Dear Friends,

We are all deeply saddened by the recent passing of Union Station Homeless Services’ former long-term CEO, Rabbi Marvin Gross. Marv was a man of true compassion, who believed in the humanity and dignity of all people, whether they were our neighbors next door, or our neighbor living on the street or in a shelter. He helped lead Union Station to become the largest agency serving people experiencing homelessness in the San Gabriel Valley, and one of the lead agencies in LA County. Marv was not simply a man of compassion. He was a fierce fighter for justice, a tireless defender of those most vulnerable in our society, and a believer that we can and must end homelessness – for each individual and for all people in our community. Marv’s dedication to doing what was right and most effective, is the powerful legacy he leaves Union Station and all its employees, volunteers, and supporters.

With a commitment to Marv’s legacy, we must continue to do the vital work of ending homelessness in Pasadena and the San Gabriel Valley. Every time we help a person or family move into their new home – we have ended their homelessness. Last year, we permanently housed over 900 people.

Sadly, despite our focused efforts, it is becoming more difficult to find housing. The rising cost of rents, the lack of livable wage jobs, virulent NIMBYism, and the backlash against people experiencing homelessness are creating a growing crisis.

We know homes end homelessness, and we recognize our mission of ending homelessness requires quality services combined with robust advocacy and community engagement. We are excited that this year, Shawn Morrissey became our Director of Advocacy and Community Engagement. Through this new role, we are leveraging our years of experience and reframing the conversation.

To affect real change, we need to help our community understand the systemic failures and policies that have led to our current crisis, to humanize the issue of homelessness and use our platform to call for broad systems change. We are building a network of trusted ambassadors and partnerships in cities across the San Gabriel Valley.

Together, we aim to raise awareness, dispel myths, and educate our community about homelessness. We are inspiring others to raise their voices and take action to affect real change. We are also expanding cross-sector partnerships with employment, criminal justice/re-entry, law enforcement, healthcare, mental health and business sectors to create more comprehensive and holistic approaches to meet the complex needs of those we serve.

We hope that our advocacy and community engagement will help advance our goal to create pathways for people to prevent or exit homelessness. If you are interested in becoming more involved, please contact Shawn Morrissey at smorrissey@unionstationhs.org.

We thank Marv for all his incredible work, and especially for the legacy he leaves, which continues to inspire us. Because of him, thousands of lives have and will continue to be transformed.

Sincerely,

Anne Miskey
Chief Executive Officer

IN THIS ISSUE:

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• Thank You To Our Funders!
• Masters of Taste 2020
• Fashion Fairy Godmother Grants Halloween Wishes
• Evening For The Station
• Dinner in the Park
We are pleased to welcome three new members to the Unions Station Homeless Services Board of Directors:

**VINAYAK BHARNE**
As both a Principal at Moule & Polyzoides Architects and Urbanists and a faculty member at USC, Vinayak has also authored numerous books including *Affordable Housing, Inclusive Cities*. With his research centering on contemporary urbanism in Asia and Latin America, specifically the planning of multi-species cities and the intersection of urban informality and low-income housing, Vinayak brings his award-winning urban design and city planning skills to the Board.

**LORI BONDAR**
An executive with extensive financial, strategic planning and business leadership experience, Lori is the Chief Accounting Officer and Global Controller for Avery Dennison Corporation. Her career includes executive positions in finance, risk management and strategic planning at public companies. Bringing her extensive expertise and insight to the organization, she will be a valued member of the Board.

**NANCY NAECKER**
An organized and empathic leader with 30 years of experience in the education and healthcare fields, Nancy serves as the Director of Congregational Development at All Saints Church. Her ongoing work centers around her goal of inspiring congregational leadership and development. Nancy, a long-time supporter of Union Station, brings her deep community ties and passion to our mission to her new role.

To learn more about our Board of Directors, please visit unionstationhs.org/board.

Thank You To Our Funders!

