

TACO Times

Celebrating 33 Years of Bread Day

Volume 5, Issue 2

June 2008

On the Move - A Message from Jim Lovell

**Paul's Goodbye:
July 6th—9am**

The Sunday of July 6th will be Paul Moorman's formal goodbye to TACO and First Lutheran. It will be at the 9am service with a reception afterwards at 10.

In addition, TACO will serve a special Tuesday meal at 4pm on July 1st in his honor.

Those who come to receive our services are constantly on the move. Even now when the city is ordered to allow sleeping at night for those who are homeless, throughout the day, people are on the move. Stay in one place too long, and you will be asked or told or ordered to move along. Even in Balboa Park, the police come through and ask people to keep moving. It is with tremendous grace that those who are on the streets continue to find new locations to wait and to hope.

Paul's Departure

Paul Moorman is on the move. For more than 10 years, Paul has been the face of our meal program. He has also been the voice and protector of TACO during his time here. An account of his service is on page 5.

New Volunteer Coordinator

As one door closes another opens. We are excited to welcome our new Volunteer Coordinator, Rachel Line.

She has started with us this week and you will find a great biography in this TACO Times. It has been 5 months since Lisa Seiler retired from TACO and in that interim time, we have relied on the great abilities of our regular volunteers, our special groups, and a couple of volunteers who have specially dedicated themselves to being our Volunteer Coordinators.

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TACO provides a variety of services to our clients. In the 1st quarter of 2008, you purchased:

- \$1,603 in housing assistance
- \$241 in medical expenses
- \$240 for IDs and birth certificates
- \$274 for glasses
- \$1,593 for public transportation

See the article on page 3 for more details!

Empty Bowls Raises over \$7000 for TACO

Two very successful Empty Bowls events last month raised more than \$7,000 for TACO ministries.

The fundraisers brought together artisan potters and their beautiful handmade bowls, some of the area's best restaurants, and a whole new group of friends and supporters of TACO.

The first event, held May 17 on the sunny patio and in the fellowship hall of United Methodist Church in La Jolla drew more than 500 people

and raised a total of \$6,197. Each guest chose a handmade pottery bowl, filled it with delicious soup and bread donated by area restaurants, and kept the bowl as a reminder of those whose bowls are often empty.

A small and mighty army of kitchen staff volunteers kept the soup coming – from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. there was a parade of everything from clam chowder to lobster bisque to a favorite crowd-pleaser, mulligatawny with fresh apple and cilantro.



Meanwhile, a student band from Mission Bay High School played Dixieland jazz while guests took their time choosing bowls from a dizzying array of dozens and dozens and enjoyed soup and

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On the Move *(continued from page 1)*

Other Thanks

We are thankful to Ladonna Piper and Randy Engel. Also to all of our regular volunteers who week in and week out have kept us going when we had dishwashers when we had none, when we had groups coming and when we had none. You fed over 3300 guests

in the first quarter of the year! A special thanks to Gregg Rayo who has also worked extra hard and will continue to do so as Paul goes and he has responsibility to take on all the additional pick-ups and deliveries. In fact, Paul and Gregg have begun this month to pick up more than 300 pounds of

food a week from Albertsons. This program, Fresh Rescue, was created by Albertsons and Second Harvest Food Bank. We are thankful to be one of a few non-profits to be invited to participate.

*Jim Lovell
TACO Director*

Empty Bowls *(continued from page 1)*

bread al fresco.

“You could really tell when a person found just the right bowl,” TACO volunteer Peg Ross said. “They get a very special look when they find one that speaks to them.”

Restaurants and bakeries that donated delicious food included Jack’s Thai Spices, Bully’s, Sammy’s Woodfired Pizza, The Cottage, Jack’s La Jolla, Bernini’s Bistro, The French Gourmet, Waters Catering, The San Diego

Yacht Club, Point Loma Seafoods, The Living Room Coffeehouse, El Indio, Charlie’s Best Bread, Julian Bakery, Beaumont’s, and more.

Several weeks later, an Empty Bowls collection was taken at St. Peter’s by the Sea church in Pacific Beach. A total of \$1,105 were given as donations for bowls, with proceeds going to TACO. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will match a portion of those donations.

