

The TACO Times

Celebrating 32 Years of Bread Day

SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

3 Cups Mashed Yams
2 Eggs
1/4 Cup Milk
1 Cup Sugar
1 teaspoon Vanilla
1/2 Cup Butter

Mix together, put in
battered casserole dish.
Top with 1 Cup brown
sugar
1/3 Cup softened butter
1/3 Cup flour
1 Cup chopped nuts
Mix together, Bake at
350 degrees
for 30 minutes

TACO Wish List

- Disposable razors
- Travel-sized toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Coats

Director's Report: A time to gain, a time to lose

Welcome to March at TACO! We are glad you are taking interest in the goings on around us and with the community at 3rd and Ash. This has been a busy new year for us. We feel great energy as we go about continuing our programs as well as focusing in new ways.

In this issue of the TACO Times, you will come across much that is new. Certainly the most exciting is related to our website. Have you been there yet? Check out <http://tacosd.org> - there is much to be found including exciting pictures and the History of TACO as well as a description of clinics and programs.

We continue to be excited by this face to the outside face to the community. Bob Case has been working to update and coordinate these pages to keep

them fresh and exciting.

New on the website is the ability to donate online. This is a new process for us. We were able to do this through an organization that assists non-profits. We are interested in what you think about this idea and whether it works well for us and for you who donate. I look forward to your feedback.

Also in this issue, you will find an article by Lisa Seiler, our volunteer coordinator who left us this past January. She had recently moved further away from us and has needed to be involved in several projects at her home. We were very sad to see her go but wish her well. We all miss her as do our volunteers.

And finally, this February brings the return of the Feinstein Match program. You will find a



detailed description in these pages. Please consider donating during this time to work towards a greater match from this foundation.

Feinstein Fund Makes March and April Gifts Go Farther

Why are March and April the best time to consider a donation to TACO?

Because March is Feinstein Fund Matching month, where an ordinary donation can potentially be doubled thanks to a program founded by philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein.

Feinstein will again distribute \$1

million dollars among groups that fight hunger nationwide by matching any donations made in March or April. All or part of donation can be matched by Feinstein funds.

Only cash, check and food items donated between March 1 and April 30 will count toward the match or partial match. Please

consider this opportunity and TACO as you plan your giving. This is the ninth year that Feinstein, a journalist, educator and businessman, has conducted the 'Feinstein Challenge'.

For more information, visit www.feinsteinfoundation.org

Now You Can Donate to TACO On-Line!



At the end of 2007, we were able to purchase a web-based service which could allow TACO to take monetary donations at our website. This is

very exciting and we are hopeful that this new option will draw more financial donations to our program as well as drawing renewed

interest in our website. Please visit to see the changes and if you are comfortable try our on-line donation program.

DonateNow is a service provided by Groundspring.org that allows visitors to the TACO website (www.Tacosd.org) to make online donations to our cause.

To use DonateNow, simply go to the TACO website and click the "DonateNow" button in

the bottom right corner of the screen:

Follow the instructions on the page to make a donation using a check or credit card.

Once the transaction is completed, Groundspring.org will send you a confirmation e-mail that can be used as a receipt. Supporting TACO has never been easier!

Give us your feedback!

Donation will seed future endowment

A \$1,000 donation received in early February has been earmarked as seed money for a TACO endowment fund.

An endowment is a fund maintained permanently and periodically invested to ensure the growth of an organization or institution.

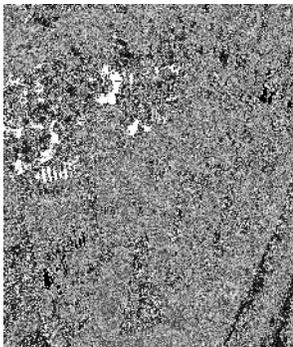
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Did you know you can donate to TACO online?

Check out www.tacosd.org for more information

FRIENDS IN NEED: Coats still necessary against spring chill



Coats and blankets are a part of TACO and First Lutheran tradition on Palm Sunday

Spring may be just around the corner, but nights are still chilly here in San Diego and will continue to be until much later in the season. That means the regular guests on our patio as well as dozens of others that share our hospitality are still feeling an acute need for warm coats and blankets.

This request also happens to coincide with a much-

loved tradition at First Lutheran Church, home to our mission. For the past few years on Palm Sunday, donated coats and blankets are spread out over the floor, lining the aisle to the altar in the church sanctuary, and mingling with the traditional palm fronds. After the service, they are given to TACO.

The display helps members

of First Lutheran imagine Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, but at the same time reminds us all of the commitment to those we serve.

Please call the TACO office if you need more information on how to make a donation: (619) 235.9445, extension 124.

A Sad Goodbye to TACO

Lisa Seiler, our volunteer coordinator for the past six years, recently left her position. Here is her goodbye message to everyone.

Six years ago I crossed through the double glass doors as a new volunteer for TACO, filled with the anticipation and trepidation that I am sure all first time helpers face as they cross the patio not knowing what to expect.

As I waded my way through those first few times in the serving line, I was convinced that something must be wrong with my reaction as I left First Lutheran for the warmth and safety of my own home. I had this overwhelming feeling that I had received more acceptance and compassion than I had given forth.

The mystery of this unexpected gift is what compelled me to keep returning to TACO, volunteering my services when I had vowed that as a busy mother of teenagers at the time that I would say no to any more responsibilities. I soon learned that I was not alone in this inexplicable phenomenon.

As I began my stay as the Volunteer Coordinator 4 years ago, this is a story that

I would hear repeatedly from nearly everyone who graciously donated their time to us. It is what would keep me going during challenging times, during times of doubt and questioning.

The simple expression of appreciation, the radiance of joy in the wake of great adversity faced by most of our guests, the offer of friendship and the building of a bridge of understanding.....these are among the gifts that I have received over these precious years.

These are the priceless gifts that have made an indelible mark on my heart and soul. I know that I have emerged from my participation with TACO as a better person and hope that I have been able to give at least a fraction of that which I have been blessed.

As I prepare to say my good byes to my colleagues, volunteers and friends from the patio, I am indeed filled with sadness. Yet it is a sadness incased in love, good wishes and hope. I know that TACO will become an even brighter beacon to those who need its safe refuge, its services, its wonderful and caring staff, its tireless volunteers and its offer of friendship when no one else seems to care.

I feel blessed to have worked under the tutelage of Jim Lovell, the terrific TACO Project Director. I have learned so much from him and will forever be in his debt. I also have been privileged to team with Paul Moorman and Gregg Rayo, both of whom have taught me a great deal about life and friendship. I also have been touched by Pastor Wilk Miller, Amanda Cicarelli, Nance Lovell, Jeremy Kaercher, Lori McBride, Mark Best, Tom Templeton, Bob Case, and the TACO Board Members with whom I worked at TACO.

Perhaps my saddest good bye and greatest appreciation goes to all of the amazing TACO volunteers. You are the life blood of our organization and your dedication is an inspiration to us all. Words cannot express how grateful I am to you for your support and friendship.

As I come to a close, I want to thank each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart. I couldn't have done it without you! I wish you all the very best and hope to visit you from time to time on the serving line.

Peace,

Lisa



Volunteer Coordinator Lisa Seiler, who recently moved farther north and gave up her position, is missed by many at TACO

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

The TACO Times
Third Avenue Charitable
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First Lutheran Church
1420 Third Avenue
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

Visit our Website at:

www.tacosd.org

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

Executive Director
(619) 235-9445 ext. 1
jim.chacha@firstlutheransd.org

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1420 Third Ave.
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