



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

Summer 2001

www.foothillunitycenter.com



The 2001 Golden Plate honorees proudly display their awards with Joan Whitenack and Ed Arnold.

Golden Plate Awards Luncheon Honors Those Who Help Others

Before a sell out crowd, this year's Neighbors Helping Neighbors award recipients and Duarte Mayor Jim Kirchner, the 2001 Heart in Hand Humanitarian, were honored on June 6. The award luncheon was held this year at the Holiday Inn.

The keynote speaker for the luncheon was humanitarian and sportscaster Ed Arnold. Arnold, the co-host of KOCE-TV's "Real Orange" program, has been honored for his own efforts on behalf of many groups, including the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. While most of his comments were lighthearted, Arnold concluded by focusing on what he called the bare necessities: belief, attitude, respect and education. He deplored the loss of these ideals among many people and praised people who adhered to them.

It is the custom for the mayor of the city where the Heart in Hand Humanitarian lives to present the award. Since Jim Kirchner was both the recipient and the mayor of Duarte, he was additionally honored to have L.A. County Mayor Michael Antonovich present his award. Mike recounted many of Jim's contributions and activities on behalf of the whole community and especially the citizens of Duarte.

The Neighbors Helping Neighbors awards were presented by Joan Whitenack and Betty McWilliams. The recipients were selected by the Center's Board of Directors for their extraordinary contributions to the Center. Presented with beautifully inscribed Golden Plates were: Thelma Mosley - Volunteer/Foothill Unity Center, Connie Motander - Volunteer/ Rainbow's End, Anita Oaks - School, Oneonta Congregational Church - Religious Organization, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank - Corporate Organization, the Seidners - Family Award, Little Stuga Gift Shop - Business/Rainbow's End, J.P. Paper Shredders - Business/Foothill Unity Center. Gideon Libby, J.P. Paper Shredders, summed up the sentiments of many fellow recipients when he said simply, "Thank you for the opportunity to give."

A Special Report from the Executive Director...

When you think of the poor in Los Angeles County, where do you think they live? As you look at this pie chart from the Weingart Institute, it is not surprising to see downtown Metro with 17.6% of the poor and Central close behind at 17.3%, as those are generally considered poverty areas. However, you may be astonished to see that nearly the same number of poor—16.7%—live right here in our San Gabriel Valley. The difference is less than one per cent.

We need to be aware of a problem in order to help bring about a solution. That is the purpose of this article.

There are relatively few services available for the over 350,000 poor of the San Gabriel Valley. For example, of the nearly one thousand charities that receive food to distribute from Los Angeles Regional Food Bank (which serves only L.A. County), only thirty are located in the S.G.V. Although there is substantial food available to low-income families, there are very few effective distributors. There are many transitional shelters in Central and Metro areas (where we sometimes have to send peo-

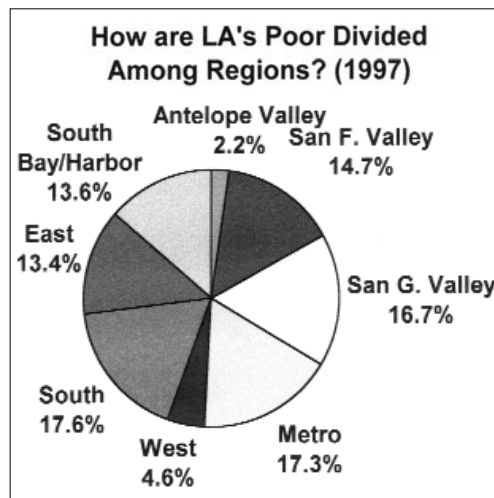
ple), but very few to serve the S.G.V. from Monterey Park to Pomona.

How could this happen? Possibly because there is no single entity or group to develop or coordinate solutions to the many real problems in the area. The 31 cities and 14 incorporated areas (nearly 300 square miles, 1.68 million people) of the San Gabriel Valley are represented by five U.S. Congressmen, five State Senators, six State Assemblymen, and two L.A. County Supervisors.



