



Food For Thought

A Newsletter of the Interfaith Food Center

“Feeding the Hungry”

Volume 14

April, 2008

14545 Leffingwell Rd. Whittier, CA 90604 (562) 903-1478

Director: Veronica G. Hernandez



**DRIVERS
WANTED!**

Join the IFC
team!

We need your
help!

Make a
difference!
Volunteer!

Volunteer your
time and talents
a few hours a
week at IFC. We
need volunteer
drivers to
pick up food
donations from
local markets!

For more
information or
to sign-up
please call us at:
(562) 903-1478



Director's Note

I would like to thank everyone who helped us through the Holiday Season. Many schools, churches, service clubs, businesses and organizations held food and toy drives before Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thanks to all who sponsored and participated in a food and toy drive during our busy season.

We need your help! Demand for food at the Interfaith Food Center has increased during 2008. Today we turn to you, our supporters, to help alleviate hunger in our area. Join us in our effort to end local food insecurity by becoming a partner in the fight against hunger. Thank you for partnering with the Interfaith Food Center in feeding the hungry of our community. All donations are tax-deductible.

I extend my thanks to funders, donors, and volunteers, who help make the Interfaith Food Center successful. Thank you for your continued support!

Thanksgiving Cheer For All

On November 20, 2007 the Interfaith Food Center sponsored its annual Thanksgiving distribution. This year we moved the distribution to St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Whittier, who graciously opened their doors for this huge operation.



The distribution was a success! More than 500 families walked away with much more than a Thanksgiving dinner; the extras included: Snapple beverages, pies, fresh produce, yogurt, cheese, other assorted condiments, not to mention cheerful and grateful smiles.

Yearly this operation entails the help of many volunteers who donated their time, and man power to put this distribution together. We are so fortunate to the volunteers who have giving hearts and care in assisting those who are less fortunate. With the continued support of our faithful donors and volunteers, we will continue to provide holiday cheer for many more years to come.

*Thank you to all who donated financially or with your precious time.
“We couldn't have done it without you!”*



Feinstein Challenge To Benefit the Interfaith Food Center

SPREAD THE WORD!

On May 10th, the United State Postal Service will be sponsoring **STAMP OUT HUNGER**, the “nation’s largest single-day food drive.”

How can you help?

1. Place bags filled with nonperishable food items next to your mailbox.

2. Your letter carrier will pick them up and deliver them to local food bank!

More info:

[HelpStamp
OutHunger.com](http://HelpStampOutHunger.com)

Donations to the Interfaith Food Center will qualify for Feinstein Challenge.

The Interfaith Food Center are encouraging community members to make donations beginning now through April 30th so they can be submitted for matching funds from the Feinstein Foundation’s \$1 Million Challenge.

For the past 11 years Rhode Island philanthropist, Allen Shawn Feinstein, has made \$1 Million available to help anti-hunger agencies. For every cash and food donation received by the end of April the Feinstein Foundation will add a financial contribution.

“It may be hard for many to believe”, said Veronica Hernandez, Executive Director of the Interfaith Food Center, “but more than 800 families pick-up supplementary food from the Interfaith Food Center on a weekly basis and 40- 50 homeless individuals pick-up lunches daily. Every year our numbers seem to be going up. So it’s obvious that the threat of hunger is very real in our community.”

“The more we receive during the challenge period,” said Ms. Hernandez, “the greater the match we’ll get from the Feinstein Foundation, which will help us provide for the families, seniors and individuals who depend on our Food Center.”



Curves

Special thanks to Curves® La Mirada for their support in the fight against food insecurity! Curves hosted a food drive and collected 1,265 pounds of food during the month of March.





25 Years of Service

By Carlos Solorza



The year 2008 holds a special significance for the Interfaith Food Center (IFC) because the center will be celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary.

The Center's core mission has always been to feed the hungry of the Whittier and La Mirada communities. The Center for a quarter of a century IFC has done an outstanding job. A great deal of gratitude is owed to those individuals who saw this need twenty-five years ago, and decided do something about it.

A great deal of gratitude is also owed to the countless volunteers who, so unselfishly, contributed their time and talents. Not to be overlooked are the foundations, corporations, churches, schools, organizations and individuals who have contributed money and food to IFC. Without their help and support, the center would not be here today.

On behalf of the thousands of families and individuals the Interfaith Food Center has served over the years, I would like to say a heartfelt “thank you.” To mark this outstanding achievement, the staff, volunteers and Board are planning a celebration in October 2008. More information will be made available when plans are finalized.



B.C. McCabe Foundation

Thank you to the B.C. McCabe Foundation for their unwavering belief in the fight to eliminate hunger. The Interfaith Food Center is able to continue its program and reach our goal of feeding the hungry in our community through the support of the B.C. McCabe Foundation partnership.

