

Food Pantry, LAX

Special points of interest:

- We distribute on Tuesday and Friday, 10:00 a.m.—12 noon.
- 355 E. Beach Avenue Inglewood, CA 90302 310-677-5597
- **Tuesday Manager:** Mary Cantwell
Friday Manager: Dorothy Nino

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Manna: Food provided by God to the Israelites during their journey to the promised land

MANNA



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Wilma S. Matz Volunteers of the Year Award

It was at a picnic in the early 1970s that Phil Dedge, having just moved to Westchester, met Hans Bagge.

“I didn’t know anyone there,” Phil recalled. “Hans came up and introduced himself. Hans was the very first friend that I made here in Westchester.”

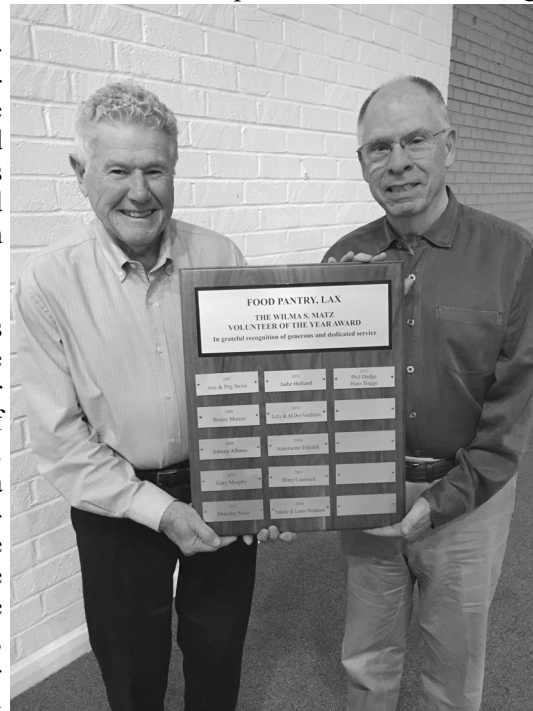
The friendship has flourished for more than 40 years over frequent games of tennis and bridge. And it has been a boon for Food Pantry, LAX, where the two men have worked side by side for years. This year, the board of directors named Phil and Hans co-winners of the 2017 Wilma S. Matz Volunteer of the Year award, named after a generous donor to the pantry.

Hans and Phil work the front of the shop on Fridays, along with another close friend, Gary Murphy, who won the volunteer award for 2010. The three usually car-pool, arriving at 8 a.m. to unpack and sort the produce

that will be given away that day. Once the pantry opens at around 10 a.m., Hans checks clients in on the computer. Phil and

Hans, 78, is originally from Chicago but moved to Inglewood as a child and attended Inglewood High School and holds degrees in engineering and business. He spent his career as an engineer developing defense systems and weather satellites at Hughes Aircraft. He has been helping at the food pantry for about 15 years, recruited here by another friend, Willie Hodges, now the pantry’s treasurer.

Phil, 74, originally from Virginia, also has degrees in engineering and business. He spent much of his career in various management jobs at Union Oil and related companies. After retiring in 2009, it was only natural for him to join his tennis and bridge partners – board member Ed Hayes is another member of the circle of friends -- at the pantry. Phil also volunteers at LAX, where he provides information to travelers. And he is studying Spanish, which he is starting to use a bit in interacting



Hans Bagge (left) and Phil Dedge (right) holding the Wilma S. Matz Volunteer of the Year award plaque.

Gary – wearing weightlifting belts under their shirts to support their backs – retrieve one or more bags of groceries from the back room for each client. On a typical Friday, the pantry may serve 120 clients representing roughly 250 total family members. That is a rate of one client per minute during the two hours of operation.

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Volunteer of the Year Cont.
 with pantry clients who do not speak English. Hans was absent from the pantry for four months last year while undergoing intensive chemotherapy to treat lymphoma, a type of cancer. His disease is now in remission, but his wife, Pat, is battling breast cancer. Despite the ordeals in his

personal life, Hans, with his wife's blessing, continues to help at the pantry to work with Phil and other decades-long friends.

"I wouldn't trade it for anything, working with these guys," Hans said. And of course, he added, the work at the pantry helps people in need. "Most of them are really

appreciative of what we do," he said. ♦



Hot Lunch Program

St. Jerome Catholic Church

5550 Thornburn Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90045

Hot meals served to those in need every 3rd Saturday of the month from 10:30am to noon.

