

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 and Friday Manager: Dorothy Nino

Inside this issue:

Volunteer of the Year	2
Becky Weber	2
President's Corner	3
Clergy Association	4

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

MANNA



Volume XXX

May 2014

Kathy Turk and Food Forward Gather Produce for Food Pantry-LAX

Three and a half years ago Kathy Turk, from the Holy Nativity Church in Westchester, decided she wanted to expand the work done with the Holy Nativity community garden (providing much needed fresh produce to Food Pantry-LAX) to the farmer's markets in the area. Kathy went to the Santa Monica Farmers Market and began talking to farmers about donating their excess produce to Food Pantry-LAX. She said, "I needed to act on that; I needed to ask."

The farmers were sometimes hesitant to donate their produce to Kathy so she took a letter from Father Peter at Holy Nativity explaining that the donation was tax deductible and that it was going directly to feed those in need.

As Kathy began regularly gleaning from the Farmer's Market she developed relationships with the farmers. Through her association with the farmers she found that the best day for gleaning was Sunday when the farmers needed to discard their produce to make way for the following week's harvest. As she was more and more successful with gleaning from the Farmers Market, Kathy realized this task was

a lot for one person to take on.

Kathy began asking around for volunteers and trying to find people who could help gather produce from the



Market for Food Pantry-LAX. Eventually she was introduced to Anne Burmeister who was working on a grant for Food Forward to fund a Farmers Market recovery program. Anne and Kathy realized they were doing the same thing at the same time. Anne introduced Kathy to Mary Baldwin the Director of Food Forward's Farmers Market Recovery Program and Kathy began partnering with Food Forward to do her weekly gleaning at the Santa Monica

Farmers Market. Kathy and Food Forward glean anywhere from 100-600lbs. of produce each Sunday.

Since the introduction was first made, Food Forward has shared their valuable name and volunteer resources to support the work Kathy began all on her own. In addition to the work Kathy and Food Forward do at the Farmers Markets, they harvest produce from local homeowners who are willing to share the produce from their gardens. Since Food Forward began doing backyard harvests five years ago they have gathered 2 million pounds of produce.

Homeowners who are interested in donating their produce to Food Pantry-LAX can contact Food Forward. Food Forward will either come to the house to harvest the crop or will provide boxes for collecting the produce – whichever the homeowner prefers. If you are interested in registering your fruit trees or other garden produce with Food Forward you can go to their website www.foodforward.org where you will find more information about registering your garden or trees and also to find information about helping with local harvests. ♦

Soup Kitchen and Hot Lunch Programs

St. Jerome's Catholic Church

5550 Thornburn Street
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Hot meals served to those in need on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10:30am to 12pm

Westchester United Methodist Church

8065 Emerson Avenue
Los Angeles 90045
Hot meal served to those in need on the 2nd Saturday of the month. Doors open at 10am and food is served at 11am.

"He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving food and raiment."

~ Deuteronomy 10:18

Volunteer of the Year 2014



From left to right: Ed Hayes, Willie Hodges, Al Dvi-Vardhana, Scott Tanner, Sister Antoinette, Letty Dvi-Vardhana, and Dorothy Nino

Each year Food Pantry-LAX recognizes a Volunteer of the Year. This year a couple was chosen to represent the many wonderful people who dedicate some of their time each year to supporting the Food Pantry. Our 2014 Volunteer of the Year Award was given to **Al and Letty Dvi-Vardhana** in recognition of their tremendous service and dedication to helping those in need. Their generosity with their time and

talents is greatly appreciated.

Food Pantry-LAX is an entirely volunteer run organization. Without the many people who show up week in and week out, the Food Pantry would be unable to operate.

There are a number of opportunities for Food Pantry volunteers. Tasks range from picking up harvests from Food Forward, gathering donated bread from

local bakeries and stores such as Ca d'Oro and Starbucks, purchasing groceries, cleaning the Food Pantry, bagging the groceries, and logging the users. There are many opportunities for people to serve.

There is always a need for new volunteers. For those who are looking for something meaningful to do with their time the Food Pantry invites you to join our work bringing groceries to those in need. ♦

Becky Weber

Becky Weber is an L.A. native and a key part of the Food Pantry-LAX support system. For many years she has been a valuable member of the Food Pantry-LAX Board of Directors. Although Becky continues to volunteer her time to Food Pantry-LAX, she recently decided to resign from the

Board of Directors. We love her dearly and will miss her at our monthly Board meetings.

