



Harbor Interfaith CONNECTED

Empowering the homeless and working poor in the South Bay for over 43 years.

Vol. 20 No. 1, Winter 2018

Holiday Donors and Volunteers: Thank You

157 Donors, 121 Volunteers, 1,872 Clients

The holidays—Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, and New Year’s—is one of the busiest times of the year for you and Harbor Interfaith. It’s also one of the busiest for our 8,100 homeless and working poor clients. The difference for them is that the season is fraught with fear and shame. They don’t have the resources to buy gifts, not for their children, their spouses, or family and friends. Others around them share gifts, but all they can do is smile and hide tears.

The holidays are also about food, but most of our clients struggle to buy the basics. They certainly don’t have the money for turkeys, hams, pies, and the fixings. On the shopping list is boxed macaroni and cheese, ramen, and chips.

With your help, we provided what the clients needed and had plenty to share. Your gifts of toys, food, and other items lifted their spirits and made a difference. It let the people enjoy holiday traditions the way you do at home.

Here is what over 157 donors and 125 volunteers made happen this year.



On Tuesday, November 21, we distributed 340+ food baskets to families or households. The baskets included your gifts of turkeys, canned vegetables, desserts, and other holiday favorites. Forty-two (42) volunteers helped package and distribute the food.

On Saturday, December 16, we held our annual Holiday Block Party (photo upper right). We closed a portion of 10th St. in front of the shelter and set up tables and chairs for sharing meals and gifts. Donors who adopted families brought wrapped gifts and shared a meal and stories.



The donors included South Bay families, faith and community groups, schools, businesses, scout troops, and others—too many to list here. The event was also made possible with the help of thirty-two (32) volunteers.

On Wednesday, December 20, we distributed food baskets and toys. The toys were bagged by the South Bay Auxiliary of Harbor Interfaith Services based on the ages and genders of the children. The Auxiliary also managed a toy room in which the children selected additional toys. Fifty-one (51) volunteers distributed food.



Throughout December, other donors adopted individual children and families and delivered wrapped toys for them which we distributed. In the end, 1,872 homeless and working poor were served, 587 hams and turkeys were distributed, and 1,300 toys were handed to some very twinkling eyes.

INSIDE— AmeriCorps’ Help, Barber’s Home, Facebook Fundraiser, Homeless Mother Earns...

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Harbor Interfaith Services
Vol. 20, No. 1, Winter 2018

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

— *AND THE ANSWERS* —



HOW DID HOMELESS GET THIS BAD?

There are two reasons: (1) Housing costs have risen faster than household income, and (2) there is a low vacancy rate among rental units.

WHAT IS YOUR HOMELESS PLACEMENT RATE?

On average we place 71%, which is a high rate for the county.

WITH ALL THOSE GOVERNMENT FUNDS, WHY HAVEN'T THINGS GOTTEN BETTER?

The new funds were only recently available and are earmarked for short-term crisis housing, long-term supportive housing, and outreach and housing services. It takes time to bring new housing on board.; it has to be built and/or renovated.

WHY DO YOU NEED MONEY FROM DONORS SUCH AS MYSELF?

Harbor Interfaith empowers the homeless and working poor to become self-sufficient. The new government funds are for housing and housing placement and aren't available for programs that build self-sufficiency. We have a full menu of those programs that include childcare, adult education, job search, food, computer access, clothing, and others. Those programs are fully-funded by donors such as yourself.



HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU SERVE? On average, we serve 8,100 homeless and working poor people across the South Bay, including Long Beach, San Pedro, PV Peninsula, beach communities north to El Segundo, Inglewood, and all communities between. We have staff in San Pedro, Long Beach, Harbor City, Redondo Beach, Inglewood, and Wilmington. We also have mobile street teams.

Evening of Laughter & Fundraising

May 3, 2018



Where—The Comedy & Magic Club, Hermosa Beach

When—5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Do—Dinner, Raffle, Auction, Comedy & Magic Show

By—South Bay Auxiliary, Harbor Interfaith Services

Benefits—Harbor Interfaith Services

— *Tickets, \$100 per* —

www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3225006



fundraise with facebook®

This is how you create a fundraiser:

- Go to your Facebook page. If you don't have a Facebook account, go to Facebook.com and create an account and build your **Friend** list.
- Click **Fundraisers** in the left menu of your News Feed. The link is half way down the left in the **Explore** category.
- Click **Raise Money**. It's the blue button in the middle of your screen. Don't worry. It will be obvious.
- A screen will pop up. Click **Get Started**.
- Select **Charity**.
- Type **Harbor Interfaith Services, Inc.** into the search box.
- Follow the guided steps—select a dollar goal, the fundraiser end date, and upload an image.
- Click **Create**.

