



The TACO Times

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

We LOVE Your Donations!

Our volunteers have been busy collecting donations, organizing our storage space, and handing out needed items. Our most requested items are: shoes, new socks, new underwear, razors, deodorant, and men's and women's pants.

Contact young@tacosd.org (our volunteer coordinator Brad Young) if your group or church would like to host a donation drive.

However you choose to give, know that your generosity is greatly appreciated by everyone at TACO.



Thrivent Choice Dollars

Grant funding through Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice program can help support organizations you care about.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31st, 2018 to direct any remaining 2017 choice dollars. Go to thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more, or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

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March 2018

Director's Message *by Jim Lovell*

Welcome to 2018! A new year of exciting possibilities and great opportunities to work for justice!

Those of you who are close followers to the TACO Times and maybe also even our Facebook pages know that the end of 2017 and the first part of this year has seen substantial increases in the number of people served at our meals even as we join the San Diego County Department of Public Health is moving from concerns about hepatitis A to the overwhelming difficulties people are having with the flu.

It was people that we work with on a regular basis are telling us that there are no stable places outside to stay. That anyplace they find to lay their head on a given night may not be available for them the following night, as the police seem to be responding to call after call from indoors downtown residents asking the police to remove homeless people from the sidewalks near them. This is at the same time that the Bridge Tents regularly reach capacity night after night,



serving over 750 individuals, families, & veterans in our city's downtown area. Estimates suggest there are an additional thousand people outside of the number in these large tents within the same area.

We just received notice that we are receiving \$1,000 from the Calvary Mission Endowment Fund! These funds have been granted to us for the training of TACO & First staff as well as key volunteers in the areas of Safety & Trauma-Informed Care! I will be present at Calvary Solana Beach on Sun 3/11 to be given the award.

We have been working hard, relying on your tremendous donations to provide not only food and free clinics spaces but intensive social

services for desperate individuals as we advocate on behalf of & with these most vulnerable individuals. Speaking of your donations, your giving at the end of 2017 into 2018 has been remarkable and allows us to completely upend our deficit that we began 2017! That means that we are able to bring back services that we limited or could not complete in 2017. It is such an amazing blessing what you all have accomplished with us.

Looking forward to a delightful year of serving those in your communities in need. Also looking forward to seeing you all whether as volunteers or benefactors or donors/supporters.

Donate Now... Here's How!

Financial Donation: Make a one-time, monthly, quarterly or annual financial donation by going to www.tacosd.org/donate.

Amazon Smile: Do all your shopping on Smile Amazon and .5% of your purchase price will be donated to TACO. Register at smile.amazon.com, then continue shopping as though you are on the Amazon web site. Remember, you must ALWAYS sign into smile.amazon.com first in order for a donation to be made to TACO.

www.escrip.com: Using your debit or credit card, you can make a donation to TACO using Escript. Register group number 9557002. Refer to www.tacosd.org for details.

GoodShop
At GoodShop (www.goodsearch.com), we are registered as "TACO—Third Avenue Charitable Organization."

Vehicle Donation: Donate your extra car, truck or RV to benefit TACO by calling 877-999-8322 or go to tacosd.org/donate and click on the vehicle donation icon.

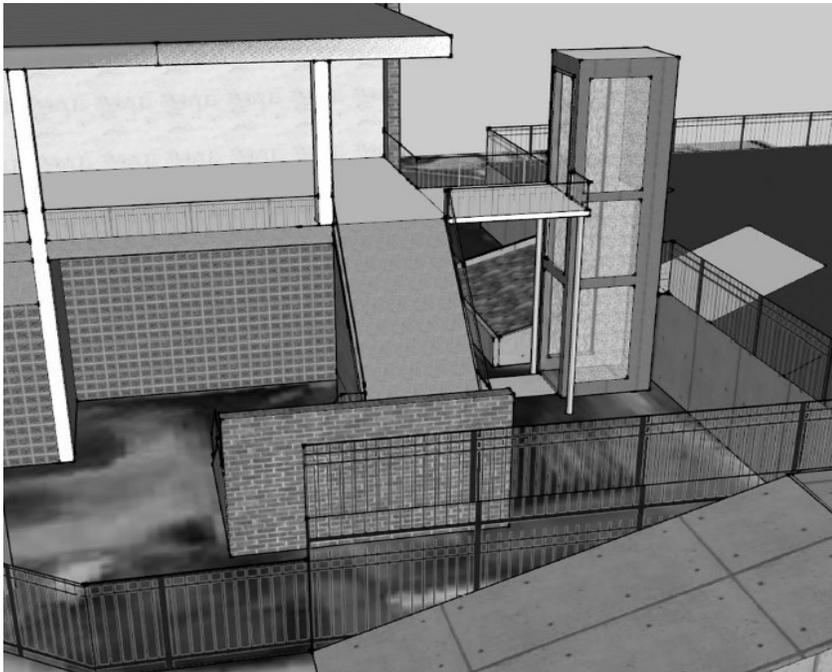
Finally, **Thrivent Financial** members can designate TACO to receive their "Thrivent Choice" donations. Our organization ID is "Third Avenue Charitable Organization."