Joan Whitenack, Executive Director

We are concerned because our phone rings all day long with inquiries about food, shelter and other crisis needs from people outside our service area. Since Foothill Unity Center's success is the result of the combined efforts of the many facets of our community working together, the broader community of the San Gabriel Valley needs to work together to develop ways of helping the less fortunate, thus creating a better living environment for all of us.



SPOTLIGHT ON...
VOLUNTEERS

This spotlight is on Edie Van Dyke, who quietly arrives at the Foothill Unity Center every Monday and Friday morning at 7:00 a.m.! She begins by helping to setup the kitchen. This means bagging lunches for the homeless, bagging the freezer and refrigerated items for our families and making sure the “extras” shelf is stocked. Then at 8 a.m., the real fun starts, as she makes sure that each family receives all of the food and goodies that they are supposed to get. She fills basket after basket with lots of food. She makes sure that each family gets regular food, USDA food, fresh produce, frozen items, breads, goodies and more. (For those of you that have not been at the Center during a food distribution, we have between 8 to 9,000 pounds of food going through our doors into needy families homes each week—that is a lot of food!) There are usually three to six volunteers working with Edie. When distribution is done, she says that she has had a workout, but she feels so good.



Edie Van Dyke

Edie brings with her a wonderful smile, caring heart, good disposition and an ongoing commitment to help. Helping people is second nature to her. We need many more like her. Thanks, Edie, for being you.



Racers and volunteers ride in the Monrovia Day Parade.



Foothill Unity Center kids take first, second and fourth place in Monrovia's Soapbox Classic.

Monrovia Day a Big Success for the City and the Center

Thousands of Monrovians and visitors from nearby communities enjoyed a weekend of family activities Saturday and Sunday, May 19 and 20, celebrating Monrovia's 115th anniversary. And our Center was in the thick of it.

In the Monrovia Day Parade, Sylvester Carter provided us not one, but two vehicles. Joan and Betty rode down the street in style in a Saab convertible, while our soap box racers and their cars rested up for the big event by riding down the street on the back of a decorated 1950 Ford flatbed truck. Signs also advertised our fundraiser, a Krispy Kreme Donut booth.

The donuts were a great success. We sold 270 dozen donuts (that's 3240 Krispy Kremes). Our thanks to director Charlotte Schamadan for having a great idea and making the arrangements for us. We ran out almost

immediately and had to keep going back for more.

According to the manager of the City of Industry Krispy Kreme, we are the "king"—no one has sold more donuts than Foothill Unity Center!

Nearly 160 youngsters participated in the Soap Box Classic. At the Center, our client children entered into a drawing to determine who would race the Center's cars. We had four children racing in the rascal cars and one in our KFI-AM classic car. Ferrari Brothers also loaned our alternate driver a car so that all our drivers would have a chance to race—thanks, Mark.

Our kids were winners in the Classic Kit competition: First place, Howard Littleton; second place, Manuel Delareo; and fourth place, Michael Baily. (Pictured with our winners is third place finisher Maria Davilia, who was sponsored by Ferrari Brothers Body Shop.)

Foothill Unity Center Auxiliary Rallies to Help Center

At the Auxiliary's August party (oops, meeting), many members and guests joined together to support the Center's Back to School program. Some brought new children's socks and underwear, others made donations to help buy the needed items, and others committed to volunteer their time and energy for this heartwarming program.

The organization recently adopted a Mission Statement to explain its purpose and state its goals. It reads:

"The mission of the Foothill Unity Center Auxiliary is to be a creative and innovative

resource of assistance for the Foothill Unity Center and to uphold the Foothill Unity Center's standard of excellence, compassion and respect for the dignity of our neighbors in their time of need."