TACO extends its heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who made the events possible, including potter Lynn Render, Lynn Zimmer and Jan Calabrese, TACO board members Peg Ross, Francie Montgomery and Melanie Novak.

This innovative, nationwide fundraiser began in a high school art class in Michigan, when students made pottery bowls and held a soup-and-bread lunch to help the hungry.

A Message from Rachel Line

Greetings from your new Volunteer Coordinator for TACO and Office Administrator at First Lutheran, Rachel Line. I’ve been warmly welcomed with thoughtful words of wisdom from so many of you already. It is a joy to be part of this ministry and I look forward to working with all who are involved.

For three years, I lived and worked at the Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry Center at San Diego State University (aka Agape House) while earning a Bachelor’s Degree in Religious

Studies. I am an active member of College Lutheran Church where I serve as one of three music ministers and Church Council Secretary. During the last Pacifica Synod Assembly, I was elected Synod Council Secretary.

I have volunteered at TACO several times and have great respect for this organization. When I became aware of the need for a Volunteer Coordinator, I jumped at the opportunity and applied. What an exciting opportunity to be so deeply involved in an organization that helps so many. It

is an honor to be the one selected to fill this position and I am thrilled to become part of this exciting ministry.

Thank you for allowing me to serve in this capacity. God’s Blessings as we continue this ministry’s work together.



A Farewell to Food Coordinator Paul Moorman

This summer, TACO will bid a fond farewell to longtime food coordinator, Paul Moorman, who is moving to Bowie, Maryland to take care of his mother. Paul has been TACO's Food Coordinator since 1996 and has prepared delicious meals for TACO's patio guests during that time.

Paul was born in Louisville, Kentucky, the last of seven children - the "seventh wonder of the world," as he puts it. He first learned to cook by watching his parents cook their specialty dishes, like his mother's salmon croquettes and his stepmother's chili, and from them he learned how to "turn a mistake into a soup." From Louisville his family moved to San Diego, where he attended Hoover High.

Paul seemed called to service from the start – his parents named him Paul after a friend of theirs who was always helping people. In high school, he was part of a service club called *Ecivres* (*service* spelled backwards), and received an award for his achievements within the club.

After graduating, he moved to San Jose, where he was a desk clerk at a Motel 6. Unfortunately, this was a dark time in Paul's life, as he became addicted to crack cocaine and spent eight months on the street after moving back to San Diego.

His life took a turn however, when he began volunteering at

Uptown Interfaith Community Service Center, and since cleaning up he has been clean and sober for fourteen years. "It's been a wonderful journey – it's a hassle trying to stay clean and sober but it helps me to focus on God's plan."

While volunteering at Uptown Interfaith, he met First Lutheran member Dorothy Magdich and learned that the church was looking for a janitor, a job he successfully applied for in 1995. He became a member of the church in December of that year.

One bread day, the cooks were short a pot of soup and a woman named Shirley asked if Paul would make one. He did, and as he says "God put Shirley in my life to bring out my talents."

He went on to become TACO's Food Coordinator, organizing supplies, supervising the volunteer cooks in the kitchen and working with donors and food banks to put together delicious meals every Monday and Friday for TACO's patio guests. In addition to his service as Food Coordinator, he is active in TACO's medical outreach, a program created in partnership with the UCSD Medical School to provide the homeless of downtown San Diego with vital medical services.

During his time with TACO, he remembers many of the people with whom he made a special connection, including Michelle Squire (former volunteer coordi-



nator), Geri Engelke, Dale Thompson (the first person he called on 9/11), Barney Piper, Pastor Noel, Pastor Miller (who "puts up with my stuff"), Jared Jacobsen (for his music), the Dillahunts, Patty White (of Clairemont Baptist, whom he was with when she passed away), Jake Umlauf, and many others. Of the church and TACO, he says "this has been a true healing place for me."

Will Paul ever move back to San Diego? In response to this question, he told the story of a rabbi who would throw his napkin on the floor when he was done eating, but fold it when he wasn't. According to Paul, he is folding his apron, not throwing it on the floor.

There will be a pair events: his birthday, on Tuesday, July 1st where the patio guests will be served an additional meal, and on Sunday, July 6th he will have his goodbye at the 9am service, followed by a reception at 10.

What Else Does TACO Do?

