

Volume 29 Issue 9

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CHAP Becomes a Program of Inland Valley Hope Partners

Inland Valley Hope Partners is pleased to announce that the Claremont Homeless Advocacy Program (aka, CHAP) is officially merging with our agency! With a history of working together and a shared mission to serve the homeless, the union between our two organizations is a natural fit.

CHAP is a grassroots, all-volunteer group that seeks to end homelessness in Claremont by advocating for and supporting homeless adult individuals, primarily men, within the community. The group was born out of the Occupy Claremont movement in which homeless individuals slept on city hall property in fall 2012. Following this movement, Tri-City Mental Health funded an exploratory program to evaluate the homelessness situation in Claremont and found there to be 54 homeless single men and women in the city. Appalled by the situation and willing to help, the founding members of CHAP established the group in July 2013.



The group from CHAP came out in support of our efforts at last year's Walk for the Hungry. We are excited by the opportunity to further collaborate with them to serve the homeless in Claremont and beyond.

During the first year, 40 individuals were willing to talk with CHAP's outreach team Karl Hilgert & Andrew Mohr. Since then, CHAP advocates have assisted 34 individuals in receiving basic survival resources, and each participant has been assigned an advocate or two to work with toward the basic goal of obtaining affordable sustainable housing.

CHAP also offers overnight accommodations at the Claremont Friends Meeting. Guests stay from 8 am-8 pm and receive a hot breakfast and make lunches to go. CHAP cafés have been established at St. Ambrose Church, Claremont United Church of Christ, and on the Harvey Mudd College campus to provide hot meals for CHAP participants and the opportunity for participants to establish productive, sustainable and mutually supportive relationships. The group's most recent

development has been the rental of a three bedroom house for CHAP participants who demonstrate potential in moving to the next step toward permanent housing.

Our agencies have been working together since CHAP's inception. While CHAP has dealt primarily with single men experiencing homelessness, our focus has been on homeless families and single women, resulting in many client referrals between our programs. In the past year the desire on the part of both organizations to work even closer together has led to this agreement for CHAP to become a program under the Inland Valley Hope Partners umbrella. We look forward to a great collaborative effort for the future!



Thank you to everyone who attended the 42nd Walk for the Hungry! Photos and more info will be available online and in next month's newsletter.

Calendar of Events/Activities

Volunteer Orientation	October 24,2015
Stater Bros. Food Drive	.October 24 and 25, 2015
Volunteer Orientation	November 4, 2015
Hope Partners at Amy's Farm	November 7, 2015
Volunteer Orientation	November 21, 2015
Give Joy/Give Thanks	November/December
20th Annual Golf Classic	May 12, 2016

call or email office for bold events (need volunteers)! 909.622.3806, #108; vcoordinator@inlandvalleyhopepartners.org www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org

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Food Security Program Manager Isaac Vega, x201 isaacv@inlandvalleyhopepartners.org

Farmers' Market Manager (contract) Harry Brown-Hiegel, 310-621-0336



Who We Are ... Celebrating over 45 years of commitment, Inland Valley Hope Partners serves over 80,000 men, women and children each year through "Our House" family residential shelter; BETA, SOVA, Claremont and San Dimas food pantries; and the Pomona Farmers' Market throughout 13 communities including Chino, Chino Hills, Claremont, Diamond Bar, La Verne, Montclair, Mt. Baldy, Ontario, Pomona, Rancho Cucamonga, San Dimas, Upland, and Walnut. The shelter houses eight families for up

to 90 days. The food pantries distribute five days worth of food per person to no and low income families. Clients may come once every 30 days. The Farmers Market operates every Saturday morning and accepts WIC and EBT cards. Begun in 1968 as the Pomona Council of Churches, today the non-profit is a collaboration of faith communities, businesses, community groups, and individuals who care about their neighbors.

Blessings

Wow, can you believe autumn is already here? It seems even our weather isn't ready to fully embrace the new season just yet! For us, at Inland Valley Hope Partners, autumn always means the Walk for the Hungry and preparations for programs to bless the lowincome families we serve at our food pantries and in our housing program during the holiday season. We certainly can't do it alone, and would like to highlight a few partnerships that help us make the holidays special for the families we serve:



Albertsons Turkey Bucks Program – Each Holiday Season, Hope Partners collaborates with Albertsons to provide local families in need with a traditional holiday dinner. Last year, 152 families received a holiday dinner through this program. You can also get involved in this effort by volunteering to hand out donation vouchers to customers as they enter select Albertsons locations on Saturdays and Sundays in November and December. Pick a single shift or sign up for several throughout the holiday season!

