



# The TACO Times

## Celebrating Over 40 Years of Bread Day and 20 Years of TACO

Volume 14, Issue 4

October 2017

### Volunteer Update by Brad Young, Volunteer Coordinator

Hello again, true to form 2017 is racing to a close and winter is on its way. As I reflect on what TACO has achieved this year, I feel nothing but pride and gratitude to all our volunteers who make everything possible. In addition to serving over 16,000 guests, TACO has helped thousands with clothing, hygiene, and comfort products throughout the year. As with every year, we face the realities of life: illnesses, travel, accidents, births, weddings, fundraisers, and even deaths. Yet throughout it all, our volunteers/family have come together for over 41 years to help San Diego's most vulnerable citizens. As the volunteer coordinator, it is a true honor to be a part of this history. **THANK YOU**

On another front, with fall here and winter quickly approaching, TACO could truly use donations if you are so inclined. Socks, underwear, hygiene products, and especially jackets and blankets are most helpful this time of year. I cannot count the times I have encountered someone living on the streets with a tent, blanket, tarp, or sleeping bag donated from TACO. Your donations DO matter and really do make a difference.

### Director's Message by Jim Lovell

Welcome to the October edition of the TACO times!

I figured I should announce that it's October because those of us in Southern California it's feeling like the end of August. Brad Young, our Volunteer Coordinator has been dutifully asking for donations of sweaters, jackets, sleeping bags, and blankets. His volunteers often look at him dubiously while they fan themselves with flyers for upcoming fundraising events. Not sure that he is thinking clearly. But yet he is because at night it's 52 degrees and damp. If people are outside on the sidewalks and alleyways of downtown San Diego it is especially a cruel time. With a fluctuation of 40 or more degrees temperature and with a push from the city to keep on the move and not set up "camp" in any particular



area homeless individuals must always set aside things that are necessary at one time of day so that they do not face heat exhaustion at another time of day.

This edition features many of the same kinds of "highs" & "lows" of those we serve and this our place where we do the serving. Many of you attended our beautiful fall fundraiser at Calvary in Solana Beach, the 2017 Eat, Drink & Be

Sharing! We raised \$26,465.50 at the event! And what a great time was had. All focused on supporting the work we do every day, in warm days and cold nights serving not only those who are on the street but also those who are marginalized in so many other ways, the disenfranchised, the vulnerable, the immigrant, those seniors who are hanging on by their fingertips.



In September, TACO held our annual fall fundraiser at Calvary Lutheran Church in Solana Beach. "Eat, Drink, and be Sharing" raised \$26,465 to support our work in downtown San Diego.

We'd like to express our gratitude to all of our guests, item donors, auction winners, and volunteers, and to our special guests, Congressman Scott Peters and the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Choir



Continued on page two

## What Is Happening With Going Home and Simon's Walk

Many of you have been asking about this program over the course of this year as there have been dramatic changes. At the end of January 2017 at our annual board retreat the TACO board responded to an expected \$25,000 deficit in our budget by making the decision to let go of Nance Lovell, MSW, the Social Worker & Coordinator for this program. This was a difficult decision. The hope of many was to be successful in increasing our fundraising and our grant writing so that the position could return but as of this writing we are not there.

So what is happening with this program? As of now the program is not taking any

new clients. We believe strongly however that we have an ethical responsibility to the folks who are already involved in this program and we will continue working with them. Our Simon's Walk Ministers continue to meet with and work with their clients. The social work component of services is being provided by TACO's Executive Director. While far from ideal it continues to be important that this program be a part of what we offer in the community. Over the course of this program's 12 years is it has provided service and care for over 30 individuals. It's volunteers providing countless hours being with those who are terminally ill sometimes on a street-side curb sometimes in

a hospital bed sometimes celebrating and mourning their loss.

We ask that you consider providing support to restore funding to this program. We know that there are many ways for you to choose where your money goes. Reading this indicates that you truly value what we provide in downtown San Diego. This program is a beacon to many, both on the streets and with our supporters. A light in a sometimes darkened world, carrying the message of Christ's love for all those regardless of station.

## Eat, Drink and be Sharing (continued from page one)



Everyone enjoys dining out so why not invite your friends and family out to breakfast and support TACO at the same time? Join us!

**TACO Flapjack Fundraiser**  
**Saturday, November 4th, 8:00-10:00 a.m.**  
**Applebee's, 7677 Balboa Avenue, San Diego**

The TACO Board will be hosting a second Dining For Donations event on Saturday, November 4th, at Applebee's Grill and Bar in San Diego. We will again have the entire restaurant to ourselves. TACO Board members will serve a full plate of scrambled eggs, sausage, potatoes and, of course, pancakes, plus endless coffee and OJ. Jim Lovell will greet our diners and our #1 TACO TEAM, the TACO Board Servers, will again provide tip-worthy service.

At the last Flapjack Fundraiser our total profit was nearly \$2,000, money that went directly to support our programs and services. The "Tip Jar" generated quite a bit of interest. The most tips were received by Jen Siverts, First Lutheran member and TACO Board president, who brought her entire family out in force. Following closely behind (VERY closely) was Tierrasanta Lutheran's own Sandra Taylor. No telling what will happen this time!

Tickets are available from TACO Board members, online on our website [www.tacosd.org](http://www.tacosd.org) and on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/TACOSDfb](http://www.facebook.com/TACOSDfb)) and at the door.

