



The TACO Times

Celebrating 31 Years of Bread Day

Volume 4 Issue 1

February 2007

Paul's Roast Cornish Game Hens

Baste **Cornish game hens** with **soy sauce**

Sprinkle with **diced shallots**

Season with a sprinkle of **pepper**

Cover pan with aluminum foil

Bake at 350 until meat is juicy and fully cooked

Paul Moorman is TACO's Food Coordinator and chef extraordinaire!

TACO Wish List

- Blankets
- Sleeping Bags
- Men's socks
- \$5 gift certificates to McDonald's or Burger King
- Men's T-Shirts (all sizes)

Director's Report: Cold Weather, Generous Hearts

A welcome and Happy New Year to all who receive this newsletter. We are thrilled to be entering our 32nd year providing for the needs of those who come. January was very cold here, especially at night, and we would hear from people that it wasn't possible to ever feel warm. We are so thankful to Paul Moorman and Pastor Miller for putting out the word to the community and to our local Lutheran pastors of the need for blankets, jackets, and the like. The response was a flood. Thank you to all the congregations and individuals who responded. We were blessed with piles of coats and bags of blankets to give out. There were often days where I was unsure if I could find our Volunteer Coordinator, Lisa Seiler, in her office, for all the coats, pants and blankets stacked higher than her head. These are the types of problems we love to have! Thank you also

to Jo Koch and to Sherry Boulger for such a great gift of carloads of warm gear to give out. Sherry brought donations from the Booz Allen Hamilton Law Firm and from the School of the Madeleine. We were also greatly gifted by the Rancho Sante Fe Foundation who saw fit to send us 100 brand new blankets to give out in the community.

This year also started with a deep loss to our community. In Mid-January we lost Barney Piper. Barney was a key part of the Bread Day meal program and one of the original starting board members to the then newly founded TACO, Inc in 1996. Barney's wife, Ladonna was and is also a powerful volunteer member with us for many years. When Barney was no longer able to help with Bread Day, he could still be found at our bimonthly potlucks asking important questions and

staying involved in our board decisions and other aspects of the TACO administration. We were so blessed to have him in our lives and our community. Please feel free to send condolences care of First Lutheran Church to the family of Ladonna Piper.

Also, keep Larry Miligan in your thoughts and prayers over the next several days. Larry who has been a strong homeless advocate for over a decade and a close friend to TACO had surgery on his esophagus last Thursday and is now recuperating in Sharp Chula Vista Hospital. We will continue to report on his recovery and can't wait to have him back amongst us.

As Garrison Keiler is fond of saying, "Be Well, Do Good Work, and Keep in Touch"

Peace, Jim Lovell

Feinstein Fund to Match March Donations

Philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein will again distribute \$1 million dollars among groups that fight hunger nationwide by matching any donations made in March or April.

Only cash, check and food items donated between March 1 and April 30 will count toward the match. Please consider this op-

portunity and TACO as you plan your giving.

This is the eighth year that Feinstein, a journalist, educator and businessman, has conducted the 'Feinstein Challenge'.

For more information, visit www.feinsteinfoundation.org.

TACO Night at Corvette Diner!

4-9 p.m. April 18

15% of your meal's cost will be donated to TACO

Get more information at
www.cohnrestaurants.com/cohn/cohnrestaurants/corvette.php

TACO Legal Partner Shares Her Very First Impressions

By Anaheeta Kolah

When I first entered the lobby of the First Lutheran Church, I thought I was in the wrong place. I mean, a church with this many people, having their blood pressures taken, standing in line for different clinics, a kitchen staff cleaning up, and a tall blondish haired gentleman waving people from here to there. This wasn't a church, I thought, this was Grand Central Station. A church is quiet, has open spaces, and is moving to the soul.

