

The TACO Times
Third Avenue Charitable
Organization, Inc.
First Lutheran Church
1420 Third Avenue
San Diego, CA 92101-3193

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First Lutheran Church
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Member Pastor Andy Tay-
lor, St. Andrews Lutheran

www.tacosd.org

**This Month in the TACO
Times:**

- Information on the Feinstein Fund's \$1,000,000 challenge (page 1)
- Pictures from Christmas in July and the Christmas Pageant (page 3)
- Pictures from the "Evening of Culinary Delight" (page 4)
- More creative ways to support TACO (page 2)
- Sign up for the upcoming THIS training session for volunteers (page 2)

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

Upcoming Events at TACO!

**Empty Bowls: Save the Date!
Saturday, May 8th at La Jolla United Method-
ist Church**

Empty Bowls is an annual fundraiser for TACO held at La Jolla United Methodist Church. Local potters donate hundreds of handcrafted pottery bowls to the event, which are filled with delicious soup donated by local restaurants. At the end of the event, each guest chooses one or more bowls to take home, to remind them of those whose bowls are empty every night.

**TACO's Healing In Service (THIS) Volunteer
Training
Saturday February 27th**

Whether you are fairly new to TACO or a long term volunteer, we believe THIS is geared to both. TACO Staff and Board members have participated and come away with a greater understanding of themselves and the service they give. Volunteers who are interested in the Simon's Walk ministry will also attend this training retreat as the initial portion of their training. For more details, see Rachel Line's volunteer report on page five.

The TACO Times

Vol. 7 No. 1

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

Return Service Requested

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

Contact us

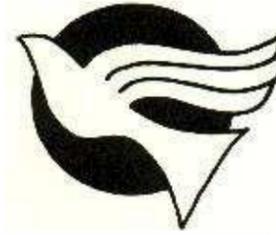
Jim Lovell

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Volunteer Coordinator
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**TACO:
Arms Outstretched**

TACO would like to thank our Arms Outstretched members from 2009:

Pastor Andrew Taylor
Betty and Joseph Corsi
Brenda Johnson
Pastor Brian Hooper
Carol Harris
Anonymous
David and Carolyn Clark
David and Lois Case
Dianna Little
Donald Ebinger
Elaine Lauger
Geraldine Jenkins
Helen Wilson
Jeannie Oestreicher
Joanne and Rick Talazus
John and Katherine Adler
John and Donna Adler
John and Alice Wiehe
Kathleen Harrington
Kevin Gannon
Kim Naour
Pastor Laurie Line
Laverne Neuman
Laurel and Patricia Gray
Mary Erlenborn
Mary Setterlund
Melanie Novak
Paul Engel
Peggy and Carl Ross
Rebecca and John Foley
Robert and Donamay King
Steven and Carol Hassett
Ted and Marietta Johns
William&Barbara Henderson

Please consider joining Arms Outstretched. Help us care for God's blessed poor every day of the year. For more information on this program, see page 5.

The TACO Times

Celebrating 35 Years of Bread Day

Volume 7, Issue 1

February 2010

Looking Ahead to 2010 by Jim Lovell

Welcome into a new year and the beginning of Lent following Epiphany. We are blessed to be here after a great and exhilarating 2009. Thank you to all of you who made 2009 a success born from financial difficulty. So many of you, your churches, and your friends & neighbors turned out for fundraisers and campaigns, like Christmas in July, that it is a very humbling experience to know how much you all care passionately about the work that you bring to happen here at T.A.C.O.

In the midst of state, county, and city budget cuts which affect those poorest in our com-

munities, this harsh climate, you made sure that we had enough food and support and staff to continue to meet an ever-increasing number of people at our doors.

