



Foothill Unity Center

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Serving Monrovia, Arcadia, Duarte, Bradbury and Sierra Madre

Our Mission

Our goal is to help local people in crisis attain self-sufficiency by providing food, clothing, crisis services and referrals for other critical services to qualified individuals and families.

We help with love and dignity, as neighbors helping neighbors—offering a hand up, not a hand-out.

We are committed to making the most of every contribution, large or small, in order to provide the best possible assistance to our clients.

By doing so, we hope to become the charity of choice for those seeking ways to help others in our communities.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Winter 2003

www.foothillunitycenter.com



CHALLENGE

2nd Annual abc7 Eyewitness News Hoop Challenge

Teams organized by local businesses and organizations will take the court against celebrity cagers from abc7 Eyewitness News in the Foothill Unity Center charity Hoop Challenge on Saturday, March 29, at 7 p.m.

The family sports event will be held at the Felix Event Center at Azusa Pacific University. Teams include the combined Monrovia Police and Fire Departments, the San Gabriel Valley Newspaper Group (Pasadena Star News, San Gabriel Valley Tribune and Whittier News), Core Media Group, Krikorian Theatres, Sierra Autocars, the Arcadia Rotary and Foothill Transit.

Eyewitness News personalities slated to participate include reporter/team coach Henry Alfaro; anchors Marc Brown, Philip Palmer and Micah Ohlman; sports reporters Curt Sandoval and John Hartung; weathermen Dallas Raines and Garth Kemp; reporter/weathercaster Pablo Pereira; and reporters Sid Garcia, Bryan Jenkins, John North and Leo Stallworth. More members of the abc7 news team and staff will be on hand to support the team. All will autograph photos for attendees.

“It’s going to be a great family evening, with food, prizes, and sports excitement for all,” said Joan Whitenack, Foothill Unity Center Executive Director. “We’re delighted that so many local companies and organizations are providing teams, assistance and sponsorship support. It’s a terrific opportunity for us to raise funds to keep on helping local families in need. We urge everyone in the community to come, root for their favorite newscaster or local team, and join us for all the fun.”

Tickets are only \$4.50 in advance, \$6.00 at the door. They may be ordered online at ticketweb.com (service fee), at the Monrovia Family Festival or at the Center, or by calling the APU ticket office, (626) 815-5494.

For further information on the Hoop Challenge, contact Joan Whitenack at (626) 358-3486.

From the Executive Director...

Dear Friends:

This year promises to be our most challenging yet. Welfare, as we have known it, is ending. Many recipients will “time out,” and their welfare benefits will stop. The state budget crisis will force cuts in many programs as well as loss of jobs, health services, and more. The bottom line: we anticipate a greater need for our help this year than ever before.

Last year, we experienced a 34% increase in the number of people we served. We distributed over one million pounds of food, an all-time high. How can we possibly continue to meet this increasing need? Only with your help. Foothill Unity Center is truly a community effort. Not just a few people, but literally hundreds of people make it possible for us to provide the services that give a loving hand up to those in need.

Like every organization, we need money to support the cost of our programs, administration and fundraising efforts. Nearly 75% of our funds came from individuals, businesses, fundraising events and non-government grants. Again this past year, 89.5% of every dollar donated to us went to our programs, with only 6.3% going to overhead/administration and 4.2% to fundraising.

Many people ask us how it’s possible for a community organization to devote such a high percentage of its donations to programs. The answer, again, is “only with your help.” Very simply, because volunteers help us in so many ways and at so many places, we’re able to maintain a relatively small staff.



Over 70% of those we serve are children and seniors—they really need our help, as they are the most vulnerable members of our community.

Joan Whitenack,
Executive Director

As we are challenged this year, I challenge you to join with us in helping to win the fight against hunger in our community. We need you to volunteer at the Center, the Rainbow’s End, and our special events. We also need your donations of money, food, clothing and household items. We can only give what we receive to give.

This year, more than ever, thank you for your generous and caring support!