I took a seat to watch. That was all I could do, watch. I watched and realized that this was not chaos; rather, this was a system of cooperative art. A group of varying staff members worked together to give medical help, dental help, holistic help, and just help to so many people. I was wrong, this was a church, because it moved my soul. It didn't matter what denomination it was, it didn't matter from where one originated; all that did matter was that you needed help. It was what policymakers, politicians, and philosophers idealize about for society, but rarely implement. A place where the downtrodden can come to get

a hot meal, social services, holistic, dental and medical care—all within the cooperative circle of the disciplines willing to work together.

I knew that this was the place where I would be honored to help start a legal project. We started the California Western School of Law Community Law Project (CWCLP) in October 2005. Since then, we have grown and become a vital legal component in this system of cooperative art.

Our law students, administration, and faculty members have only been in awe of the experience at the church. Our collaboration with the Church, TACO, the Cortez Hill Advocates for Community Health Actions, UCSD and its clinics, the Pacific College of Oriental Medicine, and the law firm of Foley & Lardner, LLP, has only moved our volunteer attorneys and law students higher. Specifically, the legal issues that we see are so unique to the population that frequents TACO and its clinics, outside of this legal sphere an attorney or law student could only hope to meet the real needs of those who traditionally do not have access to the legal system. This is what every legal advocate

hopes to do when entering law school and upon graduation. It is what all our professional legal organizations pronounce as the ultimate goal that every attorney should aspire to do. What a great dynamic.

I was so blessed to also have the administrative support of First Lutheran Church and TACO in order to run the legal clinic. We don't have a budget—meaning we don't have outside funding. So, from our chairs and tables to our legal pamphlet holders, TACO provides it all for us. Our project is successful because of our partners. I wanted to give back to the church and TACO, and so my husband and I decided to donate one Monday night's worth of food. We also wanted to help serve it. With that experience we were very honored that the recipients of the food and the volunteers who help prepare, serve, and clean-up after the meal every week all year long were so gracious and thankful for having us. It was our pleasure, and as I recall, it moved my soul.

Anaheeta Kohla is Director of the California Western School of Law Community Law Project which operates with TACO

“This wasn't a church, this was Grand Central Station”

A Heartfelt Thank You To

The Babla and Asher Families for their commitment to delivering the Chinmaya donations, the portraits, and their volunteering at the hot meal program.

Zubin and Anaheeta Kolah for catering a wonderful meal from their restaurant, Bombay Coast, in Clairemont Square. Also for Anaheeta's tireless dedication to founding and running the Monday Night

Legal Project here at TACO.

Our newest volunteers, the confirmands from Penasquitos Lutheran Church led by Sarah Friedemann, Pastor Noel's daughter.

The children at Del Mar Montessori School and their teacher, Kathy Hamilton, for bringing homemade Valentine sugar cookies for all of our meal guests. They were deli-

cious!

Robin Chappelow from Kids Korps for putting us in touch with The Rancho Santa Fe Foundation who donated 100 new blankets to help keep our guests warm.

All our devoted volunteers, without whom we simply could not exist.

Bread Day Dish from Lisa Seiler

The hot meal program has had a great start to the new year. Since January, we have welcomed over 2,080 guests and fed them more than 3,050 meals. Our fabulous volunteers have dedicated almost 1,400 hours to make our program the welcoming place that it is for all those who need our hospitality.

We began 2007 with a special treat for our guests. Grins 2 Go came back for their second year to take

free New Year's portraits for anyone who wanted a festive photo. We saw many delightful smiles and lots of enthusiasm that Friday morning. Thank you Grins 2 Go and the Babla Family for making this possible!

In addition, the Babla Family, as representatives of the Hindu Chinmaya Mission, invited Jim and I to their Annual Banquet. For the past few years, the mission and their congre-

gregation of more than 250 families have donated monthly supplies of milk, cheese, and other items including fresh fruit, clothing and blankets. Jim and I both spoke at the banquet and were able to thank them for their generosity and their dedication to helping others. We also enjoyed the delicious Indian meal!

