



The TACO Times

Celebrating 31 Years of Bread Day

Marian's Peanut Butter & Chocolate Marshmallow Treats

- 1 bag miniature marshmallows
- 3 tablespoons smooth peanut butter
- ½ bag chocolate chips
- 1 box of Rice Krispy Cereal (or any other cereal of choice)

Melt the peanut butter and marshmallows over low heat, making sure to stir often. When melted, stir in chocolate chips. In a large bowl, mix the cereal with the marshmallow mixture. Press into serving pan and cut into squares when cool.

**Marian Hughes is one of the master cooks for TACO meal events.*

TACO Wish List

Volume 3, Issue 2

June 2006

New Program Meets Final Needs for Homeless

Third Avenue Charitable Organization (TACO) will begin a new program this fall to offer end-of-life services to people who are terminally ill and homeless.

Called *Going Home*, the program will offer help with housing, medical care, companionship, spiritual counseling, memorial wishes, burial services and other needs.

The program will also include training, mentoring, and supervision for volunteers interested in providing a ministry of presence. The volunteer program is called *Simon's Walk*.

The grant from Johnson and Johnson will fund a portion of the part-time director and social worker positions

TACO Program Coordinator Jim Lovell will direct *Going Home* services. Nance Lovell, who researched the need for the program and helped write the grant proposal, will serve as coordinator of *Simon's Walk*.

A combination of new grants from Johnson & Johnson and Wheat Ridge Ministries will fund a portion of the part-time director and social worker positions. The grants provide for a two-year pilot project.

Approximately 100 homeless people die on the streets of San Diego every year, according to program leaders.



"Simon's Walk" coordinator Nance Lovell

TACO sees some of these people and hears their stories through its clinics and meal programs and also participates in the annual vigil to remember those who died on San Diego streets, said *Simon's Walk* coordinator Nance Lovell. "But we wanted to do more."

For more information about the program and how you can help, please see Page 3.

TACO Soiree at Symphony Hall

A fundraising auction
September 30
Save the date!

More on Page 4

Lisa Seiler to attend national convention on hunger

TACO is proud to announce that Volunteer Coordinator Lisa Seiler will be serving as an advocate for the ELCA Pacifica Synod Hunger and Housing Committee.

This committee is a member of the church's larger body of the ELCA's World Hunger group, which works with governmental and corporate advocacy leaders to build grassroots networks and advocate with and for the poor and hungry people of the United States and around the world.

Lisa will be attending the World Hunger Leadership Gathering in Chicago in late June and plans to share more about this program in future newsletter reports.

More information about this program can be found at <http://www.elca.org/advocacy/hunger>

Bread Day Dish: A report from Lisa Seiler

Did you know that there are over 168,000 low income adults living in fear of where their next meal is coming from in San Diego County alone? When the number of other people including children, grandparents and others who live with these food insecure adults is added, that number shoots up to over 459,000 individuals who are affected by a lack of food.

It is no wonder that TACO has welcomed many new faces to its meal program recently. Since the previous newsletter in April 2006, more than 2,700 people have been fed more than 3,650 meals. Our wonderful volunteers have given over 260 hours of their precious time to help make our hot meal program a welcoming place to all who come to eat with us. Thank you!

Blessings,
Lisa Seiler
Volunteer Coordinator



Guests on our patio at a recent meal

It's The Journey: One on One with Nance Lovell

Nance Lovell is the coordinator for TACO's new volunteer program, "Simon's Walk."

Why is this program needed?

No one wants to die alone, yet every year approximately one hundred people die alone on the streets of San Diego County. To add to this tragedy, these persons are homeless and many of them die of an untreated terminal illness with no family to claim their bodies, to bury them, or to remember them. TACO sees some of these people and hears their stories through its clinics and meal programs and also participates in the annual vigil to remember those who died on San Diego streets. But we wanted to do more.

What is Going Home designed to do?

Going Home is designed to meet the individual needs and wishes of homeless persons who are terminally ill. The part-time staff will form a team with patients and seek to relieve their needs for housing, insurance, medical care, spiritual care, companionship, family contact and reunification, end-of-life care, memorial services, and burial needs. A small group of volunteers will be trained, mentored, and supervised to provide one-on-one patient care and companionship. The volunteer component is named Simon's Walk.

Can you give more details about what the Going Home Team will be doing?

The team will work side-by-side with medical providers to insure the patient's understanding and follow-through.

We will also assist providers to better give continuous care and to alleviate frustration with the patient's unique circumstances (such as mental illness, substance abuse, and lack of housing). The patient will be a member of the team that makes decisions and thus will be given respect and dignity. A *Simon's Walk* volunteer will literally be *walking with* a person through to the end of his or her life.

Where does the name "Simon's Walk" come from?

The name comes from Simon of Cyrene who, in all four gospel stories, walks with Jesus in the final hours of his life, helping to carry the burden of his cross. As much as finding a model of service in Simon, this story also inspires us to see Jesus in the face of the homeless persons we intend to serve.

What is the history of Going Home?

Two years of research, consultations, program design, hands-on experience, grant writing, and networking preceded *Going Home's* creation. People who served as wisdom and grace to these efforts include Pastors Bill Radatz, Wilk Miller, and Noel Estergren. We also are grateful to community professionals Dave Clark (Hospice Chaplain); Kathleen Sorahan (MFT/RN);

and Ana de Vedia (a Principal of the Pacific College of Oriental Medicine).