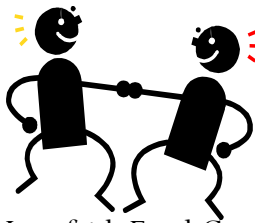
Our sincere gratitude for helping those in need in the Whittier and La Mirada area.

W.A.C.C In Action



Church members from the Whittier Area Community Church (WACC) came together and spent several hours spring cleaning. Volunteers wiped down shelves, scrubbed walls, wiped counters and cleaned out the Food Center’s refrigerators. The end results are amazing!

A special thanks to Steve Arredondo who oversaw this operation, and “KUDOS” to all the WACC members that contributed their time and talents to IFC.



Helping Hands

By Lucille Johnston

The Interfaith Food Center is fortunate to have volunteers from the South Whittier Community Action Academy helping in our warehouse.

Community Action Academy is a supervised, faith-based residential facility run by the South Whittier Community Church. The facility offers counseling and help finding employment for men suffering from various addictions, alcoholism, homelessness and other life altering hang-ups, hurts and habits.

The academy offers group and individual counseling, parenting, anger management and domestic violence prevention classes. These men have chosen this facility to allow the power of God to change their lives.

A secondary element to this program is to prepare these men to become productive citizens and role models for their families by successfully returning them to the workforce and community life.





Featured Face

By: Nancy Morgan

In December 2007 the Interfaith Food Center honored one of our volunteers as Volunteer of the year. She is a tireless worker deserving of honor. Her name is Joan Krave and she has been volunteering on Tuesdays for 17 years. Her duties over the years have varied from packing bags of groceries, handing out the bags, sorting vegetables, signing in clients, working the bread counter, and going through the boxes of donated eggs.

Joan came to Whittier from Dublin, Ireland in 1980 as the new bride of an American lawyer who had been studying at Cambridge, England. The couple rented in Whittier and then bought a house in uptown Whittier where they have lived for 20 years and raised their daughter who is now in college.

Joan says she got started at IFC when she saw an article about it in her church bulletin at St. Stephens Episcopal Church here in Whittier. Her daughter was off to preschool and Joan thought she'd do "a little volunteering" while her daughter was at school. She also volunteered at the St. Bruno's lunch program while her daughter was a student there.

In addition to her Tuesdays at IFC, Joan is also chairperson for the Assistance League Thrift Store and on the altar guild at St. Stephens. In other words, volunteering is a major part of her life.

When asked why she continues to give so much of herself to volunteering Joan replies "I like to do good in the community- I look around me and see that there is poverty and need."

What a deserving lady for "Volunteer of the Year."



Welcome!

The Interfaith Food Center is pleased to add a new member to the team.

We welcome Jose Arrendondo, as our new Warehouse Assistant.



IFC Warehouse Assistant

By: Jose Arrendondo

As the new Interfaith Food Center Warehouse Assistant, my job responsibilities include overseeing the warehouse operation, distribution and also pick-up from markets when volunteer drivers are not available.

Two years ago, I moved to Whittier and was struggling financially, with little or no money for groceries after paying for housing. A former neighbor informed me of the Interfaith Food Center and of its services it provides to the community. It was an embarrassing experience for me; however, I was welcomed by the IFC staff and all its volunteers. I then became a grateful participant of the Food Center.

I am amazed at all the great work the volunteers and staff do at IFC. Seeing the need for more volunteers I then started volunteering one to two days a week.

Now, I form part of the IFC staff team. I enjoy being part of the Interfaith Food Center and I understand the importance of this program and the impact it has on the community.

From the Eyes of a Volunteer



Dear IFC supporters, my name is Jorge Hernandez and I want to share with you my first experience as a volunteer for IFC's 2007 Thanksgiving Food Distribution. IFC's great staff devoted many hours of preparation along with a lot of volunteer-power to make the giveaway a big success.

The day before the actual event was dedicated to moving all food that was going to be given away at the church. Pallet after pallet stacked with canned food, Snapple drinks, juices, frozen pies, pastries and everything else was loaded up onto the truck to be transported around the block where each pallet was unloaded and orchestrated into the church hall. We managed to transport and organize all the pallets just in time for other IFC volunteers who were going to help create food bags. I was really startled to see, both faithful and "rookie" volunteers work together to bag so much food in less time than what I expected. With half of St. Andrew's church hall filled with food bags ready to be given away, everything was finally in place and I was excited to help give away food the next day.

The morning of the giveaway, I was completely blown away at the number of people already in line well before our doors were scheduled to open. Throughout the day, the line never seemed to die down; families just kept coming. However, every volunteer was driven by their ambition to help those in need and never showed signs of fatigue. Our collective goal was to give everything away. I was glad to be of service to individuals and families by helping them with their food baskets to their cars. I also helped with the distribution of nice, frozen turkeys and Snapple drinks. My experience proved to be rewarding. It took a lot of labor to put everything together, but to see and hear how grateful the families we serviced were, made all our hard work worth it. I encourage everyone not only participate but engage in carrying out IFC's mission.

Thank you.