



May & June Numbers

Total Guests: 2252
Total Meals Served: 3154
Total Volunteer Hours: 1077
New Volunteers: 66
Actual unique individuals serve throughout the month averaged: 200



TACO TENDERS - A Year of Stories - Every Monday!

Starting August 13, check you email, TACO Facebook page, or TACO website every Monday. There will be a short but moving story of how TACO has impacted someone's life - both the people we serve and the people who do the serving. 52 stories in a year! Some written. Some as videos. You can read them at anytime, but we encourage you to read them at about 3:45 pm. Imagine 1000 TACO supporters gathering in spirit online with the servers and guests at the Monday meal that day.

Every Monday. 3:45 pm. PUT IT IN YOUR CALENDAR. Starting August 13.

The TACO Times

Celebrating Over 40 Years of Bread Day and 20 Years of TACO

Volume 15, Issue 2

July 2018

At Long Last, the Lift is Coming by Jim Lovell

In the early 1960s when this building was initially erected thoughts about the needs of disabled people in public were seen very different than they are now. By and large people who were disabled spent most of their time in their homes and they tended to live a shorter life than we do today.

In 1998 when the UCSD free clinic project started here they met with patients in the pastors office. Back then, when Doctor Ellen Beck and Pastor Noel Estergren started us on this adventure I don't think they could've known where this would end up. Of course back then was before the two dental chairs were installed upstairs and full-service restorative dental clinic work happened each week here. But even back then this church was dedicated to serving the most vulnerable and there were questions about how to help those with limited mobility.

Our senior acupuncture clinic brings on average 30 patients a week many in their 70s and even 80s upstairs. Often times Family members or homeless guests will bring the seniors' walkers upstairs for them to use and then back downstairs after treatment.

I would imagine many of you don't know that my office is on the second floor. Before 2010 I made that climb unaided by any device. Of course as my MS has progressed so has the number of devices and type of the devices needed.

In 2014 accessibility was just a pipe dream. So was finding funding for additional social worker time to serve our clients, as was "going

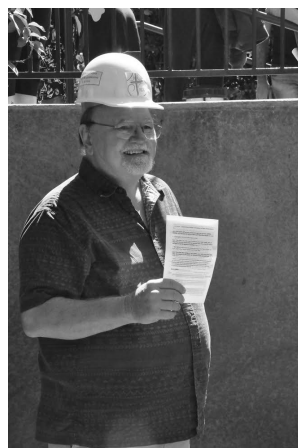


green and a new van. But these became our goals in 2015, our anniversary year. This one, the LIFT, this was the doozy. The amount of funding required just seemed insurmountable even as we checked the others off our list.

But many of you are here because you believed in that doozy of a mission and you w with us and kept asking "so what's happening with the lift" helping us to stay encouraged and keep our vision to bring this about. And this vision

says a lot about justice. It helps us to provide services to another vulnerable population of people. No longer will they have to stop receiving care because they cannot, or will only be able to receive limited care because the stairs just get larger and larger.

Thank you for your caring, you're praying and your commitment to serving those who struggle in this place.



TACO Board President Rev. Bill Radatz



TACO Board Vice President Jean-Claude Chamaa

We have been gifted with huge amounts of in-kind donations including large boxes of hygiene items:



This shipment included more than 1500 razors along with multiple boxes of soaps, shampoos, combs, etc., and it seems that others flocked as well to bring us shirts and blankets and sleeping bags galore. Special thanks to Melinda Persons of First Lutheran for arranging the above palette of hygiene items.

Social Work

We have assisted two more of our clients to qualify for Social Security disability. Both have had significant disabilities.

While neither of them have been able to secure housing (there really are very limited options and those options are often all filled up), after more than 10 years on the street they are thankful to have the legitimacy that comes from federal assistance.

Our weekly numbers continue to be in the range of 25 to 30 clients coming to access services. While the majority of clients are familiar to us about 20% are new on average.

Services provided have ranged from

- assistance with documents
- access to psychiatric care
- access to medical care
- grief over loss
- access to food

With my student gone I have relied on Bob and Silvia to assist clients with basic needs i.e. mail, some telephone calling, & document assistance. This is especially true when the person in need is Spanish-speaking as my Spanish is at a very primitive level. Though this has been difficult often because they do not have the training to provide clinical assistance.

Ground-Breaking Service (abridged) for the First Lutheran/TACO Lift

We lift our eyes (and our Lift) to the Lord.

(Some liberty has been taken with scripture translations!!)

L: Behold, the people of God gathered in the courtyard of the temple. And they praised the Lord for all his goodness to them.

