



Harbor Interfaith CONNECTED

Empowering the homeless and working poor in the South Bay for over 44 years.

Vol. 21 No. 2, Fall 2019



The Holidays are Here —How You Can Help

Every year, we distribute holiday food baskets to 650+ households, feeding approximately 2,700 homeless and working poor per year in the process. We also distribute toys for Christmas and provide an opportunity for you to adopt a family and share a holiday meal with them. Want to help? Here are four ways you can bring joy to your homeless and working poor neighbors.

If you need more information than what is provided below, please go to HarborInterfaith.org, Support, Holiday Needs.



Adopt a Family

We need 65 individuals or groups to adopt families for Christmas. Adopters will receive background information on the family and a wish list. We ask that you bring the gifts (wrapped) and a dessert to share with the family to the Saturday, December 14 Block Party outdoors at W. 10th and Gaffey. If you can adopt, please contact Mike Radice, Director of Development, 310-831-0603 x224 or MRadice@HarborInterfaith.org.



Donate Food (or cash to buy food)

We will distribute holiday food baskets on November 26th for Thanksgiving and December 23rd for Christmas. Baskets will include complete meals to prepare. We appreciate donated turkeys, hams, canned and boxed foods, etc. If you can't donate food, we invite you to donate cash so that we can buy the food. We don't want to leave anyone out. To donate, please contact Mike Radice, Director of Development, 310-831-0603 x224 or MRadice@HarborInterfaith.org.



Donate Toys (or cash to buy toys)

On Monday, December 23, we distribute toys to over 1,600 children from homeless and working poor families. We invite you to donate new toys as well as gift cards for teens (movies, Target, Starbucks, Visa/MC). You can also donate cash to help fill in the holes. To donate, please contact Mike Radice, Director of Development, 310-831-0603 x224 or MRadice@HarborInterfaith.org.



Volunteer

We will need volunteers onsite to help with three events: (1) Thanksgiving food distribution on November 26 from 12 to 4 pm (50 people needed); (2) The Holiday Block Party on Saturday, December 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (30 people needed); and (3) Christmas food and toy distribution on December 23 from 12 to 4 pm (50 people needed). If you or your group can volunteer, please contact Wesley Dugle, Volunteer Coordinator, at 310-831-0603 x305 or WDugle@HarborInterfaith.org.



From the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

As Harbor Interfaith makes plans once again to provide holiday meals and toys for clients, I offer you an opportunity to help. This is a season when many people focus on giving thanks for the bounty in their lives. Others, however, are feeling the pain of need. I invite you to open the door to relieve the pain so that they may experience joy.

As many of you know, we offer clients Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets that include traditional holiday foods to prepare where they are living, such as in our shelter, our transitional housing building, their newly acquired apartment, or perhaps in a home we're helping them to keep. The meal includes things like a turkey or ham, yams, mashed potatoes, vegetables, cake, etc. We also distribute toys to the children at Christmas.

One hundred percent of the holiday meals and toys are donated by warm-hearted people like you. Each year, we serve about 2,700 between the Thanksgiving and Christmas distributions. You donate the turkeys, the hams, the trimmings, the toys—everything. Some of you buy and deliver them to the agency, while others donate cash or gift cards enabling us to purchase what we need to fill the gaps. These holiday distributions couldn't be done without you, and the article on page one provides the details on what you can do.

We also appreciate your help throughout the year. The need doesn't end on December 25. The South Bay's homeless and working poor seek help seven days a week, 24 hours per day. Thanks to your generosity, 8,300 people use our services over the course of the year. I hope you can take a few minutes to make a gift using the enclosed envelope or by going online at www.HarborInterfaith.org. Any amount will help—\$50, \$5,000, \$50,000—whatever you feel you can do. Your support goes directly to client services no matter where you live. Harbor Interfaith covers the entire South Bay; there are homeless and working poor people in every community.

As you can tell by the success story on the last page, you make a difference! Thank you for opening a door to their brighter futures.

Tahia Hayslet, Executive Director

CONNECTED

Harbor Interfaith Services
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Harbor Interfaith Services

670 W. 9th St.
San Pedro, CA 90731
310-831-0603
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Evening of Laughter & Fun(d)raising

Where—The Comedy & Magic Club, Hermosa Beach

When—May 6, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. **How much?**—\$125/per

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

By—South Bay Auxiliary, Harbor Interfaith Services

**Save
the
Date**

Happy Birthday, Blanca

Located on a former military base in northern Long Beach is a 3+ acre campus of rehabilitated and new buildings called Century Villages at Cabrillo (CVC). CVC is home to hundreds of homeless individuals and families now living in permanent supportive housing. The campus provides community, transit access to Downtown Long Beach, and a park.

