



The TACO Times

Celebrating 31 Years of Bread Day

Volume 4, Issue 4

November 2007

Peppermint Hot Chocolate

- Packaged hot chocolate, one serving, or make your own!
- Whipped cream
- Peppermint sticks or peppermint candy, crushed into small pieces
- Chocolate syrup, if you wish

Make hot chocolate—you can double or quadruple this recipe of course.

Garnish with whipped cream. Sprinkle crushed candy on top of whipped cream, and finish with chocolate syrup.

Serve right away!

Melanie Novak edits The TACO Times

TACO Wish List

- Volunteers to help wrap Christmas in July presents on Dec. 12th and 13th.
- Wrapping Paper
- Blankets
- Socks
- Prayers

Director's report

Can it really be that it has been 2 months since the 2nd Annual Autumn Soiree and Silent Auction? What an amazing evening it was. 200 people turned out to an evening of great food, music, and fellowship in the elegant San Diego Symphony Hall. Honorary Chair, Councilmember Donna Frye spoke and shared words of encouragement for our work in the community. There was the rousing Live Auction with Joe Slevcove and his Surfing Monkey!

A special thank you to our TACO board President, Lois Case and First Church Council member, Rosemary Spruce for their willingness to lead this event. Without their leadership the event would not have happened.

We received sponsorship from several sources to make this event possible: Carl Friedemann, Ameriprise Financial, "Energy

for Others", San Diego National Bank, & Washington Mutual.

More than \$12,000 were raised after expenses paid, and these funds were matched with a gift from Rev. Ted and Marietta Johns. This makes our grand total \$24,000! Thank you to everyone who so graciously shopped and bought and helped to build this fund that will be used in the coming year for our operational expenses.

Further in this issue, you will find information about other ways in which you can support TACO with a financial gift. As you may know if you have volunteered with us, we have very little to no overhead costs. We pay a tithe to our partners at First Lutheran Church to cover some of our expenses. All other income, goes directly to the services we provide. It is amazing what can happen for "any and all who come" in this



Nance Lovell, Honorary Chair Donna Frye, and Jim Lovell enjoying the Autumn Soiree

place. Lives are changed inside and out.

This is as true for our volunteers, supporters, and funders as it is for those being served. I know that in my time here I have become a very different person due to the impact of the stories shared with me and the experiences I have had.

Finally, thank you all for the support and prayers you have gifted TACO with. May your Christmas Season bring you close to the Christ Child.

Grants, donations more vital than ever as TACO matures

Our TACO family of volunteers and donors is the heart of our organization; they're the people who make our mission happen every day. But did you ever wonder what else keeps us ticking?

In a word—grants. Big and small, long-term and short, grants cover so much of what we do. And assuring coverage

of our various programs through multiple funding sources requires the skills of an accountant, advocate and juggler. Fortunately we have all three in Director Jim Lovell and the TACO board.

However, three of our major funding sources, grants from Johnson & Johnson Foundation, Wheat Ridge Ministries, and

Alliance, are scheduled to end in the coming year. The board has hired a grant writing specialist to seek out new funding sources even as existing grants terminate. And as TACO matures, the board is working to develop sustainable funding sources so we won't be quite as

...Continued on page 2

Grants, donations... continued from page 1



Allena Slevcove and grandparents enjoy a big night out at the TACO Autumn Soiree and Silent Action in September

dependent on grants to fund program expenses, equipment and most importantly, staff positions.

In addition to grants, our program is funded with donations from individuals and groups, both big and small. As the end of the year is upon us, the board would like to thank major donors whose gifts have supplemented grants, including several individual donations that were more than

\$10,000!

TACO board president Lois Case also reports that overall, giving in the past year has increased and we have been able to expand our donor base.

Did you know that you can designate a gift to TACO? Designated gifts are especially important as they help our program meet the most acute needs, such as equipment, supplies and particularly staff op-

positions. If you wish to designate a donation for a particular need, please seek out Director Jim Lovell, who can explain how designated gifts work.

Once again, thank you to all of our incredible volunteers and generous donors who have given so much this year, and year after year, to continue the TACO mission.

Please see page 3 and our volunteer insert for ways you can help.

Ready for Souper Bowl Sunday?

TACO and First Lutheran Church will participate again this year in the **"Souper Bowl of Caring"** on Superbowl Sunday, **February 3, 2008**.