Many of you have generously donated to TACO over the years, knowing that the money goes to help the homeless and urban poor of downtown San Diego - through our biweekly meals, and through our support of the medical, dental, legal, and acupuncture clinics.

But TACO also does important work through our social workers and social work interns, who provide clients with a variety of necessary services. These include:

Housing Assistance – In the first quarter of 2008 (January through March), TACO provided \$1,603 to various clients to help with rent payments. Three of these clients were terminally ill individuals who were involved with the Going Home End-of-Life program. By providing housing we assist with dignity in dying and we are able to provide a relief from additional pain by being on the streets. In two other situations, we assisted individuals who were not in Going Home, by doing so, we assisted them to gain permanent housing. This is by far the most effective method of assisting those who come to us but it is also the most expensive.

Medical Expenses – For clients with medical needs who lack insurance, TACO has provided assistance in paying for medications or other medical services. Though our partnership with the UCSD Free Clinic provides an incredible level of care, sometimes patients need potentially life-saving diagnostic

tests, procedures or medicines which we must provide.

Though these are often gotten at a drastically reduced price, they were still beyond the means of those living on the street. Last quarter, TACO paid \$241 in this type of assistance for six different people.

Identification – More and more in all aspects of life, people are required to show proper identification. For persons on the street, not having identification often means being stuck on the street and having no way out. Unfortunately even for medical care, people can be required to have valid ID. In California, you may also need a Birth Certificate, this can be an additional \$20 and 6 weeks before the individual can apply for their ID, a process taking 2-4 weeks. Theft is a huge issue on the street. Many job seekers had these documents in the past, but had them stolen while living on the street. Over the months of January to March, TACO paid \$240 to the DMV and County Recorder's office in order to secure birth certificates and IDs for 21 of our clients.

Glasses – Glasses are a common medical need for which TACO provides assistance. Being able to see helps people gain employment, not have continual strain, provide for their safety, and decrease the need for further medical procedures. Our partnership with the Lion's Club allows us to purchase glasses for as little as \$30 each.

Last quarter we bought glasses for seven different clients for a total of \$274.

Public Transportation – Many downtown workers either do not own cars, have disabilities that make it difficult to travel, or both. For those with medical needs, they must not only pay for the procedure but to also get there and back. The same is true for those going to interview for jobs, gain ID, meet with career counselors, or even get to a shelter. Of the funds we have expended this quarter for vital client needs, this is the largest area of increase, since the Metropolitan Transit System has ended the transfer system. A trip that once cost \$4.50 can now cost double that or more. Last quarter TACO spent \$1,593 on 76 bus passes for our clients, making it possible for them to get to their medical appointments, jobs, homes, shelters, or other important locations.

Social Work

Those who come to TACO for vital needs face many seemingly insurmountable barriers to receiving care and to leaving the streets. TACO's social workers and social work interns try to provide aid to as many as possible, from processing fees to bus fare, medical care and even to groceries. This is in addition to our meals served on Mondays and Fridays. In January, February and March our volunteers spent approximately 600 hours serving 5,569 meals to 3,395

Yes, I'd Like to Help!

- I'd like to donate \$10 to pay for bus passes to help someone get to work or a crucial appointment.
- I'd like to donate \$20 so a client can get a valid California ID, required to gain employment.
- I'd like to donate \$30 to provide prescription eyeglasses, necessary for employment, safety, and to avoid future medical problems.
- I'd like to donate \$40 to help pay for vital prescription medicine for a TACO client.
- I'd like to donate an amount of my own choosing.
- I'd like to donate my time to TACO's food lines and/or clinics; please contact me about opportunities to volunteer.

My Name: _____

My Donation Amount: _____

Contact Information (optional)

Address: _____

A place where healing of body, mind and spirit can happen for any and all who come.”

The TACO Times
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Join us

- Preparing and serving meals
- Set-up and cleanup
- Driving, shopping and picking up food
- Gathering other supplies and donations

Sponsor us

- Urge your company or corporation to contribute
- Organize your church or youth group
- Make an individual financial contribution

Support us

- With your prayers and voice of advocacy for the people we serve

Are you a medical professional? Consider donating your time and services to our medical, dental and acupuncture clinics.

Contact us

We can not close our eyes to the realities of our community, and we will not close our doors when outside there are people in need.

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