

Volume 38 Issue 7

A monthly publication

# **Calling All Santa's Helpers!**

Dust off your pointy ears and elf costume because it is time for Santa's helpers to get to work! Though it is only early Fall, Inland Valley Hope Partners' annual *Adopt a Family Program* is already well underway. We have "wish lists" for more than 100 families waiting to be "adopted" for the 2023 holiday season. These are families who struggle just to provide the basic necessities of food and housing for their children. These parents would like to plan the big family dinner, wrap and share gifts with their children and do all those other special things that make the season so magical, yet they are challenged with needing just the essential items that we so often take for granted. **That's where YOU come in!** 

How does it work? Hope Partners has "wish lists" for families of all

different sizes and compositions for you to "adopt". You let us know your preferences (i.e., a family of four or a family with older children), and we match you with the family that most closely matches your criteria. We send you a family profile complete

with information on the family as well as wish lists and clothing sizes for each child in the household. You use the wishes to help guide you in your shopping, and the families are blessed with the items you donate to them.

Participating in the *Adopt a Family Program* is truly a rewarding and life-changing experience for our donors and recipient families alike! You can adopt a family as an individual or get your family, friends, co-workers, faith community or other group involved and make a difference for local families this Christmas. If you are interested in making the holidays special for a family in need, please contact Hope Partners' Development & Volunteer Relations Associate, Cirenia "CC" Cuevas, at 909-622-3806, x108 or cc@inlandvalleyhopepartners.org.



Inland Valley Hope Partners would like to thank each and every hero who participated and supported this year's **50<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for the Hungry and Homeless**! This edition of the newsletter is being printed almost simultaneously to the walk event so totals, photos, and other information is not yet available. We look forward to sharing all of that with you next month. **Thank you!** 

### Calendar of Events/ Activities

Farmers' Market	Every Saturday
Adopt a Family ProgramOctob	er-December 2023
Thanksgiving Give-Aways	November 2023

Call or email office for bold events (need volunteers)! 909-622-3806, x108; vcoordinator@inlandvalleyhopepartners.org

www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org

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Administration/Housing Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 am-6:00



Who We Are ... Celebrating over 50 years of commitment, Inland Valley Hope Partners serves over 75,000 men, women and children each year through "Our House" family residential shelter; and Rapid Re-Housing; BETA, SOVA, Claremont, San Dimas and South Pomona food pantries; and the Pomona Farmers' Market throughout 13 communities including Chino, Chino Hills, Claremont, Diamond Bar, La Verne, Montclair, Mt. Baldy, Ontario, Pomona, Rancho Cucamonga, San Dimas, Upland,

and Walnut. The shelter houses five families for up to 90 days. The food pantries distribute five days worth of food per person to no and low income families. Clients may come once every 30 days. The Farmers Market operates every Saturday morning and accepts WIC and EBT cards. Begun in 1968 as the Pomona Council of Churches, today the non-profit is a collaboration of faith communities, businesses, community groups, and individuals who care about their neighbors.

### **Blessings** ....

The last few months have been super busy here at Hope Partners! One of the activities we've been excited about was the opportunity to again partner with our friends at **City of Hope.** The organization has been a strong supporter of our work over the years both as a funder and a collaborator. In 2018 and again in 2022 they granted us funding through their Healthy Living Grant Program to help increase the fresh produce consumption of our clients in Pomona.



On October 5<sup>th</sup>, we collaborated with their team to conduct the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Produce for Patients Event at their Upland location. This food give-away event is so important because studies have shown that many cancer patients report experiencing "serious financial hardship" during their first year of diagnosis. A recent Kaiser Family Foundation survey found that cancer patients describe having to drain their savings, buy less food, and change their living situations as a result of the financial chaos. Healthy eating is absolutely critical in fighting cancer, but while health insurance covers the cost of life-saving drugs, it does not currently pay for healthy foods. The Produce for Patients event provided **250 patients and their families** with a large bag bursting with fresh vegetables and fruits as well as non-perishable food items supplied by our Sova Program Center. Patients were grateful for the help and shared the generosity brought them a little joy during a stressful and tenuous season in their lives. We were so blessed to play a part in this outreach.

