

Help our hurting neighbors this Easter

Don't Miss...

"God is always working in my life."

Help meet our Easter Needs



Long Beach Rescue Mission Helping the Homeless ■ Changing Lives

## **THANK YOU FOR GIVING** Lisa **A NEW** BEGINNING.

Because of you, she has joy in her heart this Easter!





Lisa always said she would do anything for her infant daughter. No matter what she had to do or how much it cost, she would do it – until the Department of Child and Family Services took her daughter away because Lisa couldn't stop using drugs.

"I started smoking marijuana in high school," she says. "It got to the point where I was using every day. I always thought you couldn't get addicted to weed, but that's not true."

Lisa was 18 when she gave birth to her daughter. She quickly found that work, raising a child, and drugs took a big toll on her, and it just got worse and worse.

"My daughter was only 9 months old when DCFS took her from me," Lisa says. "I desperately wanted to get her back. I did everything they told me, but I still couldn't stop using."

She tried other recovery programs, but nothing seemed to get at the root of her addiction and help her find a way out of it. So when Lisa became homeless, she turned to drugs to numb her despair. It began to look like the DCFS was going to put her daughter up for adoption. She felt devastated... and afraid.

As a last resort, Lisa came to our Lydia House, where she hoped to get the real help she needed. Lisa began taking classes, attending devotions, studying the Bible and learning about codependency, which she admits she struggles with. Through counseling, she's discovering more about the root causes of her addiction – and learning new, healthy ways to cope with her emotions.

Because of regular drug testing, she could prove to the DCFS that she was clean – and she was allowed to see her daughter again. Then her faith in God began to grow.

# "Whatever happens, I know everything will be OK."

"I've learned that God is always working in my life," she says. "I can honestly say, 'God, I love you, I trust you, and whatever happens, I know everything will be OK."

With Jesus' love in her heart and hope for the future, Lisa is grateful for your support this Easter. "My plans now are to start working, get my own apartment and get my daughter back. Lydia House is a great place."

A Message from JEFF LEVINE

# THE GIFT OF Eternal Life

Easter is such an incredible time of year, isn't it? A day we're both humbled by the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross and filled with hope because of His resurrection. It still amazes me that God goes to such great lengths to make you and me part of His family!

That's why we're committed to making local men, women and children feel welcome here at Long Beach Rescue Mission. We invite them to be part of *our* family... and share with them the eternal hope that Jesus freely offers us *all* when we accept Him as our Father.

This Easter, you are sharing the blessings of love and community with everyone who comes through our doors. Through your prayers and financial gifts, you give them the strength to overcome their current challenges and start on a path toward new life.

Thank you for making this Easter a season of rejoicing. I hope your own celebrations are especially meaningful, knowing how lives are being transformed through your generosity and God's unending grace.

Serving with you,

Jeff Levine

Executive Director

#### HELP OUR HURTING NEIGHBORS THIS EASTER



Help make a new beginning possible for <u>more</u> men and women this Easter!

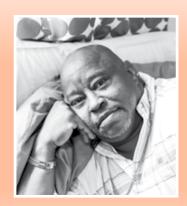
- **♥** A hot meal for \$2.20 often the first step to a new life in Christ
- An overnight stay in our safe shelter
- Christ-centered care & healing in our life-change programs
- Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.
- Give online anytime at LBRM.org.



#### Life transformation starts with YOU!



**22,848** meals \$2.20 for a meal!



**8,400** nights of shelter



**65** men & women in our recovery programs (on average)



**53,495** annual hours of education & counseling

Thank you for blessing those in need this Easter!

# HELP MEET OUR EASTER NEEDS



## **Sunday, April 9:** Our Easter Celebration from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.!

Easter is a day of joy and celebration. But right now, far too many of our neighbors are struggling with the rising costs of housing and food. They're turning here... and YOU can help welcome them with love and a special meal!

Drop off donations at the Mission, 1335 Pacific Ave., Long Beach.

No time to shop? Donate now! **\( (562) 591-1292 \( \sqrt{\text{LBRM.org}} \)** 

# URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS! Drop off any of these items by Friday, April 7: SPIRAL SLICED HAMS POWDERED MILK INSTANT MASHED DESSERTS (homemade or store-bought) BUTTER CANNED VEGETABLES CREAMER



The prayers of caring friends like you support and empower our ministry. And joining with other faithful friends to be part of our Prayer Team is the best way to know how you can pray for us!

Through our Prayer Team, you'll receive monthly prayer updates via email so you can lift up our most pressing needs to our Heavenly Father. You'll also see praises so you and other prayer warriors can rejoice with us when God answers!

God promises He hears us, anytime and anywhere.

Join our team today at LBRM.org/pray.

"Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." - Romans 6:4, NIV