In the meantime, if your organization, congregation, family or youth group is interested in hosting a fundraising event to benefit our own favorite nonprofit, TACO, please email



## Thoughts on the Hepatitis A Outbreak *by Jim Lovell*

We have been consumed by the hepatitis A outbreak. The thought of 19 people dying over the course of six months because of inadequate access to things that you and I take as so core so basic; being able to wash her hands and use a toilet. The link between contaminated water and illness has certainly been documented as early as the 1850s - it caused the cholera epidemic in England. Yet it took these past intense six months for the county of San Diego and our city to recognize that the only way to protect all of its citizens was to make sure that they would have access to clean water and restrooms, no matter how poor.

Since I began working here as the director of the Third Avenue Charitable Organization, Inc. I have been parts of conversations about the need for restrooms for homeless people. The city in fact touts one 24 hour attended restroom just outside City Hall near the corner of 3rd Avenue and C Street. For as long as I have worked here every morning there has been a line of individuals waiting for access to that restroom. Back in 2008- 2009 pastor Miller from First & I were invited to meetings

with a group called the Girls Think Tank (now Think Dignity) and a homeless advocate, David Ross (The Waterman), to discuss the need for restroom facilities in the East Village of San Diego. There was no access for toilets in the part of San Diego that had the densest population of homeless people. For decades homeless people had been "encouraged", pushed into this part of San Diego but while there were not enough facilities for people to be inside, the city had provided no facilities outside.

David Ross had successfully teamed up with a small nonprofit to provide six Porta-Potties in the East Village area where they would be cleaned on a regular basis at cost. We were asked to be a part of a meeting with then City Councilman Kevin Faulkner's office asking the Councilman to prioritize funding for ongoing facilities in this part of San Diego. After several meetings, of which we were just a small part, they received a commitment from the Councilman's office to place four self-cleaning restroom facilities called Portland Loos. This would dramatically impact the health and safety of homeless people in

that part of San Diego where there was no access before.

You may be wondering at this point why the outbreak. Well, it took more than four years to install two of these near the East Village, one by the new library and one by the trolley stop at Park & Market. Within one year one of them was gone. There had been allegations of ongoing crime and drug abuse occurring inside this restroom. After many months it was discovered that the allegations were untrue but by then it had been placed in storage not to be seen again since. Earlier this year the second one was removed just as information about the Hepatitis A Outbreak was coming to the surface.

Now in the midst of this devastating illness, the county and the city are installing facilities all over the downtown area. Hundreds of homeless people have been hospitalized - made ill by a disease that ordinarily stays with people just a couple of days before moving out of their system, a disease that is only perpetuated by lack of access. For those who are on the street,

## Arms Outstretched 2017

**Arms Outstretched members are those who have donated \$365—a dollar a day—or more to TACO over the course of a year.**

Nancy Aeling  
John & Jean Alme  
Alpine Community Church  
Anonymous  
Dr. Ellen Beck  
Rev. Bill & Sheri Bengston  
James & Karen Boyd  
David & Lois Case  
Jean-Claude & Rebecca Chamaa  
Elizabeth Connolly  
Susan Connors  
Toni & Joseph D'Alessandris  
Timothy Driscoll  
Beatrice Doblado  
Paul Engel  
Randy Engel  
Rev. George & Ethel Falk  
Jim & Ruth Gibbons  
Rev. Jim & Jessica Grumm-Friedrich  
James Grutkowski  
Steve & Carol Hassett  
Patricia Hendrickson  
John Hoff  
Richard Hostin  
Geraldine Jenkins

Frank Jessie  
Rev. Ted & Marietta Johns  
Brenda Johnson  
Dan & Rebecca Kjonegaard  
Richard & Mary Krueger  
C.C. & Susan Lautenbacher  
Laurie Lewis  
Rev. Laurie Line  
Jim & Nance Lovell  
Marjorie McDuffie-Zentner  
Darlene Morrow-Truver  
Elizabeth Moss  
Roz Nelson  
LaVerne & Sandy Neuman  
Michael & Susan Pestrak  
Sandra Peters  
Charlotte Pettus  
John & Suzanne Pew  
Ladonna Piper  
Rev. William & Martha Radatz  
Robert & Gretchen Ravenscroft  
Sue and Merv Rettenmund  
Mark & Laure Reynolds  
Carl & Peg Ross  
Sage Creek High School

Jennifer Siverts-Coffey  
Joe & Beth Slevcove  
Joanne & Rick Talazus  
Sandra & Andrew Taylor  
Tierrasanta Lutheran Church  
Gayle Timken  
Rev. Lee Wesley  
John & Alice Wiehe

*We are thankful to the churches that support us*  
Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Calvary Lutheran Church, Solana Beach  
Christ Lutheran Church, Pacific Beach  
Coronado Community Church  
Gethsemane Lutheran Church Endowment Fund  
The Lutheran Church of the Incarnation  
All Saints Lutheran Church  
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church  
St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
Women of St. Luke's  
St. Peter's by the Sea Lutheran Church  
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church  
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church  
Tierrasanta Lutheran Church

This Month in the  
TACO Times:

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The TACO Times  
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theran Council Liason

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an Church

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### Can You Help Us with "Concrete Christmas?"

For the past twelve years, TACO has solicited donations used to buy sleeping bags, tarps, duffle bags, and other items useful to those living on the street, and wrapped them as Christmas gifts to our homeless neighbors. This year will be no different! Keep your ears open for news about "Concrete Christmas."

***"...gathering as a community in service with  
the most vulnerable among us..."***