Also, Paul Moorman and I attended the 41st Anniversary of Luther Towers next

next door to the church, where residents also celebrated the opening of their newly expanded social room. When we have excess perishable food we share it with our neighbors and we also include them in our holiday gift basket program. The Luther Tower Board of Directors has also been generous donors in support of the holiday food program, for which we are deeply thankful.

Many blessings, Lisa

Not in My Backyard: Or No Room at the Inn

By Paul Moorman

I decide to take a walk in my back yard. Nice view of the harbor, cruise ship pulling in the dock and a battleship taking on busloads of tourists. As I'm going toward the bay, I see sitting on a bench Joseph and Mary, we ask them if they had any medical needs. Mary indeed wanted medication, a bath and a fresh change of clothes.

Dr. Johnson examines Mary and thinks she needs to get to the hospital, her condition was not pleasing. Joseph was not too happy about Mary going. Joseph did not want part with Mary. So we invited them to come to our free clinic that Friday morning. They did not show up.

Then Jason and I went back to the harbor to see if they were there. Mary was there by herself, and she was happy to see us. We brought along some food and blankets. Jason open a can and he start feeding her, then I open a can of passion fruit drink and we both realized

that Mary hand no use of her arms. Joseph was coming from a short walk to the local store, Jason talks with them about their options and coming to the Monday night clinic. Joseph was concerned about how to get her there, and we said if we had to we would take turns pushing the wheelchair or put her in the van.

Later that day Jim received a call from the policeman - the police were unable to get Mary and Joseph into the "cold weather shelter". Jim called me to see if I would be able to give Mary and Joseph a ride; I found them in the same place the TACO medical outreach team saw them, sitting at the dock of the harbor, hello, said Mary. I said, I'm here to give you a ride. Mary was very eager too get in a safe place. Joseph on the other hand was making excuses, once again about this and that and the smell. I said don't be worried you are going to be able to get cleaned up and hopefully some much needed rest.

It turned out that Mary could not get into my van. It was too high for Joseph to lift her up. So I called Jim. Jim called the police and asked if they could assist us. Joseph mentioned his distrust of the police and was not okay with this latest development. I assured him that they are here to help. Joseph agreed, saying you're right. I concurred saying It's a good thing that they are here. Then Joseph lifted Mary into the police car.

The police followed me to the Newton Street shelter. On the way I told Joseph a little about me living on the street. I believe this is what God wants me to do to give back. We got to the tent and they opened the gates and we drove in. Joseph got Mary out the police car and I unloaded their belongings from my van. They were both admitted to the shelter. After some brief discussion I was on my way. As I was backing out of the shelter parking area I caught a glimpse of Mary I saw

I saw that she appeared to be relieved about getting into the shelter then I noticed Mary had tears rolling down her face I thought to myself that I hoped they were happy tears.

Each time we are doing street outreach, at the end of the night we sit and have a discussion about what we learned that evening. We all commented on the issues with Mary and Joseph and realized that we cannot save the world. However, we understand that we can help one person at a time and that makes it all worth while.

That first night we met Mary and Joseph we all walked away feeling concerned that we did not make the right decisions, or that we didn't have a better solution. That night I could not sleep, thinking of the Mary and Joseph who were turned away from the inn. Who found no inn. We did not fare any better with this Joseph and Mary.

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

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***A place where healing of body, mind and spirit
can happen for any and all who come.”***

Join us

- Preparing and serving meals
- Set-up and cleanup
- Driving, shopping and picking up food
- Gathering other supplies and donations

Sponsor us

- Urge your company or corporation to contribute
- Organize your church or youth group
- Make an individual financial contribution

Support us

- With your prayers and voice of advocacy for the people we serve

Are you a medical professional? Consider donating your time and services to our medical, dental and acupuncture clinics.

Contact us

We can not close our eyes to the realities of our community, and we will not close our doors when outside there are people in need.

Jim Lovell

Project Coordinator
(619) 235-9445 ext. 1
jim.chacha@firstlutheransd.org

Lisa Seiler

Volunteer Coordinator
619-235-9445 ext. 2
lisa.taco@firstlutheransd.org

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

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