

# The Angel Store 2011

"From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded"

Luke 12:48

Brentwood Presbyterian Church

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**Welcome** to a Brentwood Presbyterian Church Mission Tradition

The Angel Store is where the gifts you choose provide opportunity, compassion and hope. Please take some time to shop our Craft and Gift Markets—where every purchase you make positively impacts our world.

**Sunday, December 4, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**  
**Fellowship Hall**

**Sunday, December 11, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**  
**Fellowship Hall**

**The Craft Market** sells art created by people who are among the poorest of the poor in global settings.

**The Gift Market** offers personal gift giving options on behalf of local and global mission partners of Brentwood Presbyterian Church



## **The Process**

1. Browse the catalog. Each page describes a mission partner and lists its specific requests.
2. Fill out the attached order form to choose your gifts.
3. Present the order form to the cashier for payment.
4. Take completed order form to “card pullers” who select gift cards for each purchase.
5. Give selected gift cards to calligraphers and indicate personalization.

*The Mission: Faith in Action Ministry of Brentwood Presbyterian Church is engaged in collaborative long-term relationships with all of the agencies included in the Gift Market. Each agency will use your donation as specified.*



# Mission Philosophy

The mission philosophy of Brentwood Presbyterian Church embraces active involvement of church members in relational ministries that stress being with rather than doing for people. We call this “mutual ministry.”

Opportunities for our congregation “to seek justice, love, mercy and walk humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8), are based on four basic premises:

1. Before engaging in any mission activity, we attempt to observe and understand differences between the systems we conform to and those in effect in the lives of our mission partners.
2. Mutual ministry requires that power be distributed evenly and that resources are shared. It is a goal ever before us.
3. Mission follows a model of hospitality and we’re often the guests. One of the hardest things about accepting our role as guests is allowing ourselves to be dependent upon our hosts and their ways of doing things.
4. Our partners in mission have many things to teach us. Engaging in mutual ministry allows us to learn about life and faith from people whose daily life experiences may be dramatically different from our own.

Brentwood Presbyterian Church members are “all ministers” and “our money follows our people.” In that spirit, we endeavor to involve our church family locally and globally.



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## About the Gift Market

The Angel Store, presented each Christmas season by the Brentwood Presbyterian Church Mission: Faith in Action Ministry, has two components: a Gift Market and a Craft Market.

The Gift Market provides church members and friends with the opportunity to support ministries that are working in Los Angeles as well as globally to relieve suffering, promote social justice and assist people in becoming self-sufficient.

Each agency or ministry was asked to submit items that are especially needed at this time.

Your purchases will have a meaningful impact on the lives of the people who receive your support, love, and compassion.



## About the Craft Market

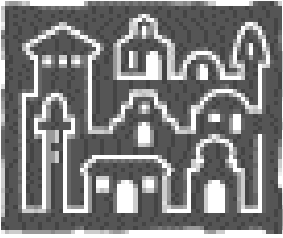
The BPC Craft Market, offered by Ten Thousand Villages is a Fair Trade market. Fair Trade refers to the exchange of goods based on principles of economic and social justice.

Fair Trade gives workers the wage they deserve for their work. The U.N. states that about 1.3 billion people live on \$1 a day and in conventional trade, the producer generally receives only 1 percent of the retail price consumers pay. In addition to a fair wage, the guiding principles of Fair Trade are to:

- \* Engage in environmental sustainable practices
- \* Emphasize gender equality
- \* Offer financial and technical assistance to producers whenever possible.
- \* Build long term relationships.
- \* Provide healthy and safe work conditions.
- \* Practice transparent and accountable business practices.

As consumers at the Craft Market you will have access to high-quality crafts, share your values with friends and family through conscious gift giving and indirectly, connect with people seeking self-sufficiency.

# Ten Thousand Villages



We welcome Ten Thousand Villages to the 2010 Angel Store as a fair trade retailer of artisan-crafted home decor and personal accessories from around the globe.

Located in Pasadena, California, the store features products from more than 130 artisan groups in 38 countries and is part of 150 retail outlets throughout the United States which sell Ten Thousand Village products.

