



NEWS RELEASE

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MAYOR ANTONIO VILLARAIGOSA & RECORD BREAKING NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS SERVE THANKSGIVING DINNER TO 2,500 POOR AND HOMELESS CHILDREN, WOMEN & MEN AT THE FRED JORDAN MISSION ON SKID ROW

Celebrities are stepping off the stage for the day to serve fresh, hot turkey and pie to hurting and hungry guests.

Fred Jordan Mission will celebrate its 65th Thanksgiving Day on the streets of Skid Row. Thursday, November 26, from 10:00am – 2:00pm, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, dozens of celebrities including Demi Lovato from “Sonny with a Chance”, Moises Arias from “Hannah Montana” and Keshia Knight Pulliam from “House of Payne” and “Madea Goes to Jail” and thousands of volunteers will serve a traditional Thanksgiving Turkey Banquet with all of the homemade trimmings to more than 2,500 impoverished children, women and men at the Fred Jordan Mission, located at 445 Towne Avenue, on the corner of 5th and Towne, Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles.

The Mission will continue their tradition of preparing and serving more than 3,000 pounds of roast turkey, homemade corn bread stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, candied yams, pumpkin pies and hundreds of gallons of fruit punch for this extraordinary feast. In addition, each guest will receive a bulging Family Food Bag to take with them; new shoes for women and children; soap, shampoo, toothbrushes and tooth paste and family hygiene items; new hoodie sweat shirts for the kids and new socks for everyone. There will be so much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. It truly will be Christmas on Thanksgiving.

Mission President, Willie Jordan, (wife of the founder, Fred Jordan) will be on hand to welcome the Mayor, world-renowned pastor, Greg Laurie from Harvest Crusades, several celebrity guests and hundreds of caring volunteers. Children’s cries will turn to smiles and laughter as they and their families enjoy a spectacular Thanksgiving Concert featuring outstanding musicians that will entertain and inspire their guests every minute. Among the favorites this year are legendary Christian music artist Dennis Agajanian, gospel artist Debbie McClendon Smith and the Laurie’s Harvest Praise Band.

This is Fred Jordan Missions 66th Annual Thanksgiving Banquet for the disadvantaged, hurting and homeless. The number of underprivileged children, men and women coming to the Mission for help has skyrocketed because of the economic downturn, while at the same time, the Mission’s financial donations have dropped, as their supporters struggle to survive the nation’s current crises. However, in the face of these difficulties, the Mission continues to see a record number of volunteers stepping up to help with the growing need of the poorest among us. The Sikh Community of Los Angeles, Unilever, Ray Fico and a host of other compassionate individuals, churches and other groups of people are donating food, products and volunteers.

This annual dinner doesn’t just draw homeless, people. It also draws working families who can’t afford to cook a Thanksgiving Day dinner of their own. The Mission is expecting a record number of people. Thanksgiving kicks off the Mission’s 30 days of helping the poor come “home for the holidays” at the Fred Jordan Mission. This year once again the



Mission will provide over 80,000 meals for the poor. With the downturn in the economy our food supplies are much lower than normal. If people want to help, please call 1 (800) 964-FOOD or go on-line to give at www.fjm.org.

The Fred Jordan Mission is delighted to announce its second annual “**Boxes of Hope**” campaign food drive to help provide Christmas Dinner food for impoverished families who are often forced to choose between paying rent and buying food for their children. Each tax-deductible donation of \$25, will give a Christmas Food BOX OF HOPE directly to a needy family right here in our community. An additional \$25 will provide new toys and warm sox for the children. Phone 1-800-964-FOOD and make the donation with a major credit card. Or go on-line to www.fjm.org to purchase a “**Box of Hope**” that will be given directly to a needy family.

The **Fred Jordan Mission**, open 365 days a year since 1944, provides nutritious meals for hungry families, builds schools and hospitals and distributes food and clothing to the needy. Every year, more than 400,000 hungry people look to the Mission for their daily bread. The Mission is a non-profit, faith-based, educational and relief organization that gives help and hope to untold thousands.

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