Thanksgiving Meal Boxes and Feeding –In addition to the Albertsons Turkey Bucks program, Hope Partners annually joins forces with other organizations to provide Thanksgiving meal boxes to families we serve. Last year, due to donations from Assemblymember Chris Holden, Congresswoman Judy Chu, Albertsons, Sempra Utilities, HDL Companies, La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church, Claremont United Methodist Church and many others, another 500+ families received a Thanksgiving dinner. We also collaborate with St. Ambrose Episcopal Church to host a Thanksgiving feeding on Thanksgiving Day at our Beta Center.

Adopt a Family – Nearly one hundred community groups come together each year in support of our Adopt a Family Holiday Program, which pairs families in need with caring individuals and groups desiring to help. For more information, please see the article on page 3.

Our House Christmas Party—Each year, Parera Construction transports the *Our House* residents off-site for a festive Christmas party, complete with a delicious meal and fun party games with gift cards and other great prizes. The employees also adopt our shelter families and provide them with gifts, such as clothing, shoes, toys and household items, each specially selected for each resident.

The Board and staff of Inland Valley Hope Partners are blown away by the generosity of so many in the community each and every year. For information on how you too can get involved in making the holidays special for our families in need, please contact our Development Department.

Wytske G. Visser President/CEO

Help a Family This Holiday Season!

The *Adopt a Family Program* is well underway, and you can make a difference by participating this holiday season. We already have "wish lists" for more than 100 families that need your assistance. These are families who struggle just to provide the basic necessities of food and housing for their children. These parents would like to plan the big family dinner, wrap and share gifts with their children and do all those other special things that make the season so magical, yet they are challenged with needing just the basic items that we so often take for granted. That's where you come in!

How does it work? Hope Partners has "wish lists" for families of all different sizes and make-ups for you to "adopt". You let us know your preferences (i.e., a family of four or a family with older children), and we match you with the family that most closely matches. We send you a family profile complete with information on the family and wish lists and clothing sizes for each child in the household. You use the wishes to help guide you in your shopping, and the families are blessed with the items you donate to them.

Participating in the *Adopt a Family Program* is truly a rewarding and life-changing experience for our donors and recipient families alike! Adopt a family on your own or include your family, friends, co-workers, faith community or other group to get involved and make a difference for local families this Christmas. Your gifts will have an impact and help to bring the joy and blessings of the holiday season to a family in need.

For more information, or to request a family profile, please contact Kami Newman 909-622-3806 x 105 kamin@inlandvalleyhopepartners or Maria Zuleta 909-622-3806 x 104 mariaz@inlandvalleyhopepartners.org .



Participants in last year's Adopt a Family program were overjoyed to pick up their children's Christmas presents. Consider blessing a family in need this holiday season!

Shelter Success Story

Mona – a single mother of three young children, Mona came to the *Our House* Temporary Housing Program following her divorce. The transition to financial independence had been difficult for Mona, and, although she had a full time job, she lacked sufficient savings to put a deposit down on an apartment. Out of desperation, she resorted to living in a motel with her three little ones until she heard about Inland Valley Hope Partners.

The *Our House* program allowed Mona the opportunity to put the pieces of her life back together and establish a new beginning for her family. While in the shelter, she managed to save enough money to move her family into permanent housing and is connecting with Bridges to Home for assistance in furnishing her home with the items necessary to make her apartment feel like home for her and her children. We are proud of Mona and the work she has done.

Congratulations, Mona! We wish you the best!

Market Match Program Helps Low-Income Families Access Healthy Foods

In August, Pomona Valley Certified Farmers' Market shoppers on SSI, SSA, SSDI, WIC or CalFresh were able to double their shopping dollars to the tune of over **\$5,900 additional dollars** due to our participation in the Market Match program. This program assists seniors and families to stretch their food dollars on nutritious produce and helps invest in the next generation of healthy children also.

Don't forget! The Farmers' Market (on Pearl and Garey in Pomona) is open every Saturday rain or shine from 7:30 - 11:30 am.

Thank You to Our Partners in Hope!

We at Inland Valley Hope Partners are extremely blessed by the support of our **many** community partners! It is only with your assistance that we are able to carry on our services to the hungry and homeless children, families and individuals in our community. Below are just a few examples of individuals and groups that partnered with us this month in our mission to ensure the empowerment of people in need!