As a final display of radical association with our mission. City of Hono's

mission, City of Hope's Community Benefit Director Nancy Clifton-Hawkins shared the great news with me in September that Hope Partners has been selected for an unsolicited grant of \$10,000 to help fund our efforts to feed our community! Thank

you so much to City of Hope for your amazing partnership!

Blessings!

Kami Grosvenor President/CEO







## Help Provide A Struggling Family With HOPE This Holiday Season!

The holiday season provides the perfect opportunity for families and friends to gather and celebrate with lively decorations, feasts, and gift exchanges. It's often easy to forget there are many families in the community who are struggling just to put food on the table. The expense of a turkey or ham and all the trimmings for a holiday meal, especially

with today's inflation, is simply too costly for many of our lowincome neighbors.

Join Inland Valley Hope Partners to help make the holidays more joyful for our lessfortunate



More than 600 families received turkeys, hams, and other food supplies as part of last year's holiday food give-away events

neighbors. Here are a few ways you can support Hope Partners and those we serve this holiday season:

**Holiday Food Drives:** Many wonderful partners throughout our community host food drives on behalf of Hope Partners during this joyous time of the year. Some of our most needed items include:

**Staple Foods:** peanut butter, chili beans, spaghetti sauce, rice, soup (can or package), beans, canned meat, baby food, canned chicken, baby formula, canned vegetables, canned tuna, cereal, macaroni and cheese, water, and pasta

Holiday Food Items: canned vegetables (corn, peas, carrots, yams, green beans,



Even Santa joined in the fun at a previous holiday event at our Beta Program Center in Pomona.

etc.), cranberries/cranberry sauce, boxed stuffing, potatoes (boxed), and grocery store gift cards to purchase ham or turkey

**General Toy Drives:** In addition to our *Adopt a Family* Program, Hope Partners regularly hosts holiday toy give-away events for children at our local food pantries. You can help by collecting new and unwrapped toys for children of all ages. Recruit co-workers, family members, and friends to bring joy to local children in need. We request all toy donations be delivered by December 7th, if possible.

If you are interested in hosting your own drive, please contact Cirenia "CC" Cuevas, at 909-622-3806, x108 or <u>cc@inlandvalleyhopepartners.org</u> for more information.

### INLAND VALLEY HOPE PARTNERS

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Food Security Program Associate Claudia Wheetley, x301 <u>claudian@</u> inlandvalleyhopepartners.org

Food Security Program Associate/Driver Ron Crampton x200 <u>Ronc@</u> inlandvalleyhopepartners.org

Farmers' Market Manager (contract) Harry Brown-Hiegel, 310-621-0336 <u>h.brownhiegel@ca.rr.com</u>

## Bridges to Home & St. Anthony's Church Help Families Exiting Homelessness Establish Homes

Hope Partners collaborates with many local organizations to ensure the success of our clients. This month we wanted to highlight the **Bridges to Home ministry of St. Anthony's Catholic Church** which continues to bless our housing clients through their hard work and generosity. The organization works with local service providers including Inland Valley Hope Partners, House of Ruth, the Veterans' Administration, and others to identify households moving from homelessness to permanent, stable housing. Bridges to Home then labors to help the families and individuals transition into a place of their own by providing furniture, bedding, lamps, tables, plates, and all those other items that turn an empty apartment into a home. Without their assistance, many of these families would be sleeping on the floor while they saved up to make these purchases. **Since the ministry's founding in 2013, Bridges to Home has helped furnish the homes of more than 417 households!!!** Bridges to Home's work is a true blessing to our clients and to those from other local agencies with whom the organization collaborates.