Intentional Interim Pastor Darryl Kozak receives his Hepatitis A vaccination from Lori Herman (her organization?)



TACO board members served at the Applebee's fundraiser—thanks to everyone who participated!



GOING UP! (And Down)

This drawing is a conceptual idea of what the new LIFT will look like on our building. It will provide access to and from the second floor from both the first floor and the parking lot. The funds have been raised (thanks to many generous donors) and the type of elevator has been decided. Selection is now underway for a contractor to manage the project. Once confirmed, it will still be several months while the lift unit is being custom-manufactured for us before it can be installed. We have hopes of seeing this long-anticipated asset to our ministry functioning by this summer.

A Fragile Gem by Jim Friedrich

Since I've been on the Board, I've come to realize what a gem TACO is. What an amazingly large group of dedicated volunteers we have! What a compassionate and skilled staff that treats our clients with great dignity and respect! What a rich medley of well-trained students and supervisors who work at the many clinics and services TACO offers! The volume of services and meals provided each week is quite impressive!

Yes, TACO is a gem but a rather fragile one. A good portion of our Board meetings are dedicated to deciding how we can financially sustain this important work. You're probably aware of the rocky road we've had to travel to meet the ever increasing needs of desperate people all around us downtown. Still, it is amazing

that this vital ministry has continued in one iteration or another since 1975! So we are optimistic about our potential for growth.

But now we are working to start a new phase in how we approach and improve our sustainability. Thanks to the generous (pro bono!) and wise guidance of Chris Grumm, a nationally known philanthropy consultant, we have a detailed plan for how to grow TACO financially. We will be moving away from the many labor-intensive fund-raisers and general appeals that often produce small returns. We are determined to be more intentional about our development work. This means we will be reaching out in new ways to solicit your support and will ask you to think carefully about contributing now and in the future.

Much of the consultation Chris provided helped us to understand our contributors and to seek support in a more organized way that articulates our needs and expresses our thanks for whatever gifts we receive. This seems simple but it will require consistent tracking and discipline. Chris talked about creating a "culture of philanthropy" whereby we all, board members, staff, volunteers and contributors share in the TACO we are nurturing, joyfully watching it grow!

You will hear much more about this work which we call "**Step-Up to Sustainability**" and we ask you to give serious thought to how you can support TACO.

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.

Nancy Aeling
John & Jean Alme
Alpine Community Church
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
Randy Engel
Rev. George & Ethel Falk
Kevin Gannon
Jim & Ruth Gibbons
Rev. Jim & Jessica Grumm-Friedrich
James Grutkowski
Steve & Carol Hassett
Patricia Hendrickson
John Hoff
Richard Hostin
Geraldine Jenkins
Frank Jessie

Rev. Ted & Marietta Johns
Brenda Johnson
Dan & Rebecca Kjonegaard
Richard & Mary Krueger
C.C. & Susan Lautenbacher
Laurie Lewis
Rev. Laurie Line
Jim & Nance Lovell
Marjorie McDuffie-Zentner
Darlene Morrow-Truver
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
Tierrasanta Lutheran Church
Gayle Timken
Rev. Lee Wesley
John & Alice Wiehe

We are thankful to the churches that support us
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
Tierrasanta Lutheran Church

This Month in the TACO Times:

- **How you can support TACO (pages one)**
- **The status of Going Home and Simon's Walk (page two)**

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facebook.com/TACOsdfb

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

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1420 Third Ave.
San Diego, Ca. 92101-3193

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Empty Bowls is Coming May 11th!

La Jolla United Methodist Church
6062 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla, 92037

11pm—1pm

Step 1: pick a handcrafted bowl, made by local potters
Step 2: fill it with delicious soup and bread donated by local restaurants
Step 3: take your bowl home, as a reminder of those whose bowls are empty

All Proceeds Will Benefit TACO

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