

ACTION MATTERS

Area Christians Taking Initiative on Needs

A PERIODICAL FROM THE ACTION FOUNDATION

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SERVE. TOGETHER.

Serve Day 2015



If someone looked at ACTION's June 6, 2015 Serve Day on a purely numeric basis they would have to be impressed: more than 2000 people went out into the community to serve over 8000 of their neighbors; those people who served came from over 50 different churches and they were able to complete more than 475 projects! The numbers are truly amazing, but more than the facts and figures there is the story behind each need that was met, each heart that was touched and each person who met those needs and touched those hearts. Lives were forever changed and the numbers can't begin to tell all those stories.



Devan Bumstead, associate pastor and worship leader for 1st Christian Church Newbury Park inspired those, who met at 1st Christian Church on Saturday morning before heading out to work, by quoting John Piper,

"Worship is going public with the infinite worth of God." There are a few ways that publicize God's infinite worth more effectively than serving others on a ACTION Serve Day.



At the Serve Day Projects that I visited God's people were undeniably proclaiming how worthy their God was. At Marie's home there were

tireless workers, transforming her home so that she could sell it after the death of her quadriplegic son in February, by doing everything from repainting her mailbox, to rebuilding and painting her patio overhang, from cleaning her bathrooms and kitchen to replanting her front flower garden and clearing out her side yard of years of accumulated odds and ends. However, more than all the work numerous people took time to sit with Marie and hear her story. They laughed and cried with her and some took the extra time to pray with her as she

grieved over the loss of her son.

At Ranch Mobile Home Community in Thousand Oaks another group of energetic workers washed windows, trimmed bushes and cleaned the homes of the elderly residents. The "Servers" even had a "Honey Do" list of fix-it items they were checking off to make sure everyone felt cared for. One resident exclaimed that she had never experienced anything like it. And when she told her friends about all that the people were doing, they wondered out loud, "What could those Christians possibly get out of it?"

Elementary schools are a favorite project for ACTION volunteers and Lori Wall, principal of Ladera Elementary, was very excited when she heard that her school was chosen as a Serve Day undertaking. She made a list and hoped some of the tasks would get completed. Much to her delight, more than 85 people showed up at her school and they painted handball courts, more than 60 poles and more railings than can be counted. They weeded, cleared out and mulched the school's vegetable



garden, trimmed a large overhanging tree and cleaned out a huge recycling shed. Lori was overwhelmed by the hard work and effort so many people put into making the school a more attractive setting for the children. They completed the list and more.

God was at work in so many of the details as His people served. One young teenager named Jessica, who was helping out at Ladera Elementary, found herself working beside a young man that she had gotten into a fight

with in the 3rd grade. It was a great opportunity for them to reconcile. Jessica was amazed that something like that could happen when she just came to lend a hand on a Serve Day.

Looking beyond the numbers of Serve Day 2015 to the internal stories, reveals a community of people who proclaimed God's infinite worth with both their enthusiastic actions and with their gracious and giving hearts. These are a people who know how to worship the Father "in Spirit and in Truth".

Written by: Joyce Marcarelli

Jill's Joys

By Jill Upson, Executive Director



We often hear “put your faith into action” but had you given it any thought that your faith *takes* action?

One of my first large serving events with our team at church was providing 40 projects in 40 days as we read through “40 Days of Community.” Little did I know that God would send hundreds of people stepping out in faith to help others in our community. It took faith that we put in to action. Having faith means *believing in God so that you do something...* not just believing that God will do something that you want Him to do. Look at what Peter was able to do: Peter asked Jesus to empower him... and then he stepped out of the boat and walked on water! He took action after placing his trust in God. After all, Jesus said “Follow me.” Not just believe in me. What an opportunity and a joy this is!

God has a plan for each one of us, but we need to be active in that plan to see it fulfilled. How will you step out of your “boat?” Depend on Him and activate your faith... Take action and watch your faith grow! Faith, after all, is a verb. *Trust and obey.* Faith is not passive. We express our faith through action. Take a step of faith today as so many of us did on Serve Day. Sign-up today to help someone on the Serve Every Day website page that lists the people who need our help today. Or let us know your special skill or talent that you can put in use helping others. Or donate to ACTION: Donations right now will be doubled by several generous donors. (www.actionvc.org)

I thank God for each one of you and the

faith you have that turns into action throughout Ventura County each day!

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

James 2:14-17

Matching Grant

For a limited time, your annual pledge for ongoing monthly donations will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$10,000 by generous supporters of ACTION.

Did you know that for every \$11 donated to ACTION, a person is helped and hope is given? For only \$11 a week you will help 104 people in need this year during this “Double the Action” campaign!

Let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth with our actions. John 3:18

Save the Date

“Step Into Our Story”

Sunday, October 4, 2015

This year, 2015, ACTION celebrates 10 years of being of service in Ventura County to those in need!

There will be live entertainment provided by Lisa Houston and Erica Dean, delicious food and wine, special guest speaker Doug Mazza (President of Joni and Friends), and the opportunity to experience our signature events, Christmas Shoppe and Serve Day!

All held at the beautiful Wood Ranch Golf Club!

Be part of the ACTION!



Action Foundation



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