### Feeding the Hungry and Sheltering the Homeless since 1968



Volume 40 Issue 8

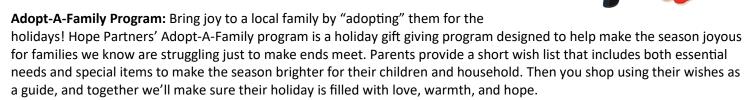
A monthly publication

Nov/Dec 2025

# Be the Reason a Family Smiles this Holiday Season!

The holiday season is here—a time for family gatherings, festive meals, and gift giving. Yet, for many of our neighbors, the joy of the season is overshadowed by the daily struggle to meet basic needs. With the rising cost of living, the recent government shutdown, and more financial pressures, families and seniors on fixed incomes are finding it harder than ever to afford food, rent, or even a small holiday celebration.

This holiday season, Inland Valley Hope Partners invites you to help bring warmth and hope to those in need. Here are just a few opportunities we have to make a family smile this holiday season:



We still have a few families available for adoption! Simply let us know your preferences (for example, a family of four or one with teenagers), and we'll match you with a family that closely fits your criteria. *When possible*, gifts should be wrapped and delivered to our administrative office for distribution to our families by December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Holiday Food Drives:** Help fill pantry shelves and dinner tables this holiday season! You can contribute by donating food items or hosting a drive at your workplace, faith community, or neighborhood. Most needed items include:

Staple Foods: peanut butter, chili beans, spaghetti sauce, rice, soup, beans, canned meat or tuna, cereal, baby food, baby formula, macaroni and cheese, water, pasta.

Holiday Favorites: canned vegetables (corn, peas, yams, green beans, etc.), cranberry sauce, boxed stuffing, instant potatoes, and grocery store gift cards for ham or turkey.

**General Toy Drives:** Help make the season magical for children in our community! Hope Partners hosts annual holiday toy giveaways for children at our local food pantries. You can help by donating new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages—or by organizing a collection with your friends, coworkers, or community group.

For more information about any of our holiday programs, please contact Rosa Valdes, Development Coordinator, at 909-622-3806, x105 or rosav@inlandvalleyhopepartners.org.

### Calendar of Events/ Activities

Call or email office for bold events (need volunteers)! 909-622-3806, x105;

vcoordinator@inlandvalleyhopepartners.org

www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org

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### INLAND VALLEY HOPE PARTNERS

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www.InlandValleyHopePartners.org

ADMINISTRATION/HOUSING OFFICE IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Monday - Thursday 9 am-5 pm

# Inland Valley HOPE PARTNERS

### 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; SOVA, Claremont and San Dimas 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 ...

"If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness..."

— Isaiah 58:10 (NIV)

This holiday season, as we sing of "a thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices," I'm reminded that our world is still weary...and still in need of hope. For countless families, seniors, and individuals right here in our community, life has become



increasingly difficult. The high cost of living means many are forced to choose between rent and groceries. And when the federal SNAP (food assistance) benefits were temporarily paused recently due to the government shutdown, the number of people seeking help at our Ontario food pantry *nearly doubled in just one week*.

But thanks to caring friends like you, Inland Valley Hope Partners continues to shine a light of hope into the darkness. Your generous support helps us:

- Provide food to families and seniors through our local food pantries.
- Offer safe shelter and stability to women and families experiencing homelessness.
- Re-establish our food assistance to the Pomona community through the newly relocated Beta Food Security Program Center.

As the year draws to a close, we at Inland Valley Hope Partners are asking you to once again let your light shine through a gift in support of our mission. Your tax-deductible gift of any amount will feed the hungry, comfort the weary and bring hope to those who feel forgotten. Please make your contribution today using the enclosed return-addressed envelope or by visiting our website at <a href="https://www.InlandValleyHopePartners.org">www.InlandValleyHopePartners.org</a>. Your donation — whether \$50, \$250, \$1,000, or more — will go directly toward ensuring our neighbors have food, shelter, and hope this holiday season and beyond.

On behalf of all of us at Inland Valley Hope Partners, thank you for allowing your light to rise in the darkness.

Happy Holidays and Many Blessings to You in 2026!

### Kami Grosvenor

President/CEO

P.S. The need is urgent—but together, we can make this a season of hope and light. Please give today to help Inland Valley Hope Partners feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and brighten lives across our community.

### **Ensuring Families Have a Thanksgiving Dinner**

This Thanksgiving, Inland Valley Hope Partners continued its annual tradition of helping local families prepare for the holiday. With the support of **Life Bible Fellowship Church, HDL, LA Regional Food Bank**, and **many, many others**, we provided turkeys (or gift cards) and traditional sides to about 300 families in our community.

Distribution took place at our Sova location on Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> with the rain clearing just before distribution began. We were so grateful for this providential change of the weather, making it so much easier for families to pick up what they needed for their holiday meal.

