



# The TACO Times

*Celebrating 36 Years of Bread Day*

www.tacosd.org

**We reached our goal of \$10,000 in donations—Thrivent will match every dollar!**

In the last TACO Times we told you about Thrivent's promise to match dollar-for-dollar every donation you made in December and January, up to a total of \$10,000—and we're pleased to report that we reached that number in seven weeks! Your contributions made the difference and will help us in our mission. Thank you!

## Rachel's Update

Happy new year! 2012 sure is here! I've got a new haircut, a new calendar, and a new excitement for serving! So far this year we have seen a wide variety of volunteers, from DePauw University in Indiana to girl scouts to a basketball team from Carlsbad.

While it is exciting to welcome new volunteers from all over the united states, TACO is indebted to its core group of regular volunteers who keep everything running smoothly. These people know the routine and can jump in when needed. They also keep me sane when things get chaotic.

The next few months will be exciting. With a full schedule of volunteers, I look forward to spreading the word of TACO's mission to many people. Thank you all for your support!

Volume 9, Issue 1

February 2012

## Welcome to 2012—Looking Back at 2011 by Jim Lovell

As we look back to 2011, we again see increases in the numbers of those we served. It is a sad statement about the continuing economic difficulty in our community and the severity of cuts made to governmental services that have been provided. However, it is wonderful that we have been blessed with the ability to turn no one away from our twice-weekly meals. These meals have increased on average by an additional 30% over the course of the year.

**We had 30% more guests at our meals last year than in 2010**

People ask us where our food comes from. And in truth it comes



from all over. This year we received food from the two different Food Banks, San Diego Food Bank, and Feeding America, San Diego, we continued to receive

more than 1200 pounds of food weekly from our local Albertson's store (with more than half being

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## Rachel's Big Haircut for TACO

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of December, about 15 of us gathered after the Friday morning meal in the lounge at First/TACO to watch Brandon Line shave his sister's head for TACO.

That's right, Rachel Line either lost or won a bet, depending on your perspective. In November, in response to slow donations to Christmas in July, our program to raise money to buy gifts for those living on the street downtown, Rachel made a grand pronouncement. She said that she would shave her head if we raised \$10k for Christmas in July by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December.

Now, you may think that a risky thing to do, but here are the facts. In November, when she made this pronouncement, we had under



\$2,000 raised and we needed a total of \$6,250. So getting 5 times the amount we had in one month was ridiculous. I think that she felt safe enough. Even by December 17<sup>th</sup>, when we had \$6,000 raised

and we had purchased more than 225 sleeping bags & tarps, I know I thought "good enough".

But then, days before Christmas, a knock came to the church door and a friend of Rachel's from College Lutheran gave her a check for... \$4,400!! Purposely pushing her over the edge. I suggested that we could find a way for her to gracefully back out. But Rachel was having none of it.

So she sat in the barber chair that morning and Brandon carefully put his clippers to work. Rachel, thank you for your dedication! Your commitment meant warmth and protection from the elements! We are blessed to have you, as are our guests and volunteers.

## Looking Back at 2011 *continued from page one*

given to the residents of Luther Tower), Beautiful produce from the community organic garden at Tierrasanta Lutheran Church, groceries and produce from Trader Joes shared with us by Survivors of Torture International, three different volunteers brought us food from Panera Breads, volunteers also continued to supply our constant desire for donuts from three different shops in La Mesa and Lemon Grove, USD's Cafeteria gave us all of their perishables at the end of the semesters, we had donations from those who donated to Occupy San Diego, and still we also purchased some staple foods.

This year we reestablished our connection to receive commodities through the food banks. These are free food choices that we can coordinate with the food bank and can provide us substantial healthy options. We have established a "Kitchen Cabinet" group of volunteers to coordinate this effort and to keep us on track.

### **Through our "Kitchen Cabinet" volunteers, we've reestablished our connection with the food banks—and never had to turn anyone away from a meal**

That additional 30% of people coming to eat has made our patio seem smaller. We have not often had enough seats for everyone who comes to eat. Most meals, there are people filling the tables on the patio as others stand in line. We have been blessed that those who come work to share this space with some standing and others eating and making space for those coming through the line.

#### **Our clinic partners:**

Our clinics continued to be overloaded throughout the year. With nine regular weekly clinics and now a twice-monthly added Dental Clinic, more than 125 patients were seen each week. We have Medical, Dental, Legal, Acupuncture, and Senior Acupuncture clinics all offering free services 50+ weeks this year. Our partners at the UCSD Free Clinic Project are now working at four sites to constant capacity crowds.