The group meets on the first Monday of each month. The time, location and focus of each meeting are announced in advance. Because the first Monday in September is Labor Day, the next meeting will be held on the second Monday, September 10th, at 6:00 p.m. at the Aztec Hotel, 311 West Foothill Blvd., Monrovia. It is a very friendly group, always welcoming new members and guests. Anyone interested in learning more is warmly invited to drop by!

A "Good Start" Can Make

Some photos from last year's event...



Over 300 children got professional haircuts.



More haircuts for boys and girls.



Volunteers help children select underwear.



Children pick out their new socks.



Children receive new uniforms.

Making "Back to School" Special for Our Younger Clients

Do you remember how exciting the first day of school was when you were a child? Usually you had new clothes, right down to your shoes and underwear. That first day meant fresh new pencils and pens. Depending on your grade or the era in which you attended school, it might have meant a new lunch box, binder, or pencil case. Whatever the items, they were new, and therefore special, and you felt special and ready for school because of that.

It is our aim to give our low-income clients' children that same feeling of being special. We want to help them start the school year out positively. Last year we helped over 400 children, and

we'll provide for 540 this year.

Our Back to School Distribution will be held on Thursday, August 30, at the Armory Building (corner of Olive and Mountain, Monrovia). Community participants will include Methodist Hospital and the County Health Department. In addition to clothing and school supplies, there will be free haircuts, bubble bath, and even a drawing for a renovated computer system. The smiles and the excitement of the children as they prepare to start school is very moving.

If you would like to join the fun and help with preparations or volunteer at the distribution, call Betty McWilliams at (626) 358-3486.

Help a Needy Child Get a

The Whole Year Better!



Kids check out with everything needed to start school.



Each child also received part of a used uniform.



Firemen help children with handprints.



Every child had an opportunity to win a complete renovated computer system.

What We Still Need for Our Back to School Distribution to Make It Special

We are hoping to be able to supply each child with a new uniform, new shoes, socks, underwear and school supplies. If possible, we would like to give each child a good used uniform, as well. But we can only give what the community enables us to give. We need everyone's help to get our children off to a "good start" this school year.

We really need your help with the following items:

- * New school supplies, such as backpacks, binders, paper, pencils, pens and calculators.
- * New school uniforms, socks, shoes, underwear, sweaters, and jackets.
- * New clothing for high school students who

don't wear uniforms.

- * Good, clean, used uniforms (for the extra set of school clothes).

- * Funds to purchase needed items—only \$30 will outfit a child with a uniform, shoes, socks, underwear and school supplies.

If you or your organization, business or friends can help, please drop off your contributions *as soon as possible* at the Foothill Unity Center, Monday-Friday, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

To volunteer your time to help set up or run the event, call Betty McWilliams at the Center at (626) 358-3486.

Good Start Back to School!

Letter Carriers Food Drive

The National Letter Carriers held their annual Postal Food Drive on Saturday, May 12. The letter carriers from the Monrovia and Duarte Post Offices donated *all* the food they collected, *more than 15,000 pounds*, to the Foothill Unity Center.

We appreciate the extra effort of the letter carriers in both encouraging donations and picking up this large amount of food to help others. People throughout the two communities left donations of food by their mailboxes on that day and the letter carriers collected the donations. With assistance from community volunteers, the carriers unloaded the food at the post office.



Scout leaders share in the effort.

A group of hard-working volunteers, including Boy Scouts from local Troop 185, sorted the food and loaded it onto the Unity Center's truck and helped unload it at the Center.

This food drive shows how well our community works together: the letter carriers with the idea and the transportation, the people of Monrovia and Duarte with their generosity, and the volunteers with their time. This is the perfect example of neighbors helping neighbors.



The mail trucks came loaded with food.



Scouts help letter carriers empty mail trucks.



Directors, volunteers, staff, their children and grandchildren rode in the Sierra Madre Fourth of July Parade.

Sierra Madre Fourth of July Parade and Celebration

The Fourth of July Parade in Sierra Madre is a long-standing city tradition, and Foothill Unity Center is now a part of it. The center not only had an entry in the parade, but also sold Krispy Kreme Donuts in the park during the July third Beatles Concert and during the parade.