It is a new year and a new decade with great excitement moving forward. We are thrilled to be able to meet the needs of "all who come" as has happened here for 35 years. As we do so, we realize that our financial difficulties did not go out as the ball dropped in Times Square. We enter this year relying on your help and donations, prayer and support as we should at all times. We continue to look for grants and



Finn Morton with our Christmas in July gifts—250 bundles of sleeping bags, tarps, and clothing

corporate opportunities for matching funds as well. There is something powerful in having to work hard for our survival as an organization just as those we serve struggle daily to eat, to sleep, and to stay dry. It does keep us from becoming

Continued on page 2

The Feinstein Foundation's \$1,000,000 Challenge

For each of the last twelve years, Alan Shawn Feinstein has made one million dollars worth of donations to anti-hunger organizations all over the country.

This year, the Feinstein Fund is keeping the tradition alive with their March/April 2010 one million dollar challenge. They will divide one million dollars among hunger fighting agencies nationwide, based on how much money each agency can raise between March 1st and April 30th. These donations

can be made in cash, checks, pledges, or food items (valued at \$1.00 per item or pound).

To participate in the challenge, simply make one or more donations to TACO during the months of March and/or April. All donations received during that time will be applied towards the challenge. You can also donate online by clicking on the "Donate Now!" button on the upper right-hand corner of our website at tacosd.org.

Although all donations made in

March and April will be eligible, if you wish to donate specifically for the purposes of the fund, include "Feinstein Fund" in the memo section of your check, or select "Feinstein Fund" from the drop-down menu on our online donation form. That option will appear on March 1st.

In lieu of a donation, you can also send a letter making a pledge of a future donation to Jim Lovell here at TACO (contact information can be found on page 6).

Looking Ahead to 2010 *continued from page one*

overly full of ourselves and forgetting that we are called to see Christ in those who come with the least not those who come with the biggest grant dollars. It is important for all of us to find that in our work and giving that those who come asking are the ones to focus on.

There are great events and adventures afoot these days! You will find in this TACO Times; information about the Feinstein Fund Million Dollar Match, information about our fantastic Christmas Give-away from Christmas in July, pho-

tos from Jo Douat's "Evening of Culinary Delight", and a Save the Date reminder for the fantastic Empty Bowls event on May 8th at the La Jolla United Methodist Church.

We continue a new campaign started last year called, "ARMS OUT-STRETCHED." So many of you have responded to this campaign by committing to give at least \$365 a year or one-dollar-a-day for the work and ministry that happens here. We hope to expand that number of folks and for those who committed last year, we hope you will recommit this

year to help us in this way.

Note also that we are holding a great training opportunity, "TACO's Healing In Service" on **February 27th**. This training will be all day Saturday here at First Lutheran/TACO and is an opportunity to focus on our Call to Service, to look at what we do with that call, who we serve and why they are in need. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity.

Volunteer Report *by Rachel Line*

Happy February to you! This new year has kept TACO busy! We continue to serve between 150-200 people every Monday and Friday. We have had several new volunteer groups this month including a group from Resurrection Lutheran in Colorado and a group of students from Depauw University in Indiana.

February brings an exciting event to TACO! Have you been interested in diving deeper into the work of TACO? Whether you are a seasoned volunteer or just want to know more about what TACO does, please consider attending the 2010

TACO's Healing in Service (THIS) training on Saturday, February 27 at TACO/First Lutheran (1420 Third Avenue, San Diego). From 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. you will learn about what it means to take care of those in need, who those in need might be, and what difference it may make. Lunch will be provided, but donations are always welcome.

Speakers to include: Jim Lovell, MSW, Executive Director of TACO, **Pastor Bill Radatz**, 2009 TACO Board President, **A panel** of currently homeless persons, **Nance Lovell**, MSW, Coordinator of the

Simon's Walk Ministers (the volunteer group for Going Home End-of-Life Services), **Rachel Line**, TACO's Volunteer Coordinator, and **Pastor Wilk Miller**, Pastor of First Lutheran Church and TACO Board Member.

Please RSVP to Rachel at 619-235-9445, ext 2—or email me at RACHEL.TACO@firstlutheransd.org

As always, thank you for your support of TACO!

