factors: The exporting of manufacturing jobs made it nearly impossible for many full-time workers to earn a living wage. Deinstitutionalization of mental health hospitals and disinvestment from public housing forced far too many of our most vulnerable community members out onto the streets. Practices like redlining and the war on drugs have perpetuated deep racial inequities, and caused people of color to disproportionately become trapped in cycles of poverty and homelessness. The skyrocketing cost of housing has only exacerbated the epidemic.

We must address the societal factors that leave tens of thousands of people in LA County without safe housing. At Union Station Homeless Services, we know our role in finding solutions is a vital one, and we take it seriously.

We are in the midst of a strategic planning process that will help us identify goals, set priorities, and focus our precious energy and resources on our mission to end homelessness.

We are grateful that Jim McCarthy -- who serves as CEO of Goldstar, Union Station’s Board Member, and our Strategic Direction Committee Chair -- has provided us with incredible leadership in these efforts. I would like to share with you an important message from Jim:

“Union Station has a lot of reasons to be proud. Few organizations have the expertise and knowledge that we do. Our reputation has grown, and with it, we’ve been entrusted with more resources to make a difference.

The organization has a powerful, important and clear mission: To end homelessness. Not ameliorate homelessness. Not stop the growth of homelessness. End homelessness.

Our strategic plan must have the goal of ending homelessness in Pasadena and the San Gabriel Valley area. If the plan is not designed to find solutions and help all of us work together towards this goal, it cannot hope to achieve the organization’s mission.

I don’t have all the answers. I’m not sure anyone does - but I do believe that Union Station is uniquely positioned to find the solution. In the future, when there is no homelessness in America, the very idea of humans sleeping on the streets feels impossible to us, people may very well say: “they found the solution in Pasadena, California.”

Let’s live our mission. Join us, and together, let’s make a plan that can end homelessness.

You are part of the solution!

Sincerely,

Anne Miskey
Chief Executive Officer

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HELPING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES
REBUILD THEIR LIVES
AND END HOMELESSNESS

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Our Executive Team Is Growing

It is our honor to introduce our newest members of the Union Station Executive Team:

**SARAH TOWER**, Chief Programs Officer, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with 15 years of experience serving vulnerable community members experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County. Her experience includes creative program design and implementation, leadership of outreach and permanent housing teams, and strategic planning with local community partners. With best-practices and person-centered principles at the heart of her learning and leadership, she is dedicated to ensuring a foundation of trusting relationships and accessible, relevant services for Union Station clients and staff alike.

**DAVID CUSACK**, Chief Financial Officer, has served in a financial senior leadership role for more than 24 years, with more than 15 years in the nonprofit sector. Prior to joining Union Station, he served as CFO for nonprofit community-based social service organizations whose services included childcare, foster care, residential, workforce development, substance use and behavioral health for lower income communities in and around Los Angeles.

**HOPE STREMSKI**, Senior Director of Contracts and Compliance, began her career in corporate America, but was attracted to the nonprofit sector more than 15 years ago. Formally a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), she has over 25 years of Accounting/Finance experience, has been involved with the management of contracts for more than 10+ years, and has performed compliance, monitoring and internal audit duties for almost 10 years. Hope joined Union Station in 2008 and has held a number of roles, including: Accounting Manager, Contracts and Compliance Manager, and Director of Contracts and Compliance. She holds a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Redlands.

To learn more about our Executive Team, visit unionstationhs.org/team.

### Dinner In The Park 2019

For 49 years, thousands of community members have come together in solidarity to celebrate hope and share a delicious meal during our Thanksgiving Dinner in the Park. Hundreds of volunteers gather together in the spirit of giving to serve a holiday meal to individuals and families in need.

Join the tradition by signing up to volunteer! Volunteers help do everything from setting up the event (and we can always use extra hands for that!), to cooking and serving meals. Online volunteer registration for Thanksgiving 2019 will open on Friday, November 1st at 9:00am on our website: unionstationhs.org/dip.

We could not make this event happen without the generosity of community members who help us provide for so many each year. The food and beverage donations we receive help ensure that every single person in need of a meal is able to receive one! If you cannot join us on Thanksgiving Day, you can still make a direct impact on the lives of those in need by donating items for the meal!

Union Station is accepting store-bought pies, canned food, soda, bottled water, kitchen supplies, and other items for Thanksgiving. We are in need of additional sack lunch donations the week of Thanksgiving, which is also a great project to do with your family and friends!

For information regarding volunteering, donations, and sponsorships, visit unionstationhs.org/dip.

DINNER in the PARK
unionstationhs.org/dip
Corporate Spotlight

Avery Dennison recently celebrated their year-long partnership with Union Station Homeless Services! This summer, employees at their Glendale office learned more about Union Station Homeless Services’ life changing programs and helped spruce up the Family Center by painting, gardening, and cleaning.

We know we cannot end homelessness alone. To achieve our mission, we count on partnerships — without them, our work would not be possible.

Thank you Avery Dennison for helping us to directly improve the lives of families experiencing homelessness!

For more information on how to partner with us, contact Dana Bean. 626.240.4558 / dbean@unionstationhs.org
Leave A Legacy - Lorraine Caine

Lorraine Cain was a resident of Altadena, California. She passed at 59 in April 2018. Lorraine was a strong advocate for disadvantaged and vulnerable members of society, and served as an attorney for Los Angeles County in the Child and Family Services department.

We are profoundly grateful for Lorraine’s incredible generosity and for the wonderful legacy she leaves behind in making a planned gift to Union Station.

For more information on Planned Giving, visit unionstationhs.org/legacysociety.

2019 Homeless Count Results

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority recently released the results of the 2019 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, which showed 58,936 people in Los Angeles County experiencing homelessness, representing a 12% rise from last year’s point-in-time count of 52,765.

However, two years into the 10-year investments from Measure H, we have also doubled the number of people moving from homelessness into housing over the course of each year, and tripled prevention, outreach, and engagement. Our system is helping more people than ever before, but we must address inflow into homelessness. We need your continued support to end homelessness and rebuild lives.

Union Station Homeless Services is committed to advocating for more affordable housing. We want affordable rents and a more sustainable, prosperous region, where everyone has a safe place to call home.

To accomplish this goal, we need your help to advocate in your neighborhood, city, region, and state levels for policies, plans, and projects that will build these units and improve the lives of all. Join the movement and be #partofthesolution!

For more information on how you can be part of the solution, visit: unionstationhs.org/help.

Richard & Eric Dong Scholarships

At its first ever scholarship ceremony, The Richard and Eric Dong Endowment Fund awarded 21 scholarships to young residents at the Family Center at Union Station Homeless Services.

On hand to celebrate the 21 awards were Congresswoman Judy Chu and Anne Miskey, Chief Executive Officer of Union Station Homeless Services. Thank you, Richard and Eric for your generosity!