As one of the world's oldest and largest fair trade organizations, Ten Thousand Villages has spent more than 60 years trading relationships in which artisans receive a fair price for their work and consumers have access to distinctive items. The organization seeks to establish long-term buying relationships in places where skilled artisans are under or unemployed or lack other opportunities for income. A founding member of the World Fair Trade Organization, Ten Thousand Villages sees fair trade as an alternative approach to conventional international trade.

The Pasadena Ten Thousand Villages store was established by the leadership of Pasadena Mennonite Church congregants with strong involvement of the Presbyterian community.

## **The Academy for Judaic, Christian & Islamic Studies**

The Academy for Judaic, Christian, and Islamic Studies is located on the UCLA campus in Los Angeles and offers academic discourse on the commonality of the three monotheistic religions stemming from a common religious source—Abraham, and his two sons, Ishmael and Isaac.

The Academy began focusing on the Abraham connection with dialogue in 1971. Lectures have been also been given at the Vatican, the World Council of Churches, major American universities, the University of Haran in Ur, Israel (the birthplace of Abraham), and in the cities of Cairo, Egypt, Jerusalem, Israel, and Istanbul Turkey.

In 1994 the Academy began studies at UCLA. Its mission is 1) the advancement of dialogue between Jews, Christians, and Muslims; 2) the conduct of research and publishing its results; and 3) the teaching of what is found and experienced.

The Reverend George Grose, a Presbyterian pastor, Rabbi Michael Gottlieb, and Dr. Muzami Sadiqi have served as principles in the establishment and continuance of the Academy. Rev. Grose and his wife were part of the Brentwood Presbyterian Church community prior to retiring out of state. Currently, the Rev. Dr. Reinhard Krause, co-pastor of St. Luke's Presbyterian Church in Rolling Hills, is part of the teaching staff.



## Give a Gift

Partial Scholarship for Academy Adult Student	\$25
Partial Scholarship for Academy Young Adult Student	\$25
Donation to Support the Ongoing Ministry of the Academy	\$50



### **Pam's Story**

Several years ago I took a fundamentals class with Jihad Turk. It was fun to see and talk with him recently when he spoke at a School of Christian Learning class at BPC. One thing I remember from the class is that he was so gracious to the students; actually thanked us for taking the time and making the effort to find out about Islam. His attitude has stayed with me, and guided me to be more open, curious and tolerant of other faiths.

## Amor Ministries

Since 1980, Amor Ministries has been providing a unique, life-changing mission experience to thousands of



Christians from all over the world: building safe, solid homes for impoverished Mexican families, in the name of Christ. These home-building trips build more than shelter—they are an opportunity to live the life of service that God calls us to live, a step toward eradicating spiritual and physical poverty in the world, and a transformation experience for both participants and the families being served. Amor's mission is to build God's church and to do that specifically by responding to poverty, by showing God's love through tangible acts of service and by demonstrating to the poor the same grace that is received through Jesus. In addition to housing, Amor Ministries provides food, backpacks of school supplies, warm clothes, Christmas presents and winter relief and household items. Amor works with churches in the United States and Mexico to mobilize volunteers and donations.



## Give a Gift

Fuel for the vans and box truck required for the BPC Youth Mexico Work Trip	\$15
Partial Scholarship for a BPC Youth to Participate in the Mexico Work Trip	\$25
Fuel for the vans and box truck required for the BPC Adult Mexico Work Trip	\$15
Partial Scholarship for a BPC Adult to Participate in the Mexico Work Trip	\$25



### **The Carrillo de la Cruz Family's Story**

The Carrillo de la Cruz family was eagerly awaiting the arrival of the BPC/Placerville Youth Mexico Participants. The family lives in a community called Granjas Buenas Aires in Tijuana and moved there in 1990 from Nayarit, for work. The family is still paying for the land where the home was built.

The total family income is a mere \$150 a week. Bernabe works as a cashier, and his wife, Vicenta, is a home maker. Selene, the oldest daughter works as a babysitter while her little sister, Margarita, attends high school in the afternoon and Jesus, her younger brother, attends junior high in the morning. Daniel, the oldest son and brother, stays at home to help around the house.

The family is barely making ends meet and were all living in one home with a roof made of roof paper and a dirt floor. The walls were made of used lumber and the outhouse is in horrible condition. It was a joy and blessing to work alongside Daniel to build a home that, while still remarkable meager compared to just about every home in Los Angeles, was better than their previous home.

