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

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Third Ave. Charitable Org. Inc.
1420 Third Ave.
San Diego, Ca. 92101-3193

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Simon's Walk
Training Coming
in April

The next Simon's Walk training begins mid-April! For application and to schedule and interview, please contact Nance Lovell, MSW at nlovell@tacosd.org.

Yes, Simon's Walk is ready to train new volunteers in how to be with clients who are challenged with chronic or terminal illness and living on the street. Questions to consider include:

- Do I possess the ability/desire to empathize with another person's life situations that may have different values and decisions than my own?
- Am I comfortable being with people in intimate settings and listening to them talk about personal joys and sorrows, pain and suffering?
- Am I comfortable allowing someone else to direct our time together?
- Am I comfortable not fixing things for others, even if I believe I know how to solve their problem?

These are the typical areas to consider when wondering if Simon's Walk might be a good fit for you. Training and mentoring are essential and will begin mid-April (schedule will be set after applicants' availability is assessed). Mandatory supervision meetings occur twice a month. A two-year minimum commitment is required.



Empty Bowls is
Coming!

Saturday, May 7th
from 11am to 1pm

La Jolla United
Methodist Church

Join us for a beautiful hand-made bowls donated by local potters, delicious soup donated by local restaurants, and good company donated by everyone who supports TACO!

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

The TACO Times

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

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March 2016

Director's Report by Jim Lovell

What a phenomenal year 2015 was around here. Such amazing events: celebrating our 20th anniversary as a nonprofit organization working out of this very space. Celebrating 40 years of people in this very place serving food on a Friday morning to, as we like to say around here, "any and all who come."



Thank you to all of you who supported us in 2015 and for all those years before. There were times where this little place at the corner

of Third and Ash was almost shut down entirely. Times where we were told that we were the reason homeless people stay downtown. Where

we ran the risk of running afoul of the law in order to care for those least among us. (continued on page three)

Arms Outstretched and Anniversary Angels 2015

Arms Outstretched members are those who have donated \$365—a dollar a day—or more to TACO over the course of a year. Those who gave to our 40/20 campaign are included in the list below.

Jean Alme
Ed Anderson
Roger Anderson
Charlene Atkins
Anonymus
Dr. Ellen Beck
Nancy Berner
Elaine Bertram
Oliver Biederman
Linda Bright and Kristin Westerman
David and Lois Case
Jean-Claude and Rebecca Chamaa
Chasroe Enterprises
Charlotte Collins
Elizabeth Connolly
Lori Cook
Charles Costa
Betty and Joe Corsi
Joseph and Toni D'Alessandris
Charlotte Demotte
Jeff Diers
Beatrice Doblado
Randy Engel
Paul Engel
Gloria Espeseth
George and Ethel Falk
Kerrie Foss
Ronn and Dorothy Garton

Gibbons Family Trust
James Grutkowski
Christine Habib
Kathleen Harrington
Steven and Carol Hassett
Robert and Patricia Hendrikson
Bruce Henschel
John Hoff
Mary Ann Horton
Richard Hostin
Geraldine Jenkins
Frank Jessie
Pastor Ted and Marietta Johns
Brenda Johnson
Rosemary and Walt Johnston
Mary and John Kerley
Richard and Mary Krueger
Mickey Lester
Donald Line
Pastor Laurie Line
Dorothy Magdich
Pastor Karen Marohn
Stephen Mather
McCoy Enterprises
Pastor Wilbert and Dagmar Miller
Steven Moreen
Darlene Morrow-Truver
Elizabeth Moss

Laverne Neuman
Debra Novak
Jeannie Oestreicher
Harvey and Ruthann Peters
John and Suzanne Pew
Ladonna Piper
Rev. Bill and Martha Radatz
Robert and Gretchen Ravenscroft
Mark and Laure Reynolds
Ron Richardson
Peg and Carl Ross
Bob and Pat Schroeder
Jennifer Siverts
Lawrence Smith
Pastor Chuck and Cathie Sundry
Frances Taranto
Tom Templeton and Mary Erlenborn
John and Marjorie Wahlsten
Lee Wesley
John Wiehe
John Wilbur
Victoria Wilson



T.A.C.O. FAST FACTS FOR 2015—Last Year We...