Homeless Hygiene Pack Sponsors

Inland Valley Hope Partners regularly distributes hygiene packs to the homeless individuals and families who visit our food pantries. But the need is great, and we often run low on supplies. Luckily, we have individuals and groups like Dr. Paul Rivera and the Pomona Rotary. Thank you to Dr. Paul Rivera for donating toothbrushes toward this project and to the Pomona Rotary for their ongoing hygiene drive donations to help keep our Beta food pantry stocked with the items needed to complete these packs. We are very appreciative of these sponsors and our volunteer Dawn Walsh for coordinating this program.

Do you or someone you know have an excess amount of travel-sized hygiene items? Consider donating them, or hosting a hygiene drive, to help support our efforts to serve the needs of the homeless in our community. Donations may be dropped off during operating hours at any of our food pantries or administrative office, or contact us to schedule a pick up. Contact the Development Department at 909-622-3806 x104 or 105.

River of Life Church

On the morning of Saturday, September 5th, over 30 volunteers from River of Life Church in Diamond Bar volunteered at Inland Valley Hope Partners. The volunteers were split into three groups to help us complete some much needed tasks at our Sova food pantry in Ontario and our administrative office in Pomona. The group at the Sova food pantry worked hard bagging approximately 2,700 lbs. of bulk food. Meanwhile the administrative office volunteer groups created 200 reusable bags made out of used t-shirts as well as put together 100 homeless snack bags and prep 600 newsletters for mailing. The t-shirt bags will be used to distribute food to our clients at the Beta food pantry.

We can not thank River of Life Church enough for coming out and volunteering with us. We look forward to working with you all again soon!

Diamond Bar United Church of Christ and Northminster Presbyterian Church



Volunteers from River of Life Church volunteer with Hope Partners.

Diamond Bar United Church of Christ and Northminster Presbyterian Church in Diamond Bar held a joint community worship service this month. During the service, the churches had a special offering designated for Hope Partners and collected over \$300. Thank you so much for this great effort.



Representatives from food pantries throughout Los Angeles County pick up canned goods collected by the LA Country Fair.

Los Angeles County Fair

We would like to thank the LA County Fair for once again choosing Inland Valley Hope Partners to be one of the recipients of its canned food drive donations. As you may know, the Fair offered free admission to persons donating five canned goods between the hours of noon and 6 p.m. on Fridays, and, thanks to the many patrons who participated in this program, Inland Valley Hope received 16,000 lbs. of food to feed our hungry clients! We are extremely grateful for this great effort. Thank you so much!



Volunteers Needed: Food Drive at the Ontario Stater Bros

Hope Partners will be having a food drive on Saturday, October 24th and Sunday, October 25th from 10am-2pm at the Stater Bros in Ontario (1105 W. Philadelphia St., Ontario 91762).

Volunteers are still needed! If interested in volunteering, please contact Ron Crampton at 909-622-3806 x 109 or RonC@inlandvalleyhopepartners.org.

If you are in the area, please consider stopping by and purchasing an extra item for a family in need. Thank you in advance!

Gleaning Hope Takes On Project at Saint Andrew's Abbey

Hope Partners joined together with Randy Bekendam from Amy's Farm (new host site to our Hope Partners Garden) to glean apples at Saint Andrew's Abbey in Valyermo.

The team enjoyed beautiful weather and a picturesque location for their glean. Plus an invitation from the monks to have lunch with them was an extra special treat for the group!

We would like to thank Randy and the volunteers who were part of this glean. We would also like to thank Saint Andrew's Abbey for allowing us to be there and for the wonderful lunch.

More Homeless Snack Bags Available

Thanks to several generous sponsors, Hope Partners has six large boxes of homeless snack bags in stock for distribution. The bags contain snacks, water and information on our food pantries and are perfect to keep in your car to pass out to homeless individuals you encounter. Some bags even include socks and hygiene items. If interested in picking up some of our snack bags, please contact Kami or Maria in our Development Department, 909-622-3806 x 105 or x 104, to schedule a pick up time! The folks who receive the bags are truly grateful!!

Other Clever Ways to Give...

Do you designate your grocery store rewards? Please consider designating them to Inland Valley Hope Partners. That way you can help us feed the hungry by buying your own groceries!

Want an easy way to help? Go to goodsearch.com and set up your browser's search engine with Goodsearch. Designate us as your charity of choice and we'll receive 1¢ for every search you make. Easy. Also, their Goodshop feature donates a percentage back for online purchases through major retailers and GoodDining does the same for restaurants!

