



The TACO Times

Celebrating 30 years of Bread Day

Volume 2, Issue 1

February 18, 2005

In 2004, TACO

- Served more than 16,500 people and 25,200 meals
- Benefited from 10,800 volunteer hours
- Welcomed 590 new volunteers to help prepare, serve and clean up

Thanks to all who helped 'fill' our guests—both physically and spiritually

Get the Recipe!

Pizza Soup

Tomato Soup
 Pizza Sauce
 Fresh chopped tomatoes
 Fresh chopped vegetables of choice
 Chopped pepperoni
 Diced onions
 Garlic to taste

Saute onions garlic, tomatoes and vegetables of choice in a saucepan until soft. Mix ingredients in a large soup pot until vegetables are cooked. Served with shredded mozzarella cheese and garlic bread.

From Paul Moorman. Get a new recipe from TACO chefs in every issue!

Director's Report

Welcome to the second year of The TACO Times! We are glad to have you with us and excited and blessed by the many things going on around us. Some of this issue will look back on Christmas Eve as we shared in our gifts and the gifts you gave us with our guests. We're also looking forward to this new year, filled with hope and promise for mercy and justice in our community, both at First Lutheran and in downtown San Diego.

Please make a note of our Sunday, March 6th event, "An Evening of Justice." This is our annual fundraiser and should be very inspiring as well as 'filling'. Dinner will be served starting at 5 p.m., and the program begins at 6:30 p.m. Retired Pastor Noel Estergren will be our master of ceremonies, presenting speakers and music to intrigue, inspire, and enliven. The cost is a FREE WILL DONATION and we encourage you to donate as much as you can. We are attempting to get matching funds from Thrivent for this event. This year our fundraiser is shared with First Lutheran Church, our host church and the place where this social ministry began 30 years ago this October.

Speaking of 30 years, we're celebrating the anniversary of Bread Day all year long. First Lutheran has opened its doors on Friday mornings since 1975 to give a meal to our neighbors, regardless of status and stature. Our volunteers can recall that time and continue to share stories, past and present, of the work Christ has done in their lives and in the lives of those who come. We'll share this history in this issue and during the coming year. Also, look for special events throughout the year, including our anniversary celebration in October.

All of us at TACO were moved by the spirit of giving that surrounded our Christmas Blanket Drive and the creation and distribution of hygiene



The kids and their kits

kits by the children of Olympic View Elementary. We were able to meet with these second graders in January and it was such a great experience! They were so glad to see us and can't wait to find other things to make for our patio guests.

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Feinstein Fund Match

Philanthropist Alan Shawn will distribute \$1 million dollars among groups that fight hunger nationwide by **matching any donations made in March or April.**

Only cash, check and food items donated between March 1 and April 30 will count toward the match. Please consider this opportunity and TACO as you plan your giving.

This is the eighth year that Feinstein, a journalist, educator and businessman, has conducted the 'Feinstein Challenge'. For more information, go to www.feinsteinfoundation.org.



LaDonna Piper gives one of 250 wrapped blankets at the Christmas Eve breakfast

A merry Christmas on the patio

Smiles, twinkling eyes and tears of joy were abundant this past Christmas Eve at our regular Friday meal, when about 250 guests received some unexpected holiday gifts.

Thanks to the efforts of two of our wonderful volunteers, Ladonna Piper and Mina Nazaryan, 250 blankets were purchased, beautifully wrapped and distributed as Christmas gifts. A group from Kids Korps USA kindly designed and decorated the gift tags that wished one and all a happy holiday!

But that wasn't all. Guests also received hygiene kits, prepared and packaged by six classes of second graders from Olympic View Elementary School in Chula Vista. Charlotte Collins, another dedicated volunteer, and teacher Lisa Lines (Charlotte's great-niece) coordinated the project.

The kits contained handwritten notes from the children and included gloves, socks, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste and other items. Each kit came in a colorful holiday bag deco-

rated by the students. In addition, we served a delicious meal with food donated by the University of San Diego food services division.

!In January, we visited the children at their school to thank them in person, present a certificate of appreciation, and deliver several thank-you notes from patio guests.

Many thanks to everyone who made this a truly special holiday season for all!

Volunteer celebrates milestone birthday with TACO guests

By Peg Ross

This past month I celebrated my fiftieth birthday with TACO guests at First Lutheran on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

When my husband asked me how I would like to celebrate this significant milestone, I thought of the need of the guests we serve and the joy my family and I have received through helping with the Monday meals. Instead of inviting friends to a big party at our home, I thought it would be a much more meaningful celebration to plan and provide a meal at First Lutheran, and invite my friends to come down and help us prepare and serve it.

The online invitations I sent out suggested guests come anytime between 1 and 3:30 p.m. I told them their presence was enough of a gift for me, but if they wanted to bring something, to please consider bringing a jacket or

blanket to be shared with the guests. I was overwhelmed by everyone's support.