You don't have to wait for your birthday to organize a fundraiser. You can do it at any time. **Please note that the funds from your fundraiser will come to Harbor Interfaith during the third week of the following month.** The donors will be listed as Anonymous.



Facebook rolled out its birthday crowdfunding feature in mid-August, and this is how it works. Two weeks before your birthday, a news feed message offers the option to launch a birthday fundraiser benefiting any of 750,000 U.S. nonprofits, including Harbor Interfaith. Friends get a notification on your birthday asking them to donate. It is an easy way to support Harbor Interfaith.

AmeriCorps and Harbor Interfaith

Wesley Dugle and Chris Jenne

Every year thousands of adults enroll in the AmeriCorps program looking to gain knowledge and important community work-related skills so that they can further their careers. AmeriCorps is a voluntary civil society program supported by the U.S. federal government, foundations, and donors engaging adults in public service work with a goal of "helping others and meeting critical needs in the community." AmeriCorps workers are paid and serve for one year, on average. Many enter jobs in the social service sector.

Two newer Harbor Interfaith staff members are alums of AmeriCorps: **Wesley Dugle** and **Chris Jenne**.

Wesley began at Harbor Interfaith (HIS) on January 3 as our new Volunteer Coordinator. He had spent the past year as an AmeriCorps member for the Long Beach Chapter of the American Red Cross where he helped manage and work with volunteers to implement outreach programs to educate the local communities on disaster preparedness. Wesley was drawn to



AmeriCorps and Harbor Interfaith because he wanted to work for the needs of others. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from San Jose State University and is a San Pedro native.

Chris began in February 2017 as Data Entry Specialist and was promoted to matching clients to housing for the Coordinated Entry System (CES). CES is a network designed to work collaboratively to house chronically homeless individuals. Before that, he was an AmeriCorps worker assigned to HIS.



He has also done prior AmeriCorps service with disaster relief efforts following the events of Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and the floods in Colorado in 2013.

Chris was motivated to a life of public service after the 9/11 attack on New York City. To further his career, he earned a Master's Degree in Community Psychology from Marymount California University. He is from Upstate New York.

A Barber Finds a Home

"There is a power to a haircut. You feel good about yourself. You get some confidence in you," **Carl Mayes** said. Carl, a Harbor Interfaith (HIS) client and a young barber, spoke reflecting on why he felt compelled to cut hair for free at a local resource fair for homeless youth and adults. A Harbor Interfaith case manager met Carl at the fair and learned that he was also homeless. He'd been living in his car. "I didn't really want to get help, Carl said. "I told myself, when it gets hard I'll go asking, but I wanted to see if I could make it." He was assigned a HIS Case Manager; within days, the Case Manager found him a home. To the left, Carl holds the keys to his apartment.



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Homeless Mother Earns a Degree: *Terri Worsham*

Terri Worsham was an orphan who eventually became homeless, earned a degree, and is now a teacher with her own home thanks to Harbor Interfaith's Accelerated Learning & Living program (ALL).

In 2012, she was a senior at Palmdale High School looking forward to all of the things seniors anticipate: graduation, prom, yearbook signatures. But her mother died before graduation and the question of "what comes next" earthquaked. A relative took her in for a time, and she graduated, but the housing placement didn't last. She bounced around among relatives for two years until she met a Harbor City man with whom she fell in love. They moved-in together, and she became pregnant. Before the baby was born, the man became abusive, and she left to save herself.

Once again, Terri—now three months pregnant—had nowhere to go. Fortunately, she found Casa de Los Angelitos, a maternity home housing pregnant women in crisis.

While at Casa, Terri began a full-time Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education at CSU Dominguez Hills. When the baby was born and turned three months old, it was time for Terri to leave Casa given the child's age. Casa referred her to

Harbor Interfaith, and we enrolled her in our Accelerated Learning & Living transitional housing program for homeless families.

ALL offers homeless families up to 18 months of housing in an apartment building.

During that time, parents must attend school to complete a degree or earn a certificate, enabling them to step into a career to support the family.

While with ALL, Terri worked on her degree and enrolled her child, Lovelyn, in our childcare center. After Terri graduated, she found a full-time teaching position. We helped her find a home and provided financial assistance to secure it.

Today, Terri is self-sufficient and, as the photo shows, is happy, too.



Terri Worsham, B.S., Teacher