- Celebrated the 40th year of serving food to hungry people
- Celebrated the 20th year of the Third Avenue Charitable Organization
- Served Food to More than **14,900** people
- Provided **20,793** meals
- Held 8 Clinics weekly with 5 institutions—treating **185** people weekly in collaboration with
 - UCSD School of Medicine
 - Pacific College of Oriental Medicine
 - California Western School of Law
 - Pre-dental Society of San Diego County
 - SDSU School of Social Work
- For the first time ever in the County of San Diego, we assisted over 75 homeless individuals and 25 housed families to receive Cal-Fresh, or Food Stamps Program, at First Lutheran church in collaboration with Feeding America, San Diego and the San Diego County Department of Social Services.
- In unison with UCSD Student-run Free Clinic and Feeding America, we provided more than 40,000 pounds of healthy food to diabetic patients
- Assisted 142 persons to travel to vital health and wellness appointments
- Provided vital records & ID for 25 individuals
- **10- year Anniversary of Simon's Walk Ministers and Going Home Services**
 - 1200 hours of direct End-of-Life Services provided
 - Assisted 7 individuals to receive dignified care both for those who were dying and those who were able to establish care and improve their health.
 - Three people who died
- Provided ongoing counseling to 24 people per week
- Volunteers gave 9,000 hours+ of service to our meal programs
- Trained 425 new Volunteers

All of this is done for less than \$22,000 a month, and without any government funding!

Volunteer Update *by Michelle Steuber*

“Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something.” *Author Unknown*

On a blistering hot Monday afternoon in 2014, I volunteered for my first time at TACO. I didn't dice fruit in the kitchen or serve delicious coffee. I wasn't a “runner” who serves meals tableside. In fact, I probably didn't even speak a word to anyone who was here to eat a meal.

My job was to take a bowl of soup and place it on the tray. *Everyone*

can do something. It is because of our volunteers' cumulative somethings that TACO has been able to serve the community for 40 years.

So far in 2016, we have enjoyed working with 110 brand new TACO volunteers – individuals, families, and groups. We have worked with new and reoccurring groups such as Starbucks employees, a high school cheer squad, men and women in the service, girl scouts, college co-eds from Boston, student groups from UCSD and SDSU, families on vacation, and a local Lions Club.

It is great blessing to work with our 24 dedicated volunteers who come every week; some of them volunteering every Monday *and* every Friday. I am continually impressed by their dedication. They are always ready to dice, dish, and deliver; to step up, or step back in making room for new volunteers on the line. Thank you for all your somethings. Thank you for your dedication to TACO and for welcoming me in my new role as we “gather together as a community in service.”

Director's Report *continued from page one*

And then there are times like 2015 when the CEO of UCSD medical center comes to tour our facility and learn about care that is happening for underserved people in our community. Or when our congressman and some of his staff come and help wrap presents to be given out at Christmas to homeless individuals. Or maybe it's like the time when the homeless couple was married on our patio while a group of Lutheran Theologians accompanied them in song.

You all who read this make all of these things possible. It is your gift to us that we are able to pass along to those who come by here. Many of you gave to our anniversary projects. Whether you gave to our Going Green Crowdfunding campaign, or to our accessibility project to make the second floor reachable by those who cannot comfortably or safely go up and downstairs, or who gave to continue the work done by our part-time social worker, Margaret, or those of you who supported the van pro-

ject. Often times we talk about how to sustain this work but last year really was about how do we increase what we are doing.

I have great news for you regarding these projects. On January 15, 2016 we stopped using plastic ware, Styrofoam cups, Styrofoam bowls, and even those Styrofoam to go boxes. Many were worried what would happen—would people take our new reusable bowls, our ceramic coffee mugs? Would our new flatware just disappear or worse would the forks be used to harm other people? Fear has a way of not only freezing us but of making us stand in the way of giving. If we don't watch it, and breathe through it, it can cause us to withhold all that we have. But again here too it is the support of all of you reading this, supporting us, telling others about those who are in need that turns the tide.

You will see that there are Great opportunities this year to do “new things” in this place. We are work-

ing with a Grant funder to solidify a new van thanks to your donations. We are working with first Lutheran Church and a phenomenal architect to create a new way to the second floor. We are opening our doors to more people thanks to our new part-time social worker. We are receiving help and guidance from those on the street with regards to reusing and recycling.

So many great events are coming this year. Please join us and an unbelievable group of potters for the 10th annual Empty Bowls at La Jolla United Methodist church on May 7th. Or maybe this is your time to do your spring cleaning for “Homeless Treasures”. Or maybe here waiting for our fall festival and excited to see the new direction that it will take.

All of these wonderful events give us an opportunity to enjoy fellowship together that benefits thousands each year. Thank you, And Happy New Year!