Becky has been a wonderful supporter of Food Pantry-LAX for many, many years. When asked why she initially volunteered she said she was retiring from teaching and the Food Pantry-LAX President at

the time, Marjorie Miller, asked her to help.

Becky began helping track customer data on the computer at the Food Pantry once a week. She also helped with the food pantry when it moved into the Episcopal Church for a time. She joined the Board of Directors and eventually quit helping

Becky cont. from page 2

with the computer and now she picks up the Starbucks donations once a week on Fridays.

Becky has two grandchildren who are her pride and joy. She loves to see them at least once a week. When asked what advice

she would give to those considering helping with Food Pantry-LAX she said, "Do it because you've been asked to do it. Give it your best shot and enjoy it. It's good for you to see these people who live on the fringes and to be a part of helping them over this hump. They may just need

a hand for a few months and we can give them that hand."

Thank you Becky for all you have done and all you continue to do for Food Pantry-LAX. We appreciate your dedication, time and service to those in need. ♦

Presidents Corner

by Scott Tanner

We frequently acknowledge the larger contributor's to the Food Pantry because of their impact on our ability to

continue to feed the people we do. However, we are grateful for and dependent on you who send \$10 or \$25 per month or contribute generously to the plate that is passed around at the Good

Friday and Thanksgiving services. The majority of contributions come in small pieces, and it has come for many years. Thank you.

As one of the articles in this issues notes, we lost one of our long time stalwarts, Becky Weber, late last year. After many years of service, she retired to be more with family. We

have a number of volunteers who have been with us many years and provide a core of experience and committed people who give continuity to our activities. Without them, it would be a lot more difficult to do what

While it would make us feel good to do more, we don't have the space, the money or the people to continue at the rate of growth we had during the recession. We have turnover in the people we serve

as we add and lose clients each month. We haven't spent the time to measure that exactly, but it feels like the turnover is on the order of 50% per year.



we do. Becky is representative of that group.

After looking at the record of clients and people served, it appears that the numbers have leveled out after five years of growth. Between 2008 and now, the number of people we serve came close to doubling. The last two years were about the same and this year feels like the last two.

As I meet with groups in the community, their response to our report on how we are doing is one of gratitude and pride that our community is supportive of a volunteer organization that reaches out to the poor of not only our community but of neighboring communities. We help make our community a community, and we are proud to be a part of it. ♦

"One cannot think well, sleep well, if one has not dined well."
~ Virginia Woolf

"All sorrows are less with bread."
~ Miguel de Cervants

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."
~ Colossians 3:17

Food Pantry, LAX

located at:

355 E. Beach Avenue
Inglewood, CA 90302
Phone: 310-677-5597

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

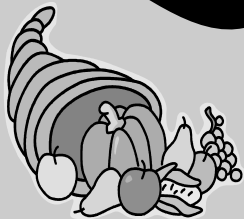
Mailing Address:

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

Email Address

FoodPantryLAX
@Gmail.com

**All donations
are appreciated.**



Volunteers

are always needed at the Pantry, especially now on Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm each week; we also need people able to do food pick-ups as needed. If you can work one day a week, or one day a month, we would love to have you. To volunteer your services please call Dorothy Nino at the Pantry on any Friday, 11 to 12:30 310-677-5597

A Ministry of the Westchester/Ladera Clergy Association since 1985

OUR MISSION: Food Pantry, LAX is an emergency 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

Johnny Albano, Vice President

Willie Hodges, Treasurer

Molly Nolan, Secretary

Board Members:

Dorothy Nino

Mary Thompson

Deacon Guy Wauthy

Biz Tanner

Hazel White

Ed Hayes

WESTCHESTER CLERGY ASSOCIATION

The member churches of the Westchester Clergy Association are our sponsoring organization. They are as follows:

Covenant Presbyterian Church

6323 West 80th Street, Los Angeles 90045

La Tijera Methodist Church

7400 Osage Avenue, Los Angeles 90045

Congregational Church of the Messiah

7300 West Manchester Avenue, Los Angeles 90045

First Baptist Church Westchester

8540 La Tijera Boulevard, Los Angeles 90045

Westchester United Methodist Church

8065 Emerson Avenue, Los Angeles 90045

St. Jerome Catholic Church

5550 Thornburn Street, Los Angeles 90045

The Episcopal Church of Holy Nativity

6700 West 83rd Street, Los Angeles 90045

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

7515 Sepulveda Boulevard, Los Angeles 90045

Knox Presbyterian

8540 La Tijera Boulevard, Los Angeles 90045

University Christian

5831 Centinela Avenue, Los Angeles 90045