2003 Calendar of Events

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| March 9 | Crop Walk |
| 1:00 p.m. | Church of the Good Shepherd, Arcadia |
| March 15 | Women’s Conference (Sen. Margett) |
| 9:00 a.m. | Citrus College, Glendora |
| March 29 | 2nd Annual abc7 Hoop Challenge |
| 7:00 p.m. | Felix Event Center-Azusa Pacific Univ. |
| April 14 | Shop ‘Til You Drop (Auxiliary) |
| 5:30-8 p.m. | Mayan Room, Aztec Hotel, Monrovia |
| May 10 | National Letter Carrier’s Food Drive |
| | Leave food donation by your mailbox |
| May 17 | Monrovia Day Parade/Soap Box Classic |
| | Look for us—we’ll be there! |
| June 4 | Golden Plate Awards Luncheon |
| 11:30 a.m. | Holiday Inn, Monrovia |

What’s New At Rainbow’s End

Liz and Linda ~ Our new Fashion Consultants!
They will advise you on How to Look Like a Million without Spending It!

- Find out which styles are best for you.
- Learn how to coordinate an outfit that will give you a professional look.
- Get hints on how to dress “successfully” for your job interview.
- Learn your colors and much, much more.

Remember, we have all sizes & styles and accessories for Men, Women and Children.

Call Rainbow’s End, the Nordstrom’s of thrift stores, for an appointment.

346 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia ~ (626) 303-4030

Join the Fun with Liz and Linda and see what a difference it can make.

How do we do all that we do?

Volunteers! Volunteers! Volunteers!

Yes, it takes hundreds and hundreds of volunteers—all ages, sizes, abilities and backgrounds. Our volunteers represent the whole community—individuals, service clubs, schools and colleges, religious organizations, businesses, realtors, scouts and more. 2002 Volunteer ages ranged between 4 and 87! Giving over 27,000 hours!



Thank you Foothill Unity Center volunteers! You help us help those in need.



Volunteers having fun at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.



A Note from the President

By Charlotte Schamadan

One of the toughest responsibilities any organization faces is finding new and effective ways to raise money. I don't give lots of money, because frankly, I don't have a lot to give. I give my time instead, finding people with discretionary income and pairing them with agencies that need it. My approach is simple—I just ask. Now, I'm asking YOU for help, too. Here are three areas where we could really use your support:

Writing and submitting grant applications. This vital work is largely done by the executive director, and it eats up a huge amount of time. Any retired grant writers out there?

Buying/selling tickets. When you purchase or sell tickets to events like our upcoming Hoop Challenge or Golden Plate Awards luncheon, over 89% of the net proceeds go directly to serve our clients.

Giving 'til it helps. We're blessed with friends who support us month after month. To them, I say thank you—and keep those donations coming! If you haven't considered giving to Foothill Unity Center yet, now is the time. With a lousy economic year looming, we expect to see close to a 40% rise in the number of clients coming to us for help. Your generosity will help us make sure no one who truly needs food, clothing or shelter is turned away.

Getting Ready for Holiday Distributions

Each year seems to be a little better than the prior year. Our holiday events are now spectacular. Each holiday is different, as we never know just what is going to be available to give. It always works, and our very low-income families are very happy!

The preparation and packing days have become major community events. Last Thanksgiving, over 250 volunteers worked together to pack over 40,000 items (not including produce) into 550 huge boxes of food in only two hours and ten minutes, a new record! WOW! Here are a few photos.

Starting with lots of empty boxes, volunteers bag the items according to the size of the family, fill carts with bagged food, and fill the boxes. Sounds easy—but it takes a lot of hands.

Many thanks to all who helped! Below are some of the happy folks that helped!