# Angel Interfaith Network

Angel Interfaith Network (AIN) provides charitable assistance and spiritual care to families served by the LAC+USC Health Care Network. LAC+USC Medical Center is one of the largest acute care hospitals in the United States, serving LA County residents with specialized trauma, burn, neonatal, and HIV/AIDS care, regardless of need. AIN was formed in 1988 by the LAC+USC Presbyterian Chaplain, responding to urgent needs of families in crisis resulting from hospitalization. AIN has developed into a strong resource of last resort—responding to Medical Center staff referrals with home delivery of goods and services as well as pastoral care, to help families get back on their feet. AIN is a volunteer-run interfaith network of faith groups, civic organizations and individuals, partnering with chaplains, clinical social workers and other community groups to be there for our neighbors in need.



*Angel  
Interfaith  
Network*

Partners with the Department of Spiritual Care  
LAC+USC Medical Center

A Ministry in Covenant with the  
Synod of Southern California and  
Hawaii Presbyterian Church (USA)

[www.angelinterfaith.net](http://www.angelinterfaith.net)



## Give a Gift

Your gift will provide essential items or services to patients and their families.

Baby Socks	\$5
Emergency Food and Baby Formula	\$10
Adult Home Care Supplies	\$15
One Share of a Stroller	\$50



### A Guiding Light

Abram was two years old when AIN brought supplies to his mama's new baby boy. As usual, we added some books and clothing for big brother. But instead of the active toddler we expected, Abram lay in his bed, watching with big, sad brown eyes. He had just undergone his weekly chemotherapy. Soon it was discovered that the baby was born with a hormonal imbalance. And later when he tried to walk, he would cry out in pain. We have been in touch with this loving family for several years. AIN's Raquel got to know the kids and their special needs. Mom calls her for moral support whenever her burden becomes too heavy. We help occasionally with food and supplies. One day, this brave mom said she got on her knees and prayed over her son. A light came through the window, and she knew he would be all right. The peace she felt at that moment has kept her going whenever one of the children is again hospitalized.

## **Borderlinks & Home of Hope & Peace**

BorderLinks and the Hogar de Esperanza y Paz (Home of Hope and Peace) are sister organizations in the U.S./Mexico borderlands that raise awareness and inspire action for social justice.

BorderLinks  
(based in Tucson, Arizona)  
organizes  
educational  
delegations



that enable people to be transformed by our sisters and brothers in the borderlands. The trips last from one day to two weeks. Participants learn directly about the situations that push people to risk their lives to immigrate to the U.S. in order to provide for their families, the difficulties and dangers of that journey, and the work of churches and other organizations in alleviating suffering and working for just economic and immigration policies. “An absolutely incredible experience that completely turned my world upside down and transformed me.” (Youth in Mission delegation participant, July 2011)

The Home of Hope and Peace is a community center that works to enable residents to improve their quality of life in Nogales, Sonora. The center programs include the Children’s Food Security Program that provides a nutritious lunch for children from the most impoverished families in the surrounding neighborhoods; adult education programs enable people to complete their elementary and high school education; Kid’s Camps offer safe, fun and transformational activities for children during school vacations; Culture of Peace community workshops teach skills for conflict resolution and active non-violence; the women’s artisan cooperative creates medallions that commemorate migrants who have died in the desert; and bi-national delegations are jointly organized with BorderLinks.



## Give a Gift

Material for Medallion Created by Women's Cooperative	\$5
Kid's Camp for Two Children for One Week	\$10
Lunch for One Child for Five Weeks	\$15
Lunch for Two Children for One Month	\$25



### **Ana Maria—Home of Hope and Peace (HEPAC) and BorderLinks**

Ana Maria left her small community in Sinaloa because she wanted her three daughters to be able to go to school. “My town is very ‘machista’ and I wasn’t allowed to attend school. I didn’t want my daughters to suffer that same experience. We came to Nogales 18 years ago and it snowed on November 2 – the Day of the Dead in Mexico. We only had one wall on our house that we had built with wood from discarded pallets. We put our three daughters underneath the table to try and keep them warm. I had never seen snow before and I thought we were going to die.”

