

# ACTION MATTERS

Area Christians Taking Initiative on Needs

A PERIODICAL FROM THE ACTION FOUNDATION

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## SERVE DAY 2014

# The Church Being the Church



“When the church is being the church, it has a mission that no other religion, or other lifestyle can rival.” Chris Tiegreen

On Saturday, June 7, 2014 the “entire church” in Ventura County was being the church and it was without equal. More than 30 churches and over 2000 volunteers joined together at locations all over Ventura County to serve and show their love for the our community. In a remarkable feat of management and scheduling the ACTION staff and volunteers were able to coordinate an army of people and equipment to serve at elementary schools, mobile



home parks, churches, retirement and individual homes and homeless shelters. Really the list is exhaustive.

So what did the church being the church, apart from the numbers, really look like? There was a work crew washing windows at Conejo Elementary School that included one precocious 4-year-old named Jacob scrubbing a door window with all his might. There were soccer and basketball clinics for children at the same school for almost one hundred happily squealing neighborhood kids. And for children more artistically inclined, they offered, art, dance and singing classes. Even preschoolers were not overlooked; they presented creative play for pre-K’s and their parents.

Also at the same location, Angel Threads clothing ministry of Calvary Community Church had scheduled a clothing distribution for local families.

Nearby at Thunderbird Mobile Home Park, Chinese Christian Church of Thousand Oaks and St. Paul Lutheran worked together, washing windows and clearing overgrown trees and brush from the yards of many homes, that belonged to the elderly. The sound of the power tools echoed through the park and finding the various work crews was as easy as spotting the trucks piled high with leaves and branches. Several parishioners of St. Paul’s, were found taking a breather from a difficult clearing project. One of them commented, that in spite of the heat and hard work, “It’s good to help -- To reach people and show that you care.”



Finally, at The Kingdom Center Oxnard, also known as Gabriel’s House, a homeless shelter for women and children, there were scores of volunteers from two more churches, Crossroads Community Camarillo and Conejo Church diligently working on multiple projects. They worked side by side with residents to clean out a large garage, plant flowerbeds and an herb garden, erect protective fencing and a decorative archway and clear weeds away.



Regina, one of the women living at Gabriel’s house was very eloquent on how she felt about the all the volunteers who came to serve. Seeing the children planting the flowers that she will walk by every day meant a lot to her. She said that it showed her how much Jesus loved her. It made her think about how worthy He thought she was of being cared for.

The stories are the same all over Ventura County as God’s Church reached out and served. The evidence seems overwhelming. On Serve Day 2014 the Church was the Church and in showing love, it absolutely had no equal.



-Joyce Marcarelli

## Serve Every Day on Serve Day



Serve Every Day projects often culminate on Serve Day, which is a celebration of what we do everyday at ACTION. And, as we amass the amazing Serve Day statistics, stories, and pictures after Serve Day, there is always the projects that become Serve Every Day projects.

Barbara, a senior lady in Camarillo, had one of those projects. She had taken a horrible fall off of a horse and broken 15 bones. She was recovering in the hospital's ICU and now had a new reality of what her mobility would be.

While Journey the Church was out on Serve Day they came across this woman's family and were asked if a ramp could be built at her home as she would not be able to come home without it.

They immediately contacted ACTION to find help with the ramp. Within a matter of days, they were connected with the Ramp Ministry at Calvary Community Church, The medical supply closet at the United Methodist Church of Camarillo, and Living Oaks Church. The ramp will be built on July 26th, right in time for Barbara to return to her home, a home that with the help of these churches and volunteers has been outfitted to meet her new needs.

*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath beforehand ordained, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10*

## Upcoming Events

- **Pray for Ventura County**, every Saturday from 10am to 12pm at the Nonprofit Center
- **I "Heart" Ventura County**, Saturday, November 8th
- **Christmas Shoppe** (Most locations) Saturday, December 13th



\*Contact ACTION for more information\*

## Jill's Joys

By Jill Upson, Executive Director



One of the parts of my job at ACTION that I love the most is connecting people to meet needs. To watch the excitement build and people come together to accomplish something is just awesome! Recent examples are:

- The playground that is going into a domestic violence shelter home backyard. We brought together an agency, a business, Serve Day volunteers, and a service group to help make this playground a reality for the young kids escaping violence.
- Bringing together a nonprofit agency Progression Athletics International, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and other volunteers and agencies for the I 'Heart' Ventura County event, to put on a sports clinic for at-risk youth.
- Working with Santa Paula churches, the city of Santa Paula, businesses for in-kind donations, and volunteers to have a Serve Day that was meaningful enough to have the police department grateful and volunteers to be offered jobs!

And the list goes on.

Can you just picture those innocent children swinging on those swings? Or the at-risk youth playing sports with the Christian athletes? Or those police officers finding their plate of sweet treats the volunteers left for them with a note saying God loves them? Or the elation of the person out of work getting a job because of his willingness to work hard serving with the joy of the Lord? It brings a tear of joy to my eyes. I can't imagine a better way to spend my time.

How can you connect to unite with us in meeting needs in our community? I'd love to hear from you! Together we can do SO much!

Joyfully Serving Together,

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