Thanks to Monrovia West Antiques, Center board members, staff and volunteers rode down the street in real style: their vehicle was an antique Pacific Electric Trolley. The trolley was appropriately bedecked for the celebration with red, white and blue bunting, courtesy of Barbara Cline.

Making the event even more festive was a large number of children and grandchildren of staff and board members. The youngsters got into the spirit of the day by chanting, "Donuts in the Park!" and "Buy Krispy Kremes!" as they rolled down Sierra Madre Boulevard.

And Buy Krispy Kremes they did! The center sold 168 dozen donuts. That is more than two thousand yummys. Feeding people donuts at local festivities has turned out to be a great way to raise the funds required to feed those in need in our communities.



Krispy Kreme Donut hats and American flags were the uniform of the day.

The Treasures at Rainbow's End

Folklore tells us there will be a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. At Rainbow's End Boutique and Bargain shop, there may not be a pot of gold, but there are plenty of other treasures. There is even a leprechaun in charge, Leonor Escalante, and she may be the store's greatest treasure.

Some people refer to Rainbow's End as the Nordstrom's of thrift shops. "Rainbow" is the *only* outlet for Willi of California, that wonderfully comfortable line of clothing for women. Most of their dresses are washable, and that ease of laundering, combined with their classic designs, make them a great seller at the store. They are a great bargain, too, Leonor Escalante, Store Manager at up to 60% off retail prices.



In addition to new dresses from Willi, there are delightful new gift items that have been donated by local businesses. There are also items donated by members of the community. These include such gems as antiques, bric-a-brac, and household items, in addition to gently used, quality clothing for men, women and children.

There is one major reason that Rainbow's End has become so successful. That reason is Leonor. In her two years as the store's manager, she has changed the entire look and outlook of the shop, transforming our thrift store into a boutique.

"Her taste and sense of style have given Rainbow's End a new feeling. There is a sort of elegance there that you normally don't find in a thrift store," said Joan Whitenack, Unity Center's Executive Director. "It is largely because of the influence of Leonor that we now refer to it as a 'boutique and bargain shop.' She is a large part of the success of the Rainbow's End."

Visit the shop and go treasure hunting yourself. Leonor makes a wonderful guide. The shop is located at 346 West Huntington Drive in Monrovia (in the Rite Aid shopping center directly behind the new Burger King). Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday—closed Sunday. Telephone (626) 303-4030.

The shop also accepts donations during regular business hours. We really need the good used items that you no longer use, including clean clothing, household goods, furniture, games, gift items, and more.



Left: Antiques, new and previously loved items are displayed. **Right:** Rainbow's End even has a good selection of bridal gowns (seconds and returns from manufacturer).

Foothill Unity Center *Neighbors Helping Neighbors*

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Wish List

- * **Fresh Fruit and Vegetables**
(from your trees and gardens)
- * **Vertical blinds for upstairs**
- * **A better telephone system**
- * **2-Ink Jet Printers** (to complete the computer system for our "Back-to-School" Drawing)
- * **A heavy duty furniture dolly**
(to save our driver's back)
- * **A rolling ladder** (to reach shelves in the warehouse)
- * **Electrical work for both the Center & Rainbow's End**
- * **The Rainbow's End needs Lights in the dressing rooms**

P.S. It's time to start planning for our Thanksgiving and Christmas programs. Let us know your ideas!

Points to Ponder

- * How productive is a hungry person?
- * Air is free, water is freely available. Should food also be easily available for survival?
- * How does hunger affect the crime rate? . .the child abuse rate? . .the domestic violence rate?
- * Have you or your family ever experienced real hunger and the fear that you could not get anything to eat?

Your dollars can make the critical difference!

Fight hunger in our community. Make a donation today!

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60% of our clients are children and seniors! Yes, I want to help!

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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