Feeding the Hungry and Sheltering the Homeless since 1968



Volume 40 Issue 1

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January/February 2025

Annual Adopt-A-Family Program Again Spreads Holiday Cheer

This season's Adopt-A-Family Program brought holiday joy to **111 families** who might not have otherwise had gifts for their children. And we know this success is all thanks to you, our wonderful donors, for your generous support!

The spirit of giving was truly alive, and it's because of compassionate individuals, families, service clubs, faith communities, and local businesses like you that this program was a success. The families were very blessed by the outpouring of support from the community with many parents bursting into tears of gratitude for the gifts they received. Several organizations in the community, including Best Buy, Claremont United Church of Christ, the Webb Schools, and Bank of America, hosted toy and gift card drives which helped us supplement gifts as needed and provide some limited support to additional



families at our local

food pantries. Every contribution played a crucial role in ensuring that children woke up to presents they could cherish.

We would like to thank all the donors and volunteers who made our 2024 Adopt-A Family Program possible! A list of donors is included on page 3 of this edition of our newsletter. Thank you again for helping to make the holidays brighter for these families!

Save the Date for the 28th Annual Golf Classic



Help the children and families Hope Partners serves by joining us for this year's Golf Classic! Taking place at the Sierra Lakes Golf Club in Fontana on **May 13, 2025**, proceeds from this year's event will help Hope Partners provide food, shelter and supportive services to thousands of local children and their families.

A foursome of golf is only \$1,000 (\$300 for an individual golfer). Plus sponsorship opportunities are still available at nearly every level for this year's event!

For more information, or to reserve your spot, please contact Kami Grosvenor at 909-622-3806, x101 or kamig@inlandvalleyhopepartners.org.

Calendar of Events/ Activities

Call or email office for bold events (need volunteers)! 909-622-3806, x108;

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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.



In Remembrance: Robert "Bob" Liebing

Robert Liebing, or Bob as most people knew him, was a long-time volunteer at our Sova Program Center with his wife Linda. Sadly, he passed away in January. Bob's dedication to the mission of Inland Valley Hope Partners spanned over 20 years! Bob and Linda first became involved with Hope Partners following a fortuitous encounter in a grocery store parking lot in 2004. During his involvement with our agency, Bob volunteered weekly

at the Sova pantry, actively participated in the Food Security Program Steering Committee, and regularly stepped in to help at food drives and other special events. Along with his wife, Bob also supported the Adopt-A-Family program each year and would often volunteer to help supplement the cost of big-ticket items such as a new refrigerator/freezer, bulk items for the homeless snack bags, and even a critical staff position. The couple was twice-honored by the organization for their volunteer efforts, including receiving our highest volunteer award, the *Founders' Award*, in 2016. Bob was an amazing and charismatic person whose service greatly benefited Hope Partners and those we serve. He will be greatly missed!

A Warm Welcome to Our New Housing Coordinator

We are excited to introduce **Ebony Carrier** as our new Housing Coordinator! With a passion for helping others, Ebony brings a wealth of experience and dedication to her new role in our Housing Office.

Ebony shared, "First, I want to say thank you to God for allowing me to work in this field. I have always had a passion for helping those who can't help themselves." She earned her BA in Human Services and has had a diverse career path, transitioning from the nursing field to caregiver, then to Case Manager, and now to Housing Coordinator.



When she's not at work, Ebony is a busy mom of three. She is always on the lookout for new places to eat or fun activities to enjoy with her kids. She also enjoys surfing at the beach and spending time at her Christian women's night out events. Ebony is currently engaged, and her upcoming wedding date is fast approaching!

Please help us welcome Ebony to Hope Partners – we are thrilled to have her on board!

Thank You to Our Adopt-A-Family Donors!!

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Housing Client Success Story

Hope Partners has recently been blessed to assist a young single woman, Berkley*, in the *Our House* Family Shelter. Berkley's life has been filled with challenges and heartache since she was 14 years old. Growing up in the foster care system, she faced the emotional trauma of instability, constant disappointments, and a feeling of abandonment. From a young age, Berkley learned harsh truths about the world: life could be unfair, and family ties, once severed, were often beyond repair. Despite the basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter being met, she never experienced the affection or connection she craved. For Berkley, the system that was supposed to provide a safe and loving environment left her feeling empty, isolated, and alone.

At only 18, Berkley had been shifted around in the foster care system and was now left with little guidance or support. She had no idea how to navigate the next steps of her life. Her attempts to reconnect with distant family members fell short, leaving her feeling hopeless and without options. It seemed like no one cared, and she didn't know where to turn. But then, a glimmer of hope appeared. Berkley's semi-estranged father, who sadly was in no real position to help her himself, encouraged her to reach out to a non-profit he had heard about: Inland Valley Hope Partners. She figured it was a long shot, but she gave it a try, knowing that if she didn't act soon, she would find herself literally homeless and alone on the streets. To her surprise, just two weeks after completing the screening, she received news that we had a spot available for her in our shelter program.

When Berkley arrived at Hope Partners, she met with our case manager who listened to her story and began to map out a plan for her future. For the first time in years, Berkley felt heard. We advocated for her and helped connect her with the services she was owed through the foster care system – extended foster care assistance with critical resources for employment, education, and housing. She also began working with a youth training program, gaining valuable skills and experience that helped her rebuild her confidence and independence. As she thrived in the shelter, her growth didn't go unnoticed. Our staff appointed Berkley the position of Resident Assistant within the shelter, responsible for helping to monitor the building, under the guidance of our staff. This position also came with a stipend, further helping her gain a sense of responsibility and financial stability.

While there is still a long road ahead, Berkley's journey in just two short months has been nothing short of transformative. With the unwavering support of Hope Partners, the foster care services, and her own determination, she is now on a path toward a future she once thought impossible. Hope Partners is proud to have been part of BM's story, and we continue to wish her all the best with her new journey and opportunities before her.

^{*}Name changed.

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(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

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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 help you access your company's matching gifts program. Nordstrom, Macy's, Bank of America, ADP, The Home Depot, Starbucks, Verizon, H&R Block, and the Walt Disney Corporation are just a few employers with donation matching programs. Ask you employer about matching your gift TODAY!



Host a Facebook Fundraiser:

- 1. Go onto your Facebook page and click Fundraisers in the left menu of your News Feed
- 2. Click Raise Money, Select Nonprofit/Charity, and Select us as Inland Valley Council of Churches, dba Inland Valley Hope Partners
- 3. Choose a cover photo and fill in the fundraiser details then click Create.

 Once you have done this, your job is over. See your friends and family raise money for your cause without the hassle of collecting money! Once your fundraiser is over, Facebook will then send Hope Partners a payment in your honor!



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