Various agencies from across the region are responsible for buildings on the campus. At CVC, we operate two dormitory-style buildings housing 30 homeless individuals. The clients we house are “chronically homeless,” meaning that they’ve been on the streets for quite some time, some for decades.

Each building has a case manager, a common living room and kitchen area, and a back patio. Clients have rooms of their own and share the common areas.

For our CVC clients, one of the many downsides of living on the streets was that some lost sight of the simple things that once made their lives whole. One thing was their birthday. Some of our residents haven’t celebrated a birthday in decades. But at our buildings at CVC, we see to it that everyone gets a birthday party.

The celebrations are made possible by Journey of Faith Church in Manhattan Beach. Each month, we provide the church with background information on the birthday celebrant including a gift wish list. Church members purchase and wrap the gifts, bake a cake, and bring a party to the resident equipped with food, games, song, and fun. Everyone in the building celebrates the birthday like one big family.

HIS expresses its gratitude to Journey of Faith Church for sponsoring and producing these parties. Since March, twelve birthdays have been celebrated.



Celebrating Blanca's birthday.

Donate a Box

Feed a Family

One in six residents in the South Bay struggle to find enough to eat. When they do eat, they often purchase the cheapest food they can find to fill their stomachs. These foods often include chips, cookies, soda, and candy.

Our Food Pantry came to the rescue last year for over 7,400 hungry individuals, supplying mostly boxed and canned foods pulled together to provide a balanced meal. What we often need more of are fresh fruits and vegetables.

Farm Fresh to You, a company delivering fresh produce to your home or office, has a “Donate a Box” program for its customers. If you receive produce from Farm Fresh to You, please consider donating a box of fresh food to Harbor Interfaith for our clients. Here is the link to donate a box:

farmfresh toyou.com/donate



HIS Kids Children Take Field Trips

HIS Kids is a program within our Childcare Center providing care and education for school-age children. Each summer, it offers a day camp program providing care, academic support, social development, and field trip opportunities.

This summer, the children took martial art lessons across the street at the Croatian Hall, thanks to former HIS Executive Director Mary Gimenez-Caulder who now heads the Caulder Lamm Alliance for Children. The children also went to places such as Knotts Berry Farm, John's Incredible Pizza, and had an experience on a tall ship out at sea—the Los Angeles Maritime Institute's Irving Johnson. While on the ship, the children helped raise the sails and operate the boat.





Harbor Interfaith Services
670 West 9th Street
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www.HarborInterfaith.org

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Our Mission

Harbor Interfaith Services empowers the homeless and working poor to achieve self-sufficiency by providing support services including shelter, transitional housing, food, job placement, advocacy, childcare, education, and life-skills training.

Joslyn Boyd's Success —From Homeless to Home

Joslyn is a recent graduate of our Ilse J. Oetiker Accelerated Learning & Living program (ALL). ALL is a transitional housing and job development program offering 12 to 18 months of affordable and independent living to homeless families. The 24-unit, three story, apartment complex, includes 21 one-bedroom units and three two-bedroom units. Families enrolled in ALL receive assistance with locating permanent housing and financial management techniques while they focus on accomplishing their educational and career goals.

Originally a San Pedro resident, Joslyn and her 5-year-old son Max became homeless when a relationship ended. She moved in with her parents, but then her parents moved to Riverside/Corona, and Joslyn and Max couldn't go with them. They became instantly homeless.

Joslyn found her way to Harbor Interfaith, and we enrolled her in the ALL program. While with us, she completed an associate degree in Social and Behavioral Science, Health and Fitness, and Arts and Humanities at Harbor College. While in school, she worked for the college's Care Program, a program helping low-income students with books and other things they need for classes.

She graduated with a 4.0 GPA and transferred to Cal State Long Beach to earn a bachelor's degree in Social Work. Today, while going to school, she and her son live in their own apartment. She also continues with the job at the Harbor College.

"I love my apartment now," Jocelyn said. "I feel safe and comfortable. It trips me out when I think about when I first moved into the ALL program. Like, I pretty much had nothing! Not nothing, but very little. I'm so grateful for the opportunity your program gave me to succeed and move towards self-sufficiency. Having my own apartment is huge for Max and I, and the kindness and support you gave me was so valuable. Thank you so much!"