An Extraordinary Event

The community was extremely compassionate this year. We provided for nearly 600 families and 1,300 children. Here is a quick review of what was provided for each family in addition to very generous food boxes and new toys and clothing for each child:

- ☺ **Play Area:** A giant fire engine slide, obstacle course and a giant bounce provided a lot of fun for all of the children while waiting in line, from **LA PartyWorks**.
- ☺ **Free Popcorn:** Freshly popped—again, thanks to **LA PartyWorks**.
- ☺ **Balloons:** Lots of red and green balloons provided by **Monrovia Kiwanis**.
- ☺ **Santa Clause & Pictures:** Bilingual Santa **Bill Hernandez** of **Waste Management**, listened to the children's requests for special toys. All received goodies. **Foothill Independent Bank** took Polaroid pictures of each child on Santa's lap. They loved it.
- ☺ **A New Book** (age-appropriate) for each child provided through **Monrovia Reads**.
- ☺ **Children's Drawing:** Every child had a ticket to deposit for the most wanted items, which included: bicycles, Games Boys, a dollhouse, basketball hoop, computer, and much more. The **Monrovia Police Dept.** donated \$500 worth of "big" toys for this drawing. There were 34 items—including 16 new bicycles of every size that each child had a chance to win.
- ☺ **Music—Karioke:** Christmas music and children singing thanks to **John and Donae Powers**.
- ☺ **Christmas Stockings** (Ages 2 to 8)—525 beautifully made Christmas stockings filled with toys and goodies by **Boy Scout Ryan Carrion for his Eagle Scout Project**.
- ☺ **Muppet Videos** (Ages 9 to 12): Thanks to a donation arranged by **Cheryl Kennick**.
- ☺ **Tapes** of Master P and Romeo (Ages 13 to 17): Thanks to a donation from **U Clothing 100%**.
- ☺ **Cookie Decorating:** Donated and staffed by **Albertsons of Monrovia**.
- ☺ **Interior Christmas Decorations**, balloon arches, and flowers from **Albertsons of Monrovia**.
- ☺ **Vons' Shopping Cards:** 1000 \$10 shopping cards were given to families from **Vons**.
- ☺ **Meat Choices:** Thanks to **Assemblywoman Carol Liu** and **Southern California Water Co.** who donated 152 turkeys. Also available were lamb roasts, beef roast and hams—the first time our families have had a choice!
- ☺ **Christmas Items:** Musical items—a Santa scene, little Christmas tree, or playful Seal—were donated by the **Tzu Chi Buddhists**. Each family chose the item they wanted.
- ☺ **Freshly Baked Cookies** from **Albertsons** (A real treat compared to day-old/stale bakery).
- ☺ **Especially for Moms:** Jewelry or cosmetics. **Kris Mariconda** donated lots of Mary Kay Cosmetics and **Anna Crist** provided hundreds of pieces of beautiful jewelry items (necklaces, bracelets, earrings). Each Mom chose what she wanted—what a treat!
- ☺ **Health Products:** A bag of herbal cold remedies and memory formulas, herbal good-health formulas, gas aid, and hair spray was given to each family.
- ☺ **Christmas Trees:** Small and large beautiful noble firs, Douglas firs and long needle pine trees were donated by **Holiday Tree Farms** of Oregon.

The 2002 Holiday Distributions were very special!

Many thanks to all those who made it happen

by adopting an angel, donating food and toys, and volunteering.

A Special Thanks to those mentioned above who gave so much to so many!

Foothill Unity Center is a Community Effort!

HOP CHALLENGE

a basketball extravaganza benefitting



Foothill Unity Center
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Starring...

MEMBERS OF THE



EYEWITNESS NEWS TEAM

VS.

THE HOTTEST COMMUNITY BASKETBALL TALENT

.....
Saturday, March 29, 2003

**Felix Event Center at Azusa Pacific University
701 E. Foothill Blvd.
Azusa**

**Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Game Time 7:00 p.m.**
.....



and many more

Autographs by ABC7 Eyewitness News Team

Raffles & Prize Drawings!