Remember, that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.

~ H. Jackson Brown, Jr. ~

Good Friday Service

The Westchester Clergy Association held its annual Good Friday Interfaith Service at St. Jerome Catholic Church on Friday, March 30th. Members of many Westchester congregations joined in a walk from the Cornerstone Church on La Tijera to St. Jerome before entering the sanctuary and participating in the service. As part of the service, Biz Tanner, a member of the Food Pantry, LAX Board of Directors, spoke on behalf of the Food Pantry. Baskets were passed and several hundred dollars in donations were gathered on behalf of Food Pantry, LAX. ♦



Bags for the Homeless from Temple Emet

Temple Emet in Torrance donated 100 bags for our homeless customers. Each bag was carefully packed with a hat, shirt, socks, gloves, emergency blanket, toiletries, water, snack foods, and fruit. The donation was accepted by Dorothy Nino and Mary Cantwell, Food Pantry managers and members of the Board of Directors. These bags have been a great blessing to those experiencing homelessness in our community. ♦



WISH Charter School Class Visit



Three classes from WISH Charter School came to visit Food Pantry, LAX with their teachers and parents. They were each given a tour of the Food Pantry facility by Scott Tanner, President of the Food Pantry, LAX Board of Directors, who told them about the various tasks volunteers tackle each week, how the food is procured, and what goes into the bags of food we give away to our customers each week. The students used the opportunity of their visit to donate canned goods they collected in their classrooms in the weeks leading up to their field trip. ♦

It is every man's obligation to put back into the world at least the equivalent of what he takes out of it.

~ Albert Einstein ~

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.

~ Charles Dickens ~

We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.

~ Winston Churchill ~



Girl Scout Troop Runs Successful Canned Food Drive



A Girl Scout Troop from Redondo Beach ran a very successful canned food drive outside their school every day for a week. Food Pantry, LAX was delighted they chose to donate the items they worked so hard to gather to us. Many thanks and best of luck to these budding philanthropists! ♦



A Ministry of the Westchester/Ladera Clergy Association since 1985

OUR MISSION: Food Pantry, LAX is a supplementary food resource for low-income clients in Inglewood, Westchester, El Segundo, Hawthorne and portions of Los Angeles. Our policy is to provide food for 2 days or six meals to our clients. Clients may come to the Pantry once per week.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

W. Scott Tanner, President
Andy Pollack, Vice President
Willie Hodges, Treasurer
Hannah Nolan, Secretary

Board Members

Dorothy Nino	Mary Thompson
Biz Tanner	Mary Cantwell
Ed Hayes	Johnny Albano

Food Pantry, LAX
is located at
355 E. Beach Avenue
Inglewood, CA 90302
Phone: 310-677-5597

Between La Brea &
Centinela; one block
North of Florence Ave.

Mailing Address:
8726 S. Sepulveda Blvd.
Suite D PMB 741
Westchester, CA 90045

Email Address:
FoodPantryLAX
@gmail.com

**All donations
are appreciated.**



Thanks to
members of the
**Westchester
Clergy
Association**
for their
support of
**Food Pantry,
LAX.**

Meet Andy Pollack — our Newest Board Member!

Andrew “Andy” Pollack was recently elected to the Food Pantry, LAX Board of Directors. We thought it would be fun to do a little Q&A with him.

How did you first get involved with Food Pantry, LAX?

I saw a posting on Nextdoor.com about the pantry needing volunteers. I had recently retired and was looking for volunteer activities. So I contacted the pantry and have been working here ever since.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering at the Food Pantry?

The main reason for volunteering is that the pantry does good for the community. But it also gets me out of the house and is a fun place to be.

The other volunteers, besides being dedicated, are very nice. We laugh and joke a lot, even while



working hard, and I'm making a lot of friends. Also, the work is physical, which is good exercise and a pleasant change of pace from sitting at a desk. I joke that after a career in a white-collar job, I've found my true calling in retirement as a

supermarket stock clerk.

What would you like the members of our community to know about Food Pantry, LAX?

The most important thing for the community to know is that we are here. People who need extra food should come to us. And others should know that we depend on the community for support. Donations, of food but also of money, are essential if we are to continue to feed the hungry. We are grateful for the generosity shown over the years by churches and temples, food manufacturers, restaurants, supermarkets, governments, corporations, civic organizations and individuals. But the need continues to be great, so we hope they will continue to support us. ♦