“Rick Ufford-Chase, a Presbyterian minister, came to our neighborhood and told us about BorderLinks and the community center. HEPAC is my personal university. I learned how to read and write, and my faith was born there. I used to tell people, ‘Don’t talk to me about your God. Your God doesn’t give me food or education for my daughters.’ Now I have faith in God, my daughters are in school, I’m a trip leader for BorderLinks delegations, and I work in the Children’s Food Security Program and coordinate the Kid’s Camps at HEPAC.”



## CASA

Each month in Los Angeles County, more than 800 hurt, frightened and confused children enter the Dependency Court, or foster care, system. These are children who have been removed from their parent's custody because of severe abuse, neglect or abandonment. A judge must make all of the important decisions about each foster child's life, such as where the child lives, goes to school, whom the child may see, and what health care, therapy and educational services should be provided for the child. With almost 25,000 children under court jurisdiction, this is an awesome task! CASA of Los Angeles trains, supports and supervises volunteers who help these abused and neglected foster children in court and the community. A CASA, or Court Appointed Special Advocate, is appointed by a judge to advocate for a foster child – a child who is under the court's protection because of abuse or neglect. A CASA volunteer provides an independent investigation of the child's circumstances for the judge. The CASA gathers information, writes reports, and makes recommendations to the judge in the child's best interests--everything from health-care and therapy to schooling and visitation. The work of a CASA is vital!



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

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**CASA OF LOS ANGELES**

***www.casala.org***



## Give a Gift

Lap-sized activity games, books, crayons and hand-held puzzle games	\$5
Glamour Gown accessories	\$10
Tickets to plays, musical performances, basketball games, baseball games, or other sporting, artistic or cultural events to be purchased for the foster children or their siblings	\$25
School supplies for a foster child	\$50
School clothing for a foster child	\$100
Send a foster child to summer camp	\$250



### **A CASA Story**

Severely medically fragile Marvin age 4, is living with his sister in his grandmother's home. Given his many challenges; he does not speak or walk, he has a feeding tube and a tracheotomy; Marvin is lucky to have the help of a CASA who wants to become a medical doctor. Marvin's CASA learned that his doctors have lapsed into thinking of him as his diagnoses rather than a child with unknown potential. She immediately went to work assisting his loving but overwhelmed grandmother. She negotiated with his doctors to receive better explanations of Marvin's conditions and the treatments he requires. And she worked closely with the Regional Center and the school district to insure that he gets all the support he needs.



# Chrysalis

Chrysalis is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating a pathway to self-sufficiency for homeless and low-income individuals by providing the resources and support needed to find and retain employment. Chrysalis is the only independent nonprofit in Los Angeles County exclusively dedicated to assisting the local population with employment. Chrysalis has three centers located where poverty is most pervasive: downtown Los Angeles (Skid Row), Santa Monica, and in Pa-coima (San Fernando Valley).



**CHRYSALIS**  
a nonprofit organization **Changing Lives Through Jobs**  
[www.changelives.org](http://www.changelives.org)

Since 1984, Chrysalis has assisted over 38,000 men and women to overcome their barriers, regain their dignity and achieve a lifetime of self-sufficiency. The Chrysalis Employment Program provides clients with job-readiness tools and services, including: one-on-one mentoring and case management with an Employment Specialist; classes for learning job search techniques, computer literacy, and life skills; personalized assistance with resumes and practice interviews; access to mail services and voicemail; transportation assistance; professional clothing; and weekly support groups for ongoing encouragement and job retention.

Since the start of the economic downturn, 60% more men and women have utilized Chrysalis' services. In 2010, Chrysalis helped 1,500 clients gain employment – an 18 percent from the year before. Visit [www.ChangeLives.org](http://www.ChangeLives.org) to learn how you can get involved.



