

ACTION MATTERS

Area Christians Taking Initiative on Needs

A PERIODICAL FROM THE ACTION FOUNDATION

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God's Helping Hands

Eighty year old Juanita needed help. Living on social security without any family help, she made a phone call that changed her life. "When you need help, you feel alone. But when I call ACTION I know I'm not alone."



"Every time a senior calls ACTION for help, I'm reminded of the importance of family." Rachelle Melia, the Administrative Director for ACTION, believes that brothers and sisters in Christ must step up to help vulnerable seniors.

Several churches through ACTION, have come together to meet Juanita's basic needs by finding her places to live and moving her there. The Samaritan Center in Simi Valley first found her a place to call her own, and StoneBridg Community Church helped her move in. The church members bridged a relationship with Juanita. To date, they've taken her to lunch, to a Dodger game, and the ACTION Open House.

When Juanita needed to move again, StoneBridg volunteers were there for her. The Knights of Columbus graciously moved her belongings from one storage unit to another, and when she was approved for the Many Mansions program in Thousand Oaks, they moved her in. ACTION referred Juanita to Calvary Community Church once she moved to Many Mansions. "God sent me an angel when you put Debbie Boyd in touch with me. I am most grateful for all your HELP!" – Juanita.

Debby and church volunteers helped her unpack, move heavy items, and get organized. As they worked they got to know Juanita, listening to her story, thinking of ways to meet her needs. Now she gets fresh fruit and vegetables from Calvary's Fresh Market Tuesdays, and groceries from their Food Pantry. They found her a couch and chair and hung some pictures. Juanita was overcome with gratitude. "She knows God is providing for her and we are an answer to her prayers. It is the closest we get to God when we are doing His will." – Debby.

In less than a year, Juanita has changed from an isolated senior citizen to a woman with friends and phone numbers she can call any time if she needs help. This is the work of ACTION.

"God has blessed me in so many ways and I will be forever thankful." – Juanita.

Janet Maarshalk



BROUGHT TO YOU BY ACTIONVC.ORG

Join Us this year for our 10th annual Community Christmas Shoppe!

Christmas Shoppe is an opportunity to minister Christ's love to under-resourced families in tangible and life-impacting ways. This year we will have 5 Shoppes all over Ventura County including our new Disability Shoppe for families with a child or parent living with a disability.

If you would like to be part of this incredible event, you can sign-up to volunteer by going to ACTIOVC.org or if you would like to donate toys please call the ACTION office at 805-987-0300 or email us at action@actionvc.org.

December 7th
Disability Christmas Shoppe
Gold Coast Christian Church
3500 Camino Ave, Oxnard, CA 93030



December 14th
Conejo Valley Christmas Shoppe
Newbury Park First Christian Church
801 Knollwood Dr, Newbury Park, CA 91320

December 14th
Simi Valley Christmas Shoppe
StoneBridg Community Church
4832 Cochran St, Simi Valley, CA 93063



December 14th
Ventura Christmas Shoppe
Orchard Community Church
8180 Telephone Rd, Ventura, CA 93004



December 21st
Pt. Hueneme/Oxnard Christmas Shoppe
The Church at Parkview
415 Pearson Road, Port Hueneme, CA 93041

Jill's Joys

By Jill Upson, Executive Director

Doesn't it feel great when your heart is full of gratitude? This time of year comes with the hectic pace of the holidays, but also with the reminder to be thankful. Being grateful doesn't mean that every-



thing in our lives is great. Instead it is an awareness of our blessings! I want to strive to always appreciate simple pleasures and the things I tend to take for granted. Let us all look for the good and bring an attitude of gratitude to all of our experiences.

"Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings." William Arthur Ward

One of my greatest joys is the blessing of serving God's kingdom. I see God at work through all of you! Lives are being changed. Hurting people are receiving hope. Thank you! Thank you for the donations that make this ministry possible and the volunteers who serve and touch the lives of thousands of people in our county each year. We pray for each one of you, for continued blessings on the ministry, and for our county's churches, pastors, and staff. May our collective work to help people in need continue to transform our communities and glorify God.

Let us not forget what God has done for us. May we continue to be grateful for the peace and joy that God offers all of us each and every day and may that gratitude show in all that we do.

With an attitude of gratitude,

Jill

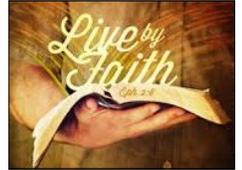
But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Corinthians 15:57

Reaching Out

10 ways to be "missional" over the holidays:

1. Invite someone to join you for Thanksgiving Dinner.
2. Hold a simple holiday gathering for your neighbors.
3. Ask friends and neighbors about their holiday traditions.

4. Send a special note or gift to someone who lost a loved one this past year.
5. Discuss with your family, friends, or group someone you know that really needs help or encouragement. Serve them in a creative & meaningful way.
6. Include your neighbors in the joy of giving to a child. Do a neighborhood toy drive for Christmas Shoppe.
7. Give gifts that matter this year. Think & pray about each one.
8. Be strategic in end-of-year donations to non-profits or church. Make your donations count.
9. Serve someone in need this holiday season; go to www.actionvc.org to find a need in your area.
10. Be thankful, grateful, and full of life this holiday season, because Jesus has changed you. When people ask, be ready to tell them what you love MOST about Christ-mas.



Because of YOU

Because of you...

The ministry of ACTION will serve over 15,000 people in 2013 meeting needs and bringing change to people's lives.

The body of Christ is reaching out to our neighbors bringing hope to those in need throughout Ventura County.

Practical needs are being met including wheel chair ramps being built, food pantries being filled, seniors being loved, homes being made livable, and struggling families being cared and provided for.

With ACTION's structure and mission, we are able to connect volunteers and in-kind donations with pressing needs in our community that otherwise may go unmet. Because of you, together we are able to meet these community needs at a very low cost, only \$15 per person served! Please prayerfully consider making a generous year-end donation to this ministry and enable more people to have their needs met while experiencing the love of Christ.

God Bless you!

Two ways to give: Send a check to ACTION, 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd, Suite S, Camarillo, CA 93012 or go to our website at www.actionvc.org and make an online donation.



Action Foundation



@Actionvc

