

CAITLIN CROSBY

This Angeleno holds the key to helping the homeless.

WHEN FORMER musician Caitlin Crosby hung an old hotel key around her neck, she didn't intend to launch a socially conscious jewelry company. But when her necklace garnered curiosity, inspiration struck. Crosby explored locksmiths in each city she visited, collecting keys and engraving them with words meant to boost self-confidence and individuality. Though the necklaces soon outsold her CDs, Crosby sought a larger purpose. She discovered it when she befriended Rob and Cera, a homeless couple living in L.A. "Cera made jewelry, so I bought hammers and engraving equipment and they went to work," Crosby recalls. Eventually, the two earned enough to get off the streets. Crosby then officially started The Giving Keys, reaching out to L.A. nonprofits that screened potential employees and had people sent her way. Her company now sources keys from a large manufacturer, but vintage ones appear in special collections. Each classic key and keychain is hand-stamped by someone forging a new life path. "These are the keys to people's breakthroughs," says Crosby. "Since we started, we've employed over 120 people transitioning out of homelessness. No other jewelry company teaches that it's not all about you."

— GINA DECAPRIO VERCESI



▶ **Legend has it** that, as a child, magician and escape artist Harry Houdini worked as a locksmith and could pick any lock by age 11.

▶ **Each night** at 9:52, the Tower of London is locked in a ritual known as the Ceremony of the Keys, which has taken place since the 14th century.

▶ **The Baldpate Inn** in Colorado's Rocky Mountains has a collection of 30,000 keys that open locks in the U.S. Capitol, Frankenstein's castle and a Peruvian monastery.

ALL KEYED UP

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1 Walt Disney World's five-hour **Keys to the Kingdom Tour** offers a behind-the-scenes look into the magic of the Magic Kingdom.



2 A peek through the **Knights of Malta keyhole** on Rome's Aventine Hill offers a picture-perfect view of St. Peter's stunning dome.



3 Last July saw the debut of the **Key West Mermaid Festival**, held to promote ocean conservation in the Florida Keys.