A special collection at both services this Sunday will be earmarked for TACO's feeding programs. Look for our youth volunteers, who will be gathering offerings in the biggest soup pots our kitchen can supply!

One hundred percent of donations collected go directly to TACO to fight hunger.

This national event began in 1990 with one youth group in Columbia, S.C. and a simple prayer: Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat. Its mission is to become the largest youth-led ministry to raise awareness and fight hunger.



TACO TAX TIP: Recent pension legislation now allows taxpayers who are 70 ½ or older to contribute as much as \$100,000, tax-free, directly to qualified charities (such as TACO)

from IRAs.

This applies to otherwise taxable IRA distributions (either traditional or Roth) only for 2007. You'll need to itemize your deductions, but this law should reduce taxable income. See your tax professional for information.



Christmas in July nears goal, needs last-minute elf help

Christmas Eve is just around the corner, and that means another joyful celebration of giving and receiving on the TACO patio.

The annual "Christmas in July" fundraiser has so far collected \$3,500 of the \$5,000 needed to purchase 250 sleeping bags and heavy-duty rain tarps to give to our guests during the holidays.

This fundraiser is an annual tradition that's much antici-

pated by volunteers and guests alike. Sleeping bags and tarps will be wrapped and distributed at the Friday morning meal on December 21.

Volunteers are needed to wrap the mountain of sleeping bags and tarps on December 12 and 13.— drop by First Lutheran Church at any time from noon to 6pm on Wednesday and from 5pm on Thursday.

We also need volunteers to distribute the wrapped presents at the Friday evening meal December 21.

Thanks once again to LaDonna Piper, who spearheaded this year's project.

Call the TACO office for information or to make a donation: TACO office at (619) 235.9445, extension 1.

How to support TACO? Bet you didn't think of ...

Many people ask how they can support our programs. In addition to volunteering at our regular weekly meals, here are just a few creative ideas:

E-scrip: Purchase e-scrip and you'll be able to donate a portion of your purchases at dozens of participating merchants directly to TACO. Here's how it works: go to <http://www.escrip.com> and register your credit cards, check cards, or store cards (such as a Vons card).

Now, every time you use that card to make a purchase at Vons, or Safeway, or Henry's, and many others (a list is available at their website), a portion of your purchase will be donated to the charity of your choice.

TACO is one of the many charities enrolled in the e-scrip program. To support TACO, simply type in "Third Avenue Charitable Organization" when the site asks for your group name after you click on "sign up," or enter the group ID, which is 9557002. All contributions are tax deductible.

If you would rather register through the mail, or want more information, contact Lois Case at 858-481-0384.

On-call volunteering:

If you have a flexible schedule and a willing heart, you could fill a critical need in the TACO volunteer sphere—the on-call volunteer. It may be extra help for a holiday meal on the patio; envelope stuffing for a fundraising mailing, or

an extra hand to help with a special event, but whatever the need, volunteers who are available at sometimes very short notice are like gold. Please contact the TACO office at (619) 235-9445 for information.

Need a last-minute, one-of-a-kind Christmas gift?

Why not some soothing sounds of the season? For a donation you decide on, you can pick up copies of **A Christmas Flavor: Traditional Christmas Songs and Other Favorites on Guitar and Pan Pipes.**

The CD features the music of Jesus Nieto, professor of multicultural studies at San Diego State University, and his son, and was produced by homeless activist and dear TACO friend Larry Milligan.

TACO also has beautiful coffee mugs with our signature logo. Call Jim Lovell for information: (619) 235-9445.



Autographed baseballs were a hot item at the Autumn Soiree ... Trevor Hoffman, Jake Peavy and others fetched more than \$400



Heartfelt thanks to

Lois Case and Rosemary Spruce, co-chairs of the Autumn Soiree and Silent Auction. The wisdom, motivational energy and plain hard work of these two women was simply amazing and we could not have had such a success without them!

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All of our **volunteers**,

donors, friends and family who contributed to TACO in the past year. Together, we increased our giving and we're making a difference in the lives of so many who have so little.

~

Carl Friedemann, Senior Financial Advisor at Ameriprise Financial Advisor who sponsored the Autumn Soiree with a \$3,000 gift. If you schedule a complimentary consultation with Carl, he will donate \$50 to TACO. He can be reached at **1-(858) 549-1345.**



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

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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