How Can People Help Support the Going Home project?

First of all, with prayer. *Going Home* was made possible through the prayers of many. Please continue to "pray without ceasing" for God's will to guide this new ministry.

Second, consider becoming a volunteer. To learn more, please contact me at 619-235-9445 ext. 120 or at nance.taco@firstlutheransd.org. *Simon's Walk* volunteer training will begin in September 2006. Volunteers will receive over 30 hours of initial training and mentoring. The two-year commitment will involve 2-5 hours each week for direct patient contact, two group supervision meetings each month, and Inter-disciplinary Team Meetings as needed.

In addition, donations are welcome. Gifts of money are a welcome and necessary avenue to providing quality care. Your gifts will directly aid in bringing dignity, mercy and compassion to terminally ill patients. For donation information, please contact Jim Lovell at 619-235-9445 ext. 1 or at jim.chacha@firstlutheransd.org. Donations should be payable to: TACO, 1420 Third Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101 (memo: *Going Home*).

Director's Report: New Program Born of Experience, Concern, Prayer

Over the past two years, all of us at TACO have found ourselves more and more concerned with those who are on the streets and dying.

Twice a month, Paul Moorman, First Lutheran member and TACO Food Coordinator, takes a group of medical students, a doctor, and myself on the streets of downtown San Diego. We are out in the early evening, going to places where those without homes can hope to get some sleep for the night.

These places are often not the same from one night to the next as the police are often approaching homeless people on the street and having them move or risk being ticketed or worse, jailed.

As we are out on the streets, we are meeting men, women, and children and checking on their health and wellbeing.

Many times we have met people who have just been released from the hospital with a bag of medications beside them and open wounds dressed who are lying on the cold cement with little more than a jacket for covers.

It is from these experiences and those at the free clinics on Monday evenings as well as from 30 years of building relationships with the poor on our patio, that we have felt called to pursue the direction of the Going Home program.

We are excited to have the opportunity thanks in large part to Wheat Ridge Ministries, to work towards a real, dignified death and memorial for those who are terminally ill on the streets in San Diego.

I am especially excited about the creation of a role for volunteers to walk along with those who are in need.

In the coming months we will be talking about the role of the Simon's Walk Volunteers with those on the streets. This role will involve assisting in the remembrance of those who die. If this calls to you, please let us know.

Peace,

Jim Lovell
TACO Director

They were once homeless...

Martin Sheen . . . Emmy Award-winning actor-director-producer (New York City subway while a young struggling actor). Photo: *TV Guide*.

Hilary Swank . . . Oscar-winning actress (car/one of two air mattresses on the floor of a friend's vacant house at age 16 with her mother after the two moved to Los Angeles from Washington state by car).

William Shatner . . . Emmy Award-winning actor-director; **best-selling Canadian-born American author** (truck bed camper for a time due to financial difficulties after the 1969 cancellation of the television series *Star Trek*, in which he starred)..

"Colonel" Harland Sanders . . . businessman; founder-spokesperson of the "Kentucky Fried Chicken" fast-food restaurant chain (homeless at age 10 when his mother remarried and he left home due to altercations with his stepfather/car as an adult; slept in the backseat nightly because he could not afford lodging as he traveled around the United States and Canada, sometimes with his wife Claudia, trying to sign up restaurants to use his special fried chicken recipe for a franchise licensing fee).

A Heartfelt Thank You ...

To **Jo Koch** and **Deb Hoistad** for donating a wonderful new kitchen cart to help carry all of the delicious food we serve at the hot meals.

To **Raja and Swarupa Kalva** for sponsoring and helping us serve our Friday morning meal on June 2nd in honor of their son's birthday.

To **Jane Christensen** and the **Parishioners of St. Peter's by the Sea Lutheran Church** in Point Loma for donating the proceeds of their service brunch to TACO and for coming to help out with our meals the week of June 5th.

To the **Joy Christian School Choir** from Tucson, Arizona who entertained our patio guests during their Spring music tour.



Tireless volunteers "womaning" the line at a recent meal

First-ever TACO auction set for Symphony Hall in September

Third Avenue Charitable Organization (TACO) will hold its first major fundraiser, a silent auction with dinner and live entertainment, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. September 30.

Chairpersons Rebecca Snure and Rosemary Spruce, along with their committee, have arrangements well underway for the event, officially dubbed The Autumn Soiree and Silent Auction.

The auction will give guests a chance to take care of some early holiday shopping as well as get together with friends while enjoying fine food and drink— all while raising funds to benefit and support TACO.

If you would like more information, or would make a donation, please contact Rosemary Spruce or Rebecca Snure (619-235-9445).

Look for a postcard in the mail in July ... and invite a friend! Formal invitations and reservation forms for the event will be mailed in August.

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

The TACO Times
Third Avenue Charitable
Organization, Inc.
First Lutheran Church
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San Diego, CA 92101-3193

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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.

Jim Lovell

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Lisa Seiler

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Mark your calendar!

TACO Autumn Soiree and Silent Auction

A Fundraiser for TACO

September 30, 2006

Find out how you can help:

619-235-9445

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Nonprofit Org. U.S. Postage PAID San Diego, CA Permit No. 194
