

ACTION MATTERS

Area Christians Taking Initiative on Needs

A PERIODICAL FROM THE ACTION FOUNDATION

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Mighty To Serve

The volunteers gathered bright and early on Saturday May 3rd at Apollo High School in Simi Valley. The sun was already hot, yet they were eager to serve their community. Glancing around the crowd of 250 here from 7 churches, I noticed cheerful faces on adults, children, teens, and entire families, even a baby whose mother had signed up to help. Many participants wore bright “Serve Day” shirts. When asked “How’re you doing this morning,” the standard reply was great! They sang praise songs together and grabbed bottled water and snacks to prepare for individual assignments. After the Stonebridge Community Church Associate



Pastor, Jonathan Lusche, welcomed the volunteers, Jill Upson, the executive director of ACTION informed the crowd that there were fourteen locations to “love on our neighbors” and she assured the numbers touched by the love this year would surpass 2013’s. The sole goal of today’s event was to unify, meet needs, and to transform the community through Christ’s love. The Cornerstone pastor, Kris Cheek, was happy to bring his church members on board for the first time, saying it was their way to give thanks for Christ’s redemption. The crowd fanned out to meet with site leaders, and to disperse across the community of Simi Valley and beyond, becoming the arms and legs of God for Serve Day 2014. Many would stay at Apollo High School for campus beautification to build planter boxes for students or to spread pea gravel so students wouldn’t have to stand in dirt or mud. The Samaritan Center was set to undergo weed abatement, sorting, painting, and general cleaning. Others would help pack boxes for deployed soldiers at For the Troops. At a private house volunteers were busy de-boarding for a senior woman and at a non-profit’s home for unwed mothers Simi EV Free Church led the prepping the home for exterior painting which they will return to do another week.

Ashlee Manor residents have benefited from helpful volunteers on several prior occasions, but today they’d also enjoy a luncheon lovingly prepared and served for them as well as a grocery give-away prepared by a Girl Scout troop. Also on the list was



Tradewinds, a small, quiet and clean mobile home park. Twenty residents had signed up to receive help with yard work, shrub trimming, and porch cleaning. Two of the volunteers from Cornerstone diligently went about the business of washing windows for



one of the residents with smiles on their faces. There were also craft activities for the kids in the main clubhouse led by StoneBridge’s Children’s Director Sherry Krough. As word spreads at Tradewinds about these

small and helpful projects, I suspect many more residents will sign on for the next event.

Half a dozen volunteers shared their love for Christ by making colorful tissue paper flowers with several of the Vintage senior living residents. Later they’d spread good cheer by delivering the beautiful flowers across the parking lot to the Care Center. Meanwhile, other volunteers provide an Olympic Day for the kids at Casa Pacifica Center.



Neither boastful nor proud, the 2014 Serve Day volunteers answered the call to go out into the world in peace, to exemplify Christ’s love through action, and to serve and honor their Lord with camaraderie and good will. Simi Valley would feel that love and hopefully be transformed by it today.

By: Janet Maarshalk



Serve Day

Looking for opportunities to get out and Serve in your communities?

Join us Saturday, June 7th for Serve Day in...

- Conejo Valley
- Camarillo/Oxnard
- Ventura
- Santa Paula

Come to the Kickoff in your city...

- Calvary Community Church (Conejo Valley)
- Newbury Park Location TBD
- Puente de Vida Church (Santa Paula)
- Constitution Park (Camarillo)
- Lion's Park (Oxnard)
- Ventura Missionary Church (Ventura)

To find out how you can get involved in Serve Day and a list of projects in your area go to our website at www.actionvc.org

WATCH FOR THE UPCOMING SERVE CELEBRATION COMING JUNE 24TH!

Jill's Joys

By Jill Upson, Executive Director

We just had our first Serve Day of 2014. I could tell stories of all the great things that were done, the relationships that were made, and all the in-kind donations given, but I think I'll share the stories that don't always get told... about the amazing volunteers. Here is what some volunteers have been telling me:

- My girlfriend thanked me for finding a leadership role she could take in a project that matches her abilities with her passion for seniors.
- My son said to me, if you hadn't taken us along to serve as a kid, I never would have served.
- A pastor says that he has it easy fixing faucets and mowing... while my coworker is so happy to be the one organizing the project rather than crawling under a sink or mowing!
- Another person says if this opportunity wasn't put in front of him he would not be serving because he was feeling selfish with his time, but how good he feels that he was able to help. Matter of fact, he stayed at his project more than 2 additional hours in order to make sure that the project was done well and completed.
- A person with a disability tells me how great I made her feel because she had been feeling useless before I found her a way to contribute.
- I watch the men; sweat pouring, tearing apart a picnic table, hauling dirt, and trimming trees with smiles on their faces saying they will come back again to help.
- Another pastor says how great it was that he got to spend the whole time with one mobile home park resident and how he has connected them up to come to church.

So do we serve to meet other's needs? Yes of course. Are we changed by putting our faith into action as God asks? Absolutely! Find what best fits your skills, abilities, and passions and go serve! Check out the ACTION website for serving opportunities. You will be amazed how God will move in you.

Filled with the joy of serving,

Jill



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