The Thanksgiving Meal Giveaway is a practical way Inland Valley Hope Partners helps ensure that families facing food insecurity can still enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner at home. We extend our sincere thanks to our partners, volunteers, and supporters who helped organize, pack, and distribute the meal boxes. Your contributions made a direct impact on the households we serve and helped bring a sense of stability and normalcy during the holiday season.





# Thank You for Your Support During the Recent Pause in SNAP Funding

We wanted to express our gratitude to all of you who stepped up in support of our neighbors during the pause in SNAP (CalFresh) funding. Thanks to your quick response, Hope Partners was able to meet a sudden surge in need—nearly double the number of clients at our Sova Food Pantry during the funding interruption.

Although benefits have since resumed and the spike has leveled out, demand for food assistance remains high. Your generosity ensured that families facing uncertainty didn't go without food during an especially challenging moment. **Thank you for your support!** 

### INLAND VALLEY HOPE PARTNERS

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#### Case Manager

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Harry Brown-Hiegel, 310-621-0336 harrytractor@ca.rr.com

### **Beta Food Pantry Nears Reopening in Pomona!**

We're excited to share that construction is moving right along at the new home of the Beta Food Security Center at First Christian Church of Pomona! What was once a dusty storage space for the church is quickly becoming a welcoming, functional space designed with our clients' needs at the forefront.

A new exterior door has been installed to provide safe and convenient access for clients, while interior walls have been removed to create an open, efficient layout for food storage and distribution. Fresh paint has gone up and lobby flooring has gone down, brightening the space and giving us a preview of the space's transformation into a food pantry serving the food needs of the community. A special thank you to Fr. Florin Iftode of St. Anne's Orthodox Church for securing a donation of paint for our project. It's truly inspiring to watch the progress, knowing that every improvement brings us closer to reopening this much-needed pantry for our Pomona neighbors.

If all goes as planned, we hope to hold a soft launch for the Beta Pantry in late December/early January, allowing us to begin serving families even as we complete the final touches. Our team is eager to open this location and once again provide food, resources, and encouragement to the community—right here on the same campus as our administrative offices.

Of course, as with any construction project, costs are quickly adding up. Demolition, flooring, doors, and labor are all essential pieces of the puzzle. Every detail matters—and every dollar counts. Thank you to those of you who have already made a gift or pledge in support of our Beta Center Re-location Project, with your support we are nearly to our goal!

If you've been considering a gift to help cover these final expenses and open our doors to the community as soon as possible, please visit <a href="www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org">www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org</a> or mail a donation/pledge using the enclosed envelope. Be sure to note "Beta Project" in the memo line. Thank you in advance for your support!



# Temple Beth Israel's High Holy Days Food Drive Supports Local Families



A big thank you to **Temple Beth Israel** of Pomona for another successful High Holy Days Food Drive. This year, the congregation collected an impressive **1,200 bags of food**, all of which will go directly toward helping Inland Valley Hope Partners provide reliable food assistance to families in our region.

For 26 years, Temple Beth Israel's volunteers have worked hard to organize, gather, and load their food donations, and their commitment has made this drive a reliable source of support for our pantries and the families we serve. We are grateful for TBI's continued partnership.

We also want to acknowledge several other community partners who have recently stepped up to help stock our pantries. Their generous contributions have allowed Hope Partners to keep shelves full while keeping costs down—reducing the need to purchase food and ensuring that more of our resources go directly to serving clients. These organizations include: VasX Salon, Foothill Storm Soccer Club, Regal La Verne, Resonant Clinical, Zeta Tau Alpha, California Bank and Trust, and others.

If you or your organization would like to host your own food drive, please contact Development Coordinator, Rosa Valdes at 909-622-3806, x105 or <a href="mailto:rosav@inlandvalleyhopepartners.org">rosav@inlandvalleyhopepartners.org</a>. We have lists of our most-needed food items, signage, collection boxes, and more to help make your food drive as successful as possible!

# Thank You Claremont Rotary!



A huge thank you to our friends at the Claremont Rotary Club for once again supporting the mission of Hope Partners through a generous contribution. Above, Kami Grosvenor accepts the \$2,500 check from our Club Liaison John Howland during a meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to financial contributions, the Claremont Rotary Club regularly participates in volunteer work parties, the annual Walk for the Hungry and Homeless and Golf Classic, and sponsors multiple families through the Adopt-A-Family program each year. **Thank you!** 

### Other Ways to Give

Do you designate your **Ralphs rewards**? Please consider designating them to Hope Partners. That way you can help us feed the hungry by buying your own groceries! Simply visit <a href="www.ralphs.com">www.ralphs.com</a>. 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 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!



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Our list of in-kind donors comes directly from the information written down by the donor on our on-site donation logs at the time of donation. If you've donated and you don't see your name listed, it simply means we may not have received your information.

If you'd like to be included in future acknowledgments, please take a moment to jot down your name and details on the donor log during your next drop-off—we'd love to celebrate your generosity!