## Give a Gift

### On-the-Go Supplies

\$5

*Your gift will provide a client with a USB flash drive to easily store resumes and cover letters.*

### Job Search Supplies

\$10

*Your gift will provide one person with telephone, voice mail, fax machine and copier access.*

### Access to the Computer Lab

\$25

*Your gift will provide one person computer training for writing resumes, performing job searches, and applying for jobs online.*

### Ready-to-Work Kit

\$50

*Your gift will provide shoes, uniforms, hygiene kits and bus tokens needed to prepare one person for a new job.*



## Dwayne's Story

*"When you give a man a job, you give him back his dignity. My confidence is where it should have been years ago, thanks to Chrysalis."*

*– Dwayne, Chrysalis client*

A victim of bullying in his adolescence, Dwayne believed that by running with a bad crowd, he would be offered protection and acceptance. This belief, he says, was the biggest mistake of his life. His choices led to a felony conviction and prison sentence. Determined to change the course of his life, Dwayne came to Chrysalis in August 2010 on the advice of his parole officer. He dutifully followed the Chrysalis program, attending classes, learning job search techniques, and utilizing the many resources provided to him.

He landed a job at a Downtown eatery, but was later laid off. But, this setback did not deter him from resuming his job search and maintaining a positive outlook on his situation. In fact, he even retook some of the classes to refine his newly acquired skills. His dedication and hard work paid off, and he landed a full-time job at a trendy pizzeria in West Los Angeles as a server and host, where he is truly valued by his employer.

But Dwayne's true passion in life was to become an artist and model. After volunteering for four months at the Art Institute in North Hollywood, he was hired full-time as an art model. Now with two jobs, two incomes, and most importantly, two goals achieved, Dwayne is proud of where he is in life. He is able to contribute to his household bills, pay child support, and save money for his upcoming wedding.

# CLARE Foundation

The CLARE Foundation provides compassionate treatment and recovery services for alcoholism and substance abuse to individuals, families and the community. In 1965, a group of concerned citizens began handing out food, blankets, and literature to homeless alcoholics living on Santa Monica

and Venice beaches. In 1970, this group formed the CLARE



**CLARE**  
foundation, inc.

[www.clarefoundation.org](http://www.clarefoundation.org)

Foundation, which today offers 11 programs in several Westside locations, serving addicts and alcoholics with no place else to turn. The 11 residential and outpatient programs offer culturally sensitive English, Spanish, and gender-specific social services to a diverse population of men, women, children, the homeless, and those facing criminal prosecution for drug and alcohol offenses. CLARE's programs include non-medical detoxification, primary recovery support, a long-term residential recovery program, sober living for individuals, a sober living center for women and their children, intensive outpatient services, family support centers, and the Clarity for youth program, which takes the message of recovery and prevention to teens in public schools.

CLARE's gateway program is Detox/Primary. Those welcomed into CLARE's doors often have lost everything to addiction, including support of family and friends. The personal hygiene kit each person receives provides not only the tools for basic self-care, but also the means to begin the road back to dignity.



## Give a Gift

### Male Hygiene Kit

*Includes Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Razor, Shave cream, Soap, and Comb*

2 Kits \$5

18 Kits \$45

### Female Hygiene Kit

*Includes Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Mouthwash, Shampoo, and Soap*

2 Kits \$5

18 Kits \$45



## Lee's\* Recovery

I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that I'm alive today because CLARE was there when I needed them. When I came to CLARE, my mother had had a stroke—in no small part because of the stress she was under trying to deal with me and my addiction to heroin.

After my mom got sick, my brothers and sisters got together and said, "Look, we're afraid we're gonna lose both of you, but mom needs our help now, so we're gonna focus on her, so you're on your own—hope you make it." I was living with my mother at the time, and even her doctors were saying the family needed to get her away from me. My family sold my childhood home and moved her away just to get her away from me. The cops had to come and make me leave the house in which I grew up. So there I was—homeless and addicted to heroin.

I walked up to CLARE's detox program pushing everything I owned in a shopping basket. If CLARE hadn't been here for me that day, I don't know what would have happened to me. Today, I'm living in my own place, I have a good job, and I'm self-sufficient. I'm completely free of the drugs, and I have no urge to use. My mom is still with us, and I'm now in a position to chip in and help her, rather than being the one everyone points a finger at saying, "You're causing her problems." I feel like I have my life back. Now, looking back on it, whatever I do have today—and I'm fairly content with my life today—I have because CLARE was here when I needed them.