I: And some went to the UPPER ROOM, where they were staying, Peter and James and John, and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartoloméw and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers. (Acts 1:13)

L: But some remained below in wheelchairs and walkers and with canes. And they raised their voices and said:

2: "Such experiences are too wonderful for me; they are so high that I cannot attain it." (Psalm 139:6)

L: And others said,

3: "RISE up, O LORD; O God, LIFT up your hand; do not forget the oppressed. (Psalm 10:12)

L: And others said,

ALL: "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than to try to get up those stairs" (Mark 10: 25, loosely)

L: So they entered into a contract with Vincent Felice, a contractor who has built many lifts. And the people were happy, as they should be, since that is what "Felice" means in Spanish! And the people said,

ALL: LIFT up your heads, O gates! and be LIFTed up, O ancient doors! - ALL THREE OF THEM - that the King of glory may come in. Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle, and in securing those necessary permits from the city. (Psalm 24:7-10)

L: And soon - maybe three months -the people of God will be able to say,

ALL: You shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth, or at least to the second floor. (Isaiah 54:14)

L: Bless, O Lord, this project of a new lift. Bless all those for whom it will open new ways to access your goodness, grace and healing. Keep all safe during its construction. May our spirits, and the commitment of our community to be the heart of Christ in the heart of the city, rise along with this lift.

Volunteer Update *by Brad Young*

With Comic-Con a memory, and the dog days of summer upon us, I wanted to take a moment to express TACO's thanks for all your support. Donations this year are at record levels, and our shoe drive gave out over 100 pairs! However, there is always more to be done, and the hot weather brings new challenges to our guests. If you are so inclined, TACO could use donations of hats, sunscreen, socks, and t-shirts to help those on the streets cope with the myriad of summer challenges they face. One major challenge I have noticed are severe sunburns on many of our guests due to a lack of shelter/covering. In addition, the lack of "safe spaces" to go during the day, leaves many of our guests vulnerable to dehydration, sun stroke, and exhaustion. This was particularly evident during Comic-Con as

police cracked down on the homeless, in order to present San Diego's "best face". One guest summed it up by stating "we are basically herded around Downtown all day".

Because of this, your donations truly do matter, and all of us are extremely grateful to the congregation at First Lutheran. Blessings to you all, and have a wonderful safe summer.



We continue to get the most awesome fresh produce from Tierrasanta Lutheran Church!

From cabbage to onions and everything in between, these donations help us create fresh, nutritious meals for our patio guests.

ARMS OUTSTRETCHED

Arms Outstretched members are those who have donated \$365—a dollar a day—or more to TACO over the course of a year. This amount is more significant than many may realize. Kathryn Edin and H. Luke Shaefer, the authors of \$2.00 A Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America, have found evidence that up to one and a half million American households live on \$2 a day or less.

This type of extreme poverty is more widespread than most Americans realize, and San Diego is no exception. Fortunately, through the use of donated food and our dedicated volunteers (at meals, clinics, and elsewhere), TACO has learned out to make a dollar go a long way. Please consider joining ARMS OUTSTRETCHED—and, if possible, consider a donation of \$2 a day as well!

Nancy Aeling
John & Jean Alme
Anonymous
Dr. Ellen Beck
Rev. Bill & Sheri Bengston
Oliver Biederman
James & Karen Boyd
David & Lois Case
Jean-Claude & Rebecca Chamaa
Elizabeth Connolly
Susan Connors
Toni & Joseph D'Alessandris
Timothy Driscoll
Beatrice Doblado
Paul Engel
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Rev. George & Ethel Falk
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Rev. Ted & Marietta Johns
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Richard & Mary Krueger
C.C. & Susan Lautenbacher
Laurie Lewis
Rev. Laurie Line
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Elizabeth Moss
Roz Nelson
LaVerne & Sandy Neuman
Jack and Janet Nunn
Michael & Susan Pestrak
Sandra Peters
Charlotte Pettus
John & Suzanne Pew
Ladonna Piper
Rev. William & Martha Radatz
Robert & Gretchen Ravenscroft
Sue and Merv Rettenmund
Mark & Laure Reynolds
Carl & Peg Ross
Sage Creek High School
Jennifer Siverts-Coffey
Joe & Beth Slevcove

Spreckels Organ Society
Joanne & Rick Talazus
Sandra & Andrew Taylor
Gayle Timken
Rev. Lee Wesley
John & Alice Wiehe

We are thankful to the churches that support us

Alpine Community Church
Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church
Calvary Lutheran Church, Solana Beach
Christ Lutheran Church, Pacific Beach
Coronado Community Church
Gethsemane Lutheran Church Endowment Fund
The Lutheran Church of the Incarnation
All Saints Lutheran Church
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
Women of St. Luke's
St. Peter's by the Sea Lutheran Church
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Sherwood Shores Chapel
Tierrasanta Lutheran Church

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We make every dollar count!

- We promise not to spend your money on frivolous decorations, catered dinners or event space.
- We promise that your entire donation will go to TACO services directly helping those we serve.

Save!

NO Raffle Tickets \$50
NO Baby Sitter \$60
NO Ticket to Buy \$100
NO New Outfit \$150
NO Silent Auction \$200
NO Live Auction \$500
NO Event Sponsorship \$2,500

Instead!

Spend the night at home, knowing that you have made a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable San Diegans.

Why Give?

Third Avenue Charitable Organization (TACO) is a social outreach program and non-profit charity that serves the homeless, elderly, immigrants and working poor, primarily in downtown San Diego. Through a strong coalition of community partnerships, we offer free meals, free medical, dental, legal and acupuncture clinics, and free counseling and case management services to hundreds of people each week. We provide end-of-life services to those who are terminally ill on the streets of San Diego.



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