**S. Mark Taper Foundation**
There are 100,000 reasons to be grateful in 2020, and the S. Mark Taper Foundation is a leader among them! The foundation’s incredible grant of $100,000 will support our full range of services and help us meet the complex needs of our most vulnerable community members.

**Weingart Foundation**
We are so proud to announce that we have been approved for a $150,000 grant from the Weingart Foundation. This incredible two-year grant will strengthen our capacity to combat homelessness in Los Angeles County’s San Gabriel Valley.

**Heart Of The Home: Pasadena Rotarians give $75,000 to renovate the Adult Center Kitchen**
The kitchen is the heart of the home. It brings us together, feeds our bodies and nourishes our souls. The Adult Center Kitchen is the heart of our community. Our residents as well as our day patrons receive home cooked meals every day of the year, lovingly prepared and served by volunteers.

The Pasadena Rotary is deeply committed to community, and our community meals program would not be possible without them. To celebrate the Pasadena Rotary’s Centennial Anniversary, and to help celebrate 30 years of service at Union Station’s Adult Center, the Rotarians will provide Union Station with a generous grant of $75,000. The “Heart of the Home” Centennial Project will renovate the Adult Center kitchen with a new oven and stove, fryer, backsplash, sink and dishwasher, as well as upgrades to our commercial fridge/freezer, renovation to our volunteer bathroom, storage lockers, and more!

“Over the past hundred years, thousands of Pasadena Rotarians have put service above self and uncovered avenues to improve a community which we all share,” said Rotary President Scott Vandrick to Pasadena Now. More than 1.5 million meals have been served out of the Adult Center Kitchen since its inception 30 years ago. We hope to be able to serve many more meals to come, thanks to Pasadena Rotary!

Scott Vandrick, Pasadena Rotary President
Costume designer Kara Saun of Disney’s *Descendants 1, 2, and 3* fame brought her magic to the kids and parents at Union Station. She along with a troupe of Hollywood studio stylists made custom Halloween costumes for nearly 100 kids, who wouldn’t otherwise have had a costume.

The big reveal was a Halloween Fashion Runway Show with the families watching their children walk the runway in their costumes and big smiles.

For more information on how to partner with us, contact Dana Bean. 626.240.4558 | dbean@unionstationhs.org
Evening for the Station

Union Station hosted Evening for the Station: A Night of Wonder, in November at Imperial Palace. The variety show was well received and guests were thrilled, entertained and delighted by the diverse performances. Magic Castle Magician Mike Caveney was the night’s emcee and the audience enjoyed an amazing line-up of comedy, magic, juggling and more — plus live music by Little Brazil Trio and our always popular close-up magic during the Sponsor Reception. Evening for the Station raised over $100,000 for Union Station’s life-saving programs.

We are so grateful for our generous talent, guests, sponsors, and for our client Chris, who raised awareness about our Community Allies program and described how he found friendship and hope through Union Station! We would like to especially thank Michael R. Whalen, President of the Georgia B. Ridder Foundation, for their Platinum Level Support!

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

**PLATINUM**
Georgia B Ridder Foundation
Michael Whalen, President

**SILVER**
Tom Boyle & Wendy Lees
Hannah & Russ Kully
Lonnie & Lorraine Schield
Vickie & Alex Taylor

**BRONZE**
Gerry Puhara & Russell Ferrante
Goldstar
Terry & Teresa Krupczack

Dinner in the Park

This year’s Thanksgiving Dinner in the Park endured stormy weather but gathered the warmest of hearts. Our 49th annual event was moved indoors to the Adult Center due to heavy showers, and showed us that our incredible community will serve and support one another even when the weather is less than ideal.

On a day synonymous with gratitude, we were beyond thankful for the volunteers, staff, sponsors, and empathy that made this event possible. Downsizing from 500 committed volunteers at Central Park to 80 at the Adult Center wasn’t ideal, but we were still able to serve over a thousand meals. The communities’ commitment to the greater good is always a sure thing. For that, we are humbled and especially grateful.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

For a full list of sponsors, visit: unionstationhs.org/efts19

Photography: Austin Sosa (sosaphoto.com)