Inland Valley Hope Partners is so very grateful to St. Anthony's Church and the Bridges to Home Program for the generosity they show to our families transitioning from homelessness and into stable, sustainable housing. Thank you to everyone who has donated items and to all the volunteers who make these moves happen. If you would like to donate gently used furniture or household goods in support of this program, please contact Sharon Eazell at 909-982-4885. Please remember that the group has limited storage space and may not be able to accept items right away. Also, most clients move into small apartments, thus large sofas, dining tables and other large items will often not fit in the apartments. We thank Bridges to Home for all their hard work and assistance they've

provided our families!



Above and to the right are just a few photos from the many homes Bridges to Home has furnished and families they've assisted during their decade of service to the community.

### **Other Ways to Give**

Do you designate your **Ralphs rewards**? Please consider designating them to Inland Valley Hope Partners. That way you can help us feed the hungry by buying your own groceries! Simply visit <u>www.ralphs.com</u>. Once logged into your Ralphs account, you can search for INLAND VALLEY HOPE PARTNERS either by name or by our Non-Profit Organization number **WG044** and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address, and a rewards card.

**Matching gifts** is a form of corporate philanthropy which allows companies to match their employees' donations to nonprofits. Companies will match their employees' donations at a 1:1, 2:1, or even 3:1 ratio, effectively maximizing the impact of a single eligible donation. Your HR Dept. will typically be able to assist you access your company's matching gifts program.





## *Our House* Family Shelter Gets a New Playground



Sadly, Hope Partners' *Our House* Family Shelter has been without a playground for more than a year. The shelter's previous equipment had been so well-loved that the wear and tear of more than a decade of use finally got the better of it. But, thanks to the generosity of our partners at Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services, our shelter yard is home once again to a beautiful, sturdy, new playground. We are so excited to again allow our young shelter clients to get physical activity utilizing this swing set. The playground allows them to just be a kid and escape from the stress they've endured during their experiences with homelessness. **Thank you to LA County DPSS and to our staff Isaac and Kevin for volunteering their time to put the playground together!** 

### **Housing Success Story**

Like many who find their way to our shelter, **Elisha\*** has had a tough life. A lifetime survivor of abuse, she described herself as broken and wounded. Elisha shared that she previously had dreams of being a writer and poet so she could inspire women who had gone through similar traumatic experiences. But now she found herself estranged from her son, sleeping in her car, and in need of shelter.

The *Our House* program provided her with a safe place to stay and a team to listen and assist her in working through her challenges to forge a path forward. They helped her reconnect with her son, supported her in her employment, and helped secure a placement in a nearby transitional housing program. Elisha says she is starting to believe in herself and even dream again. We are proud of her success and wish her nothing but blessings! *\*Name changed* 

# **Giving Hope on Giving Tuesday**

Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving.

Start the season of gift giving with a charitable donation to Hope Partners on **Tuesday, November 27**<sup>th</sup>! This year Hope Partners has again decided to use Giving Tuesday to collect hygiene items for our homeless bags. Items needed include: toilet paper, baby wipes, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, hand soap, and lotion (for women, men, and children). Travel size would be fantastic! Bottled water is also appreciated as our homeless clients don't always have access to water for washing. We will collect these items on Giving Tuesday at our administrative offices (1753 N Park Ave in Pomona) or you can make a monetary donation in support of Hope Partners and our mission to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless on our website at www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org.

# **August Donors**

#### Partners (\$1,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00)

Claremont Community Church of the Nazarene CrossPoint Christian Reformed Church Maria Lai Marcus Leh / Paula Frederick Stanley Fink and Lisa Smolen Michael & Agnes McGaha Jack and Diane Schuster Stater Bros. Markets Pat & Mark Warren Family Foundation

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Planned gifts provide a meaningful way of making a significant impact toward the future sustainability of Inland Valley Hope Partners while maximizing your philanthropic and financial goals. Planned giving takes many forms including bequests, gifts of life insurance, and charitable remainder trusts.

For more information on planned giving opportunities, give us a call at 909-622-3806.

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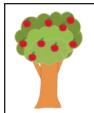




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#### **Claremont**

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