



**Los Angeles Maritime Institute**  
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Dear friend,

“Looking back it was clear that the mates did not expect us to be competent. What we were meant to learn in those first few days—what mattered most—was not a particular set of skills, but a new way of thinking.”

– Harvey Oxenhorn, *Tuning the Rig*

Twenty-three years ago, Captain Jim Gladson chartered a course to bring troubled adolescents to sea to open up a new way of learning, and ultimately, a new way of seeing the world they live in. *Hopelessness and isolation cannot survive at sea; they are quickly transformed into determination and cooperation.*

The educational voyage that began on Jim’s sailboat paved the way for a maritime “learning by doing” program that uses exploring the ocean wilderness and being part of a ship’s crew to prepare youth for the adult challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

At sea, young people are introduced to the ocean’s diversity of life and ecosystems that create a vast living space. Perspectives begin to change when students realize they are part of something large and living, and that there are no barriers to achieving in life – there are only self-imposed limitations and negative attitudes that destroy one’s energy and potential.

On a tall ship at sea, negativity is quickly squashed. There can be no spectators. Everyone must pull their own weight and everyone has the same opportunities set before them. This is why the shipboard environment is rich in character and leadership development, and why “old world” seafaring traditions are still relevant today: sailing a traditionally rigged vessel produces habits of mind that endure and are applicable to most life circumstances. *We can only sustain our impact in the lives of under-served youth in Los Angeles and throughout Southern California with your dedicated and continued support.*

In January 2016, we will add an exciting maritime vocational pathway to our TopSail Youth Program: boat building. We have received a \$20,000 Matching Grant from the Sherry Griswold Foundation for our LAMI Boat Shop, with the intention of engaging veterans in the project. We hope you will consider “doubling” your giving to Los Angeles Maritime Institute this year with a donation to our at-sea programs **and** boat building project.

Thank you in advance for your generous support.

Sincerely,

Captain **Bruce Heyman**  
Executive Director

## OUR MISSION

The Los Angeles Maritime Institute serves to empower youth to discover their greater potential through extraordinary at-sea experiences.