Where we are not turning anyone away for meals, our clinics are in very different



circumstances. On any given Monday night, the Medical clinic must turn away 10-15 people who lack access to medical care and only can add one or two new patients. This is because of their dedication to the care of their current patients. Currently our medical clinic partners have more than 2,000 patients between all of their sites.

Our Acupuncture clinic partners too cannot accommodate all those who are in need. Dental is closed to any new patients. And our legal project has capacity crowds each and every Monday night.

In the public eye, Dr. Ellen Beck, founder and director of the UCSD Free Clinic received the James Irvine Leader award this year as well as the KPBS Real Heroes award. The Cal Western School of Law, Community Law Project was written about in the San Diego City Beat newspaper.

### **Medical, Dental, Legal, Acupuncture—all of our partner clinics are at capacity**

For all of these clinics, TACO not only hosts the space at First, but we provide the social services too. As in previous years we have been a training site for MSW student interns from SDSU. Between the director, Nance Lovell, MSW and our two interns, we can provide services to between 25 – 40 individuals each week. This can range from assisting people to move back home with family, to securing housing, to getting basic identification, to counseling for mental illnesses, PTSD, relational issues, to end-of-life care.

Through all of this, we are blessed by donations, fundraising campaigns, and the gifts of the church brought to share. This year we have been fortunate to add a third Fundraiser, the Rummage Sale, which brought in more than \$8,000. Thank you to Martha Radatz and Dagmar Miller along with many others who made this event happen. For the fourth year in a row, we have relied on donations and fundraisers to pay for 80-90% of all we do. We are thankful that in this time of difficulty we are able to do this.

The other day, I was asked if we were "in the clear" financially yet. This referenced our near constant work in the past four years to ask for financial help to keep our doors open. I will share my comment back. There is much to be thankful for. I do not feel imminent disaster at each and every month beginning as I have in past years. My hope for the New Year, 2012 is that we might cautiously look to expand how many people we serve instead of how to keep our doors open. That we can look at how better to support our staff, volunteers, church partners, and clinic partners. I am filled with joy that we may do this once again.

### **In 2012, we hope to expand how many people we serve**

And at the end of the year, these things happened:

- Rachel Line, volunteer coordinator raised more than \$5,000 single-handedly by shaving her head!!
- Thrivent gave a \$10,000 challenge match if we could raise the same amount! We accomplished this in just seven weeks!

All utilities and custodial services, maintenance and kitchen support are provided by First Lutheran. Our core board members come from First Lutheran, and our past and current visions are guided and rooted in our connection with First Lutheran church. I am proud to be here and proud to be a part of a church that makes sure that its doors are open to all and that it follows Christ's call to the best of its abilities.

*Respectfully submitted, Jim Lovell*

## TACO's "Arms Outstretched" Members for 2011

Prior to 2008, TACO relied on grants for significant chunks of its funding. When the financial crisis and the subsequent recession hit, most of that grant funding evaporated and TACO was suddenly forced to contemplate laying off staff and reducing the services we provide. Thankfully, our donors stepped in to fill the gap created by the loss of grant funding, and kept our doors open, our meals cooking, our clinics running, and our volunteers, staff and social workers serving the homeless and working poor of downtown San Diego. **Arms Outstretched** is a program to recognize those donors that go above and beyond in their financial support of TACO, and donate more than a dollar a day, or \$365 a year, to our mission. Through their generosity they have opened their arms to the neglected and excluded members of our community, and all of us here at TACO are grateful for that.

By joining **Arms Outstretched**, you can participate in TACO's mission, and strengthen and help our community at Third and Ash. Members also receive complimentary tickets to our fall fundraiser—and the gratitude of everyone here at TACO.

**Alan and Joyce Comstock**  
**Anonymous**  
**Anonymous**  
**Anonymous**  
**Betty and Joseph Corsi**  
**Brenda Johnson**  
**Carol Harris**  
**Charles Leib and Frank DeLouise**  
**Charlotte Pettus**  
**Charlotte Collins**  
**Christine McKown**  
**David and Lois Case**  
**Diana Randall**  
**Dianna Little**  
**Donald Line**  
**Donald Snowden**  
**Frank Jessie**  
**George Nakashima**

**Harmony and Health Foundation**  
**James and Ruth Gibbons**  
**Jeannie Oestreicher**  
**Jack and Donna Adler**  
**John and Marjorie Wahlsten**  
**John and Mickey Lester**  
**John and Suzanne Pew**  
**John Wilbur**  
**Kathleen and Dan Sorahan**  
**Kathleen Harrington**  
**Kevin Gannon**  
**Ladonna Piper**  
**Leslie Atkins**  
**Linda Bright and Kristin Westerman**  
**Lori Cook**  
**Marjorie and Dan Wilkens**  
**Mark and Laure Reynolds**  
**Matthew Boomhower**