About 28 of us (ages seven and up), some from as far away as Chicago, served a meal of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, salad, rolls, soup, and cake. We offered three different types of cake: chocolate, white, and carrot, as it was important to me that



Peg and friends with Glen Stroman in the kitchen each guest be given a choice.

A wonderful addition to the celebration was the ten-member Gut Bucket Blue Grass Band who played in the courtyard. TACO's Paul Moorman had asked his neighbor if he'd be willing to come and play. We were astounded when he brought along the entire group. The guests loved it!

All of us who participated in that meal felt God's presence and the joy that service can bring. In subsequent conversations, my friends continued to express how wonderful an experience it was. My husband characterized it as one of the best days of his life. And that from someone who spent hours working in a hot kitchen, first cooking and then scrubbing!

I hope that some of my friends, as well as those who hear about the event, will consider similar celebrations at First Lutheran. The needs of the guests we serve are great and not solved through the gift of one meal. But the caring and concern we can show provide tangible proof to them that they are not forgotten.

To celebrate a special event with TACO, please call Lisa Seiler at 619-235-9445 ext.2.

The History of Bread Day, Part I

Volunteer Vivian Dillahunt remembers what keeps her going, year after year, why she has a good reason to get her husband out of bed early on Friday morning. No matter what happens, she says, Friday comes every week.

"I say, 'Dilly, come on, you've got to get up. It's Bread Day.' "

Friday has been Bread Day at First Lutheran since 1975. What started as a simple invitation to the neighborhood for coffee, fresh-baked bread and a little socializing has grown into a social ministry that serves hundreds of people in need.

The idea began with a group of church members who baked their own bread and wanted to share the art with others, according to longtime volunteers. Serving bread with honey or jam and coffee over the noon hour was

meant to attract business people and other downtown residents and strengthen ties to the community. And as Christians, the symbolic nature of sharing bread was not lost.

The weekly gatherings attracted people from all over downtown and were so successful that organizers began offering entertainment – music, slide presentations, movies, and crafts like knitting and macramé.

By the late 1970s and early '80s, greater numbers of the area's homeless were frequenting Bread Day. Yet the mission did not change. Feeding the hungry and extending the hand of fellowship remained the purpose for an ever-growing group of dedicated volunteers.

Read more in our next issue!

Director's Report, continued

Last year also brought hardships to our community—a fire at a low-income residence and the closure of the Monday through Thursday feeding program at the downtown Salvation Army. The latter has really added difficulty to those in the city who struggle for food throughout the month.

The Salvation Army also had to shutter its senior food program in the mornings. These programs fed thousands of people, many not homeless, including seniors who live in low-income housing and run short on money for food during the month. For many, this will mean fewer meals during the week or during the day. Please pray for our city officials and consider making your voice heard on the downtown political scene. These meals combined to equal eight opportunities each week for food assistance.

This year should also bring progress on a lawsuit filed by nine homeless people against

the city of San Diego, protesting the city's practice of ticketing homeless persons sleeping on the street because there are no shelters. The lawsuit challenges the city's ability to ticket people solely because they do not have housing.

Along with this comes news of a homeless gentleman who has successfully challenged a "sleeping ticket" in court and won. Our own Dr. Beck testified on the man's behalf, citing the necessity of sleep and noting that not sleeping can cause damage to our bodies and minds.

Please make note of our \$1 million dollar challenge from the Feinstein Fund. All donations made in March and April will be counted for the match. We are so grateful for all the support and attention that we receive from you all. Thank you for your ongoing openness to the wonderful work God places around us every day.

Peace,
Jim Lovell

A heartfelt thank you to ...

The students at Del Mar Montessori School, who generously donated some wonderful items to TACO as part of their holiday drive. We received new cutting boards, beans, rice, crackers, coffee, pasta, eating utensils among other useful things. Director Kathy Hamilton and her dedicated students have been coming to volunteer on a regular basis for almost a year now. They are a terrific group of young people who are hard

workers and always enthusiastic about their work here at TACO!

Volunteers from TACO and First Lutheran Church who assisted nearly two dozen residents displaced when the small residential Mason Hotel erupted in fire the early hours of December 17th. Volunteers assisted the Red Cross by providing clothing, food, beverages as well as care and comfort to many who fled the burning

building clad only in their sleepwear. Both the Red Cross and the residents were very appreciative of the help and moral support they received.

Special thanks to Paul Moorman and Damon Jefferson, who on behalf of TACO have dedicated personal time and effort to prepare and serve a delicious meal to more than 150 residents of the winter shelter on Newton St. on Saturday mornings.

The Pacific College of Oriental Medicine is offering FREE computer workshops for seniors on how to find good healthcare information online.

Workshops are 10 and 11 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at First Lutheran Church.

Call (619) 574-6909, ext.. 132, or register at the workshop.

The TACO Times
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"A place where healing of mind, body 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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**'An Evening of Justice
and
Our Cup Runneth Over'**

Please join First Lutheran
Church and TACO for our
annual fundraiser

Sunday, March 6, 2005

Dinner at 5 p.m.
Speakers, music and
thought at 6:30 p.m.
First Lutheran Church

FREE WILL DONATION