Rachel Line
Volunteer Coordinator

Creative Ways Our Donors Are Supporting TACO

- Encourage your church to pledge \$1,000 per month in benevolence, like Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
- Cook a five-course meal for sixteen people to raise money for TACO, like acupuncturist and professor with the Pacific College of Oriental Medicine Joe Douat.
- Give gift cards to each and every person served at our Monday meals, like St. Luke's Lutheran Church in La Mesa
- Volunteer to serve a meal here at TACO, like the Seminarians from Luther Seminary
- Collect coats, hygiene kits, gloves and socks and donate them to TACO, like the members of University Lutheran Church
- Support TACO through a social action committee and raise money for our Christmas in July Fundraiser, like Dan Herman
- Host a garage sale and donate the proceeds to TACO, like Susan Mayes

A Lenten Reflection *by Nance Lovell*

Lent is the most resonant season of the church year for me. It is often likened to "a desert season" something I relate to and that draws me closer to God. Many people see it as a time to give up the distractions we have in life that separate us from God and replace it with a more earnest focus on being with God.

The Lenten practices are a similar process to the soul work that accompanies Simon's Walk ministry. When two people walk together in the last days of someone's life, a deeper connection is allowed to

come forth. The mere process of dying requires a person to give up many facets of their life. Familial, Emotional, Psychological and Spiritual issues come to the surface and we wrestle with the raw version of who we are. To accompany someone in this endeavor of dying, allows both parties to review their lives and perhaps reconcile and heal the past pain.

It is a marvelous process to take in and to witness, as well as a painful one. Simon of Cyrene carried the burden of Jesus' cross as he walked to his death. May we all see the face

of Jesus on our brothers and sisters and serve to carry their cross as we journey with them to their death.

During the Lenten season we will train 2 new Simon's Walk volunteers who will be commissioned after Easter and join our existing Going Home Team. In June, we will begin our 5th year of providing end of life care for terminally ill people on the street. Please consider praying for Simon's Walk ministry during your Lenten journey.

CVS Pharmacy Sponsors TACO

TACO is pleased to announce that CVS Pharmacy has given TACO a Community Grant of \$1,000 through its CVS Caremark program. This grant was given with the aim of supporting TACO's "efforts to provide basic health, medical, legal, and food services to those in need."

As a the recipient of one of Caremark's Community Grants, TACO

can now register on the CVS/pharmacy volunteer website at <http://volunteer.united-e-way.org/cvs-communitycrew/volunteer/>.

The website allows those registered to list volunteer opportunities with their organization, which can then be accessed by potential volunteers amongst the CVS/pharmacy associates in the area.

TACO is pleased to work with CVS to address the needs in our community.

TACO's "Arms Outstretched" for 2010

Last year the TACO board created **Arms Outstretched**. To become a member of **Arms Outstretched**, you are asked to contribute at least \$1 a day or \$365 a year to the work and ministry of TACO.

Many of you have already been giving at this level and even above. You will automatically be included in **Arms Outstretched**.

Arms Outstretched has been created to insure the future health and vitality of the Third Avenue Charitable Organization. The generosity of individual members is essential to carry on TACO's incredibly com-

passionate work to God's blessed poor at 3rd and Ash.

During the early stages of its development, TACO relied heavily on a few major grants from very large foundations. As is often the case for non-profit organizations, TACO has found that these foundations tend to be "one time funders" and they do not tend to fund "bricks and mortar work" (staffing, utilities, wear and tear).

Now more than ever, TACO needs individuals who will be the very heart and soul of all that happens to feed, nurse, and tend to the needs of so

many needy people. Without your individual contributions, TACO's future will be in serious jeopardy.

For those who wish, they will be listed as **Arms Outstretched** members in *The Taco Times*. Also, **Arms Outstretched** members will gain free entrance to our Fall fundraiser and be invited to other special donor events.

Please become one of the first members of **Arms Outstretched**. Help us care for God's blessed poor every day of the year.