**Pastor Andrew Taylor**  
**Pastor Brian Hooper**  
**Pastor Harvey and Ruthann Peters**  
**Pastor Laurie Line**  
**Pastor Noel and Gretchen Estergren**  
**Pastor Ted and Marietta Johns**  
**Paul Engel**  
**Rachel Line**  
**Rev. Bill and Martha Radatz**  
**Richard Hostin**  
**Richard Phillips**  
**Robert and Donamay King**  
**Robert Anderson**  
**Steven and Carol Hassett**  
**Steven Moreen**  
**Sue and Merv Rettenmund**  
**Victoria Wilson**  
**William and Barbara Henderson**

## Molina Healthcare Honors Jim Lovell

Molina Healthcare recently recognized six community heroes at its fourth annual Community Champions Awards, including Jim Lovell. The ceremony, which was held at Double Tree by Hilton, also included entertainment provided by local high school bands; Chula Vista High School Mariachi and Monarch School Project.

According to Molina Healthcare, "Jim Lovell not only helps feed 600 individuals each month, he also makes time to take homeless individuals who are terminally ill to their doctor's appointments. His compassion for the homeless doesn't stop there. He provides counseling services and case management during the last months of life to both the individual and the family, even visiting them in the hospital."

"Jim Lovell's commitment to the homeless is inspiring," said Lisa Rubino, president, Molina Healthcare of California. "He goes above and beyond to serve our most vulnerable population. Jim is a true hero of the community. I'm proud to call him a 2012 Community Champion."



Established to honor the memory of Dr. Molina, the Community Champions program spotlights the good deeds of everyday heroes in their communities. The 2012 winners were recognized in several categories: advocacy/civic leadership, education, support group and volunteerism. Each winner was nominated by a community-based organization and also received a \$1000 grant to give to a deserving non-profit organization as part of his or her award. Lovell presented his grant to the Third Avenue Charitable Organization.

### About Molina Healthcare

Molina Healthcare, Inc. (NYSE: MOH) provides quality and cost-effective Medicaid-related solutions to meet the health care needs of low-income families and individuals and to assist state agencies in their administration of the Medicaid program. Our licensed health plans in California, Florida, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin currently serve approximately 1.7 million members, and our subsidiary, Molina Medicaid Solutions, provides business processing and information technology administrative services to Medicaid agencies in Idaho, Louisiana, Maine, New Jersey, and West Virginia, and drug rebate administration services in Florida. You can find more information about Molina Healthcare at [www.molinahealthcare.com](http://www.molinahealthcare.com).

**This Month in the TACO Times:**

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- **Rachel's expensive haircut (page one)**
- **Molina Healthcare honors Jim Lovell (page three)**
- **Our 2011 Arms Outstretched members (page three)**
- **Upcoming events at TACO - Homeless Treasures and Empty Bowls (page four)**

The TACO Times  
Third Avenue Charitable  
Organization, Inc.  
First Lutheran Church  
1420 Third Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92101-3193

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**Frank DeLouise, Vice  
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**Joey Ager, Secretary,** Com-  
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theran Church  
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Council Liaison,** First Lu-  
theran Church  
**Dianna Little,** North Coast  
Calvary Chapel  
**Pr. Wilbert Miller,** Pastor,  
First Lutheran Church  
**Randy Engel,** St. Luke's Lu-  
theran Church

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San Diego, Ca. 92101-3193

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### Contact us

**Jim Lovell, MSW**  
Executive Director  
(619) 235-9445 ext. 1  
[jim.chacha@firstlutheransd.org](mailto:jim.chacha@firstlutheransd.org)

**Rachel Line**  
Volunteer Coordinator  
(619) 235-9445 ext. 2  
[rachel.taco@firstlutheransd.org](mailto:rachel.taco@firstlutheransd.org)

**Nance Lovell, MSW**  
Going Home Social Worker  
(619) 235-9445 x110  
[nance.taco@firstlutheransd.org](mailto:nance.taco@firstlutheransd.org)

### Upcoming Events

#### Hold onto those treasures...

The second annual "Homeless Treasure" Rum-  
mage Sale to benefit TACO will be held again  
this summer, so set aside your cast-aways, and  
we'll be glad to give them a home. Watch for  
further information in the next TACO Times!

#### Empty Bowls is coming!

TACO will be holding another Empty Bowls  
fundraiser on May 12th at La Jolla United Meth-  
odist Church.

### Items most needed by TACO

- Men's socks (white, crew)
- Disposable razors
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Small size deodorant
- Travel size sunscreen
- Travel size shampoo/conditioner
- Jackets
- Blankets

**"...gathering as a community in service with  
the most vulnerable among us..."**