Have a car in the driveway you don't use, or a boat? Put it to use! Donate it to us through Cars 4 Causes and turn that eyesore into emergency food or shelter for clients in our community. Please keep and send us a copy of the receipt!

If you're not doing so already, follow us on Facebook (Inland Valley Hope Partners) and Twitter (@HopePartners). We will keep you informed about our latest efforts and current volunteer opportunities.

Do you shop on Amazon? Do you have an Amazon account? Now you can help Inland Valley Hope Partners by choosing us as your charitable organization of choice. Through the AmazonSmile program, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to Inland Valley Hope Partners or another charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support Inland Valley Hope Partners by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.





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Have you remembered to include Inland Valley Hope Partners in your will? Consider leaving a legacy that will feed the hungry and shelter the homeless for years to come.





In Honor Of

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Bobby Hyde By: Robert & Mary Pat Hauducoeur

> Judy Kelly's 70th birthday By: Ronna Chavin

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In Memory Of

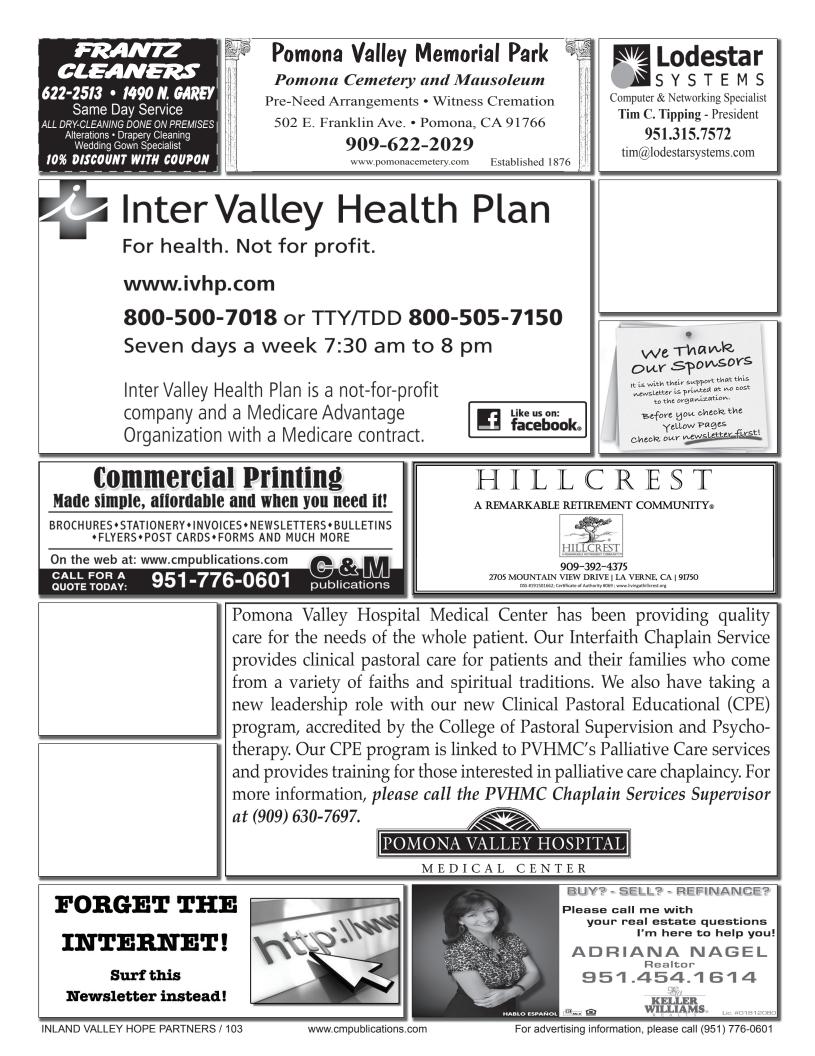
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Beta

Claremont Center for Spiritual Living Claremont Farmers' Market Claremont First Baptist Church Claremont Presbyterian Church Claremont United Methodist Church Eltsam Glzaly La Verne Church of the Brethren Monte Vista Unitarian Universalist Congregation Northminster Presbyterian Church Our Lady of the Assumption Peace & Carrots Pilgrim Place Claremont Pomona Farmers' Market Pomona Host Lions Purpose Church Quail Creek Condo Assoc. St Ambrose Church Teresia Santee

Claremont

Amy's Farm Linda Gunter Rotary Club of Claremont Carol Painter Barbara Krauamz City of Claremont Hillel of the Claremont Colleges Rukmini Ravi

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Thank You All: (In-Kind Donations for September)