SPONSORED BY:

PASADENA STAR-NEWS
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY **TRIBUNE**
WHITTIER DAILY NEWS



For more information & ticket purchase, call APU (626) 815-5494

ADMISSION:
\$4.50 in advance
\$6.00 at the door

TICKETWEB
www.ticketweb.com
(includes a service fee)

True Stories. . .

Two ten-year-old girls set up a lemonade stand with a sign saying, "Homeless but not Hopeless." They worked hard and earned \$50 to give to us to help the homeless.

A very senior gentleman came in just before Christmas claiming to be homeless and needing a place to stay. As we interviewed him, we learned he had been living with his son and grandchildren. All his funds had been spent on medications, and he had nothing left to buy gifts for his family. Instead of spending money on a motel, we gathered some gifts for his grandchildren. He was very happy to go home for Christmas—and we saved a lot of money.

Santa Fe Middle School had a food drive with a special treat for the class that brought the most food: pizza or ice cream for the whole class. The incredible class that won chose to forego their treat and send us the money to help others. What a great bunch of kids—they are really winners!!!

Recently, we had a family—mom, dad and ten children—that was homeless. Yes, a family of twelve! Dad had always worked, but had been laid off and was unable to find another job. They are a really nice family, with well-mannered children. We provided food and transitional shelter for them, and we're still trying to help them find a home to rent. If you know of an available home, let us know.

Many, many families wrote notes or stopped by the Center to say how much we helped them over the holidays. There were many tears as moms told us that we provided all of their Christmas for their children. Everyone wanted to thank the community and those who gave so generously over the holidays.

Thanks for making our jobs wonderful!

Foothill Unity Center Auxiliary:

Ambassadors for the Center

Our first event this year will be a "Shop 'Til You Drop" Dress Party. It will be held on April 14th from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Aztec Hotel Mayan Room. There will be refreshments, an opportunity drawing for gift baskets, lots of great clothes in all sizes and accessories at really great prices. It's also a great way to get acquainted with what the Auxiliary is doing.

The Auxiliary has been busy with several projects during the past year to raise funds to benefit Foothill Unity Center. We had a booth at Monrovia Arts Festival where we sold handmade Baby Blankets made by Gail Hodgedon, home made doggie biscuits made by Barbara Conyers and "Kit for the Soul" jars made by Linda Arena. Information about the Center and Auxiliary was available for those who were interested. In December, Colleen McEvoy again held her successful annual Christmas Party where toys and gifts were collected for the Center's Holiday Distribution.

Our meetings are on the first Monday of the month at the Aztec Hotel Mayan Room from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Kathy Reece, owner, always provides a tasty light supper for us to enjoy. So come and join us, bring a friend or two and some ideas for future events. I look forward to seeing you there.

Jan Noto, President

Foothill Unity Center

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

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Wish List!

It would be nice to have ...

- ♥ **A Rolling Ladder** for our warehouse, to get things down from the upper shelves.
- ♥ **A Professional Display Board** to show off our materials on tables at events, meetings and conferences.
- ♥ **A Laptop Computer** to take notes with at meetings.
- ♥ **Rolling Shelves** for the Rainbow's End—they would make moving stuff so much easier!
- ♥ **Fresh Fruit** from local trees—it's a shame for it to fall to the ground and be wasted!
- ♥ **Canned Meats**—Tuna, chicken, stews, high protein foods that families can serve as a main dish for dinner.

WANTED!

A local humanitarian who has made a real and lasting contribution to our community!

Do you know the perfect someone? Then nominate him/her for the

2003 Heart in Hand Humanitarian Award

to be presented at the

6th Annual Golden Plate Awards Luncheon

Nomination Forms are available at your local Chamber of Commerce or at Foothill Unity Center
All nominations must be received by Friday, April 11, 2003

Yes, I want to help fight hunger in my community!

Please use my donation to provide food and crisis services to local families in need.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$25 \$50 \$100 \$ _____

Please charge my donation to: MasterCard Visa Discover

Account # _____ Expiration Date _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____ Telephone: _____

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