

ACTION MATTERS

Area Christians Taking Initiative on Needs

A PERIODICAL FROM THE ACTION FOUNDATION

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SERVE. TOGETHER.



Conspiracy of LOVE

Beloved author of many children's books, Hamilton Wright Mabie, is quoted as saying,

"Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love."

On this last December 13 perhaps not the whole world, but certainly the Christian Community of Ventura County was engaged in a *conspiracy of love* as ACTION and its participating



churches and organizations did another incredible job of presenting Christmas Shoppe 2014. More than two-dozen churches were involved. Hundreds of volunteers of all ages also played an active part in this "conspiracy of love". And most importantly hundreds and hundreds of our dear neighbors were able to "shop" for Christmas gifts for their children, who otherwise would have found no presents under their tree come Christmas morning.

Jaleilah, who has four sons and recently found herself homeless and without a job, has to spend all her money on bus passes and food, the Christmas Shoppe invitation, was a gift from God for her.



Jorge, who suddenly finds that he's raising his daughter's two children along with his own two sons, had no idea how he was going to afford any presents for anyone this year. Jorge's eyes filled with tears as he watched his children's presents being wrapped by the volunteer.



Kim is a young mother of a special needs two-year-old named Jesse. Kim was so excited to be able to find a picture book to be able to get for Jesse as a gift. He loves to be read to and a nice, sturdy book can be too expensive for her.

The stories could go on and on about the dear friends



and neighbors who have found themselves in difficult financial circumstances and who without the help of ACTION and the scores of churches and volunteers would simply have not had

any Christmas gifts for their children. However, a truly remarkable group of people in Ventura County "conspired in love" to make a difference this Christmas. What a Blessed Season it was!

Joyce Marcarelli

Next up...

- Meet needs whatever day works best for you through Serve Every Day. www.actionvc.org
- Serve Day coming this May/June. Let us know if your church will be participating or if you can lend a hand helping us organize projects. Call Rachelle at 805-987-0300.
- Call the ACTION office or visit our website to make a donation to touch more lives.

Jill's Joys

By Jill Upson, Executive Director



Happy New Year! As I think about the year past and we welcome in 2015, I want to take the time to share and say thank you for your faithful support of ACTION and the many ministries.

What comes to many of us as we think about ACTION this past year are the expanding of programs, the growth of the ministries, and the amazing stats. But I have to admit that these are not the most exciting things to me. Are they to you? Don't you agree that these things are a means to the truly exciting, meaningful things... Such as the ability to send thousands of volunteers into our neighborhoods to make a difference in people's lives and share the love of Christ. To have the opportunity to touch lives. For each one of us to learn that people matter and that God loves each one of us. Now that is exciting!

Some of the people I will remember from 2014:



• Irene, the grandma raising her 4 grandkids on her own that now has car services through our partner Tire Pros because of our new program "Love in ACTION: Beyond Toys." The hugs and tears of joy made my day!

- The kids saved from domestic violence who will be playing on an industrial playground for years to come that was installed in the backyard of an emergency shelter with the help of Serve Day.
- The volunteer serving for the first time at a shelter saying that he should have been there helping all along and then committed to an ongoing relationship with the agency to help them make a difference in people's lives.
- And how about the excitement and tears of the Christmas Shoppe woman who won the raffle for the Spiderman bike - the one thing her son loves!
- The guests and volunteers arm-in-arm at the prayer cross praying at Christmas Shoppe.



- The 800 people responding to the alter call at "I Heart Ventura County."
- The report that an unemployed man in Santa Paula got a job when a business saw him working hard cleaning the alley on Serve Day.
- The image of the foster child clinging to the care bag that she is given after the hundreds of bags are put together through ACTIONLink connections.

Isn't it amazing how donations and volunteering translate into lives touched? May God bless all the people that have been served through ACTION in 2014 (all 18,500 + of them!) and I thank God for all of you – the volunteers, the churches, the donors, the agencies, and the foundation and business partners who make it possible to reach our neighbors with the love that Christ has for each one of us. Together we can see that the ACTION ministries expand, helping our neighbors, making an impact in our communities, and ultimately touching lives.

We will continue to reach into our communities building relationships, meeting needs, and sharing the love of Christ. I am excited to see all that God has in store for each one of us in this new year! I pray that each one of you know the joy that comes from making a difference in a person's life. YOU are a blessing to others! Thank you for your commitment, generosity, and partnership in this ministry.

Joyfully Serving Together, Jill

'10 Years in ACTION'
2015 marks our 10 year anniversary and we have much to celebrate! We look forward to celebrating with you as we serve together.



Action Foundation



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