\* A Pseudonym

# Common Ground

Common Ground – The Westside HIV Community Center fights



**common ground**

*The Westside HIV Community Center*

[www.commongroundwestside.org](http://www.commongroundwestside.org)

HIV and associated diseases by mobilizing the passion, support and expertise of our community. We deliver vital health and education services to people of diverse cultural backgrounds who are living with or at-risk for HIV. We ensure that youth and adults, particularly those facing poverty, homelessness, addiction and mental illness, are able to access our services.

Founded in 1992, Common Ground is the only local agency devoted to providing a full range of services to people living with HIV or AIDS. Our service area is bordered on the north by Malibu, south to LAX, East to the 405 and West to the Pacific Ocean.



## Give a Gift

### Street-Based Outreach

\$5

*Your gift will provide Common Ground's street outreach program with snacks, hygiene kits and other supplies for those who are most at-risk of contracting HIV.*

### Sunday Sack of Food for Youth

\$10

*Your gift will provide two Westside homeless youth with a "Sunday Sack of Food," which is three meals in a brown bag (breakfast, lunch and dinner).*

### Testing and Counseling

\$25

*Your gift will provide testing, counseling and prevention education for HIV, hepatitis C and STDs for a person at high risk of becoming infected.*

### Hot Meals and Safe Haven for Youth

\$50

*Your gift will provide a dozen homeless youth home-cooked hot meals in a safe, supervised drop-in center where they can easily find access to other services.*

### Support a Family Living with HIV

\$130

*Your gift will provide groceries and access to medical care for a family with two children living with HIV.*



## Meet Marko

Over 75 percent of Common Ground's clients live in poverty. And, 90 percent lack health insurance. More than half of those living with HIV are at some point homeless.

One such client was Marko. After the Navy learned that Marko was gay, they tossed him out, and his life unraveled. By the time he came to Common Ground several years ago, he was homeless, addicted to crack and HIV positive.

Not long ago, he wrote us from Washington, DC to celebrate his three years of sobriety. He works at the VA Hospital and is now able to help others: *"Somehow those day-to-day messages you gave me to love myself, to take care of myself, to stand up and be responsible... somehow those messages took hold, even when all seemingly looked hopeless for me. Because of what you all have done for me, and allowed me to do for myself... I am now able to demonstrate, in my actions, the same love."*



## **Dinner for People without Homes**

Whether it is new members of the church gathering in the kitchen on a Saturday afternoon or the youth and young adults on a Sunday afternoon, Brentwood Presbyterian church is committed to serving and having dinner with those who live in OPCC shelters.

With your help,  
Brentwood  
Presbyterian  
church mem-



[www.bpcusa.org](http://www.bpcusa.org)

bers are able to provide warm and healthy meals for those in our community who are struggling to rebuild their lives. The meals provide nourishment and strength for shelter residents and give BPCers an opportunity to be in conversation with them.



## Give a Gift

One Meal	\$4
Five Meals	\$20
15 Meals	\$60



### Cooking Together

The applause always comes at the end of the meal and with profuse thanks. It is humbling as the residents of Samoshel show their appreciation to the team of BPCers who cook dinner at the shelter once a month.

Gill Boyd is a chef by profession, making the Saturday Dinner meal preparation a class in culinary expertise as well as a fun time for cooking and fellowship. We cook in the kitchen at the Shelter, then serve it there. Occasionally shelter residents jump in—chopping veggies, cutting biscuits, or just plain helping us navigate the kitchen appliances.

The times we serve a dessert with whipped cream are quite memorable: ever whip cream with just a spoon? Sandy Kim and Olivia Edwards hold the tenacity prize for moving liquid to high level peaks!

Sometimes our team sits with residents and shares stories. People from all classes of life live here—some working in the community, some seeking jobs, some without families, some losing their families, all hoping to move on to a better life. Memories are a big part of the stories we hear. Enjoying the exuberance of one man who found Gill's potato salad recipe just like his mother's was part of one conversation: the secret is the mustard.

## The Giving Spirit

The Giving Spirit is a ten-year old all-volunteer organization that brings tangible and immediate aid to homeless women, children, and men in the Los Angeles area by distributing “survival kits” directly to people living on the streets.



Serving the homeless of Los Angeles,  
one individual at a time.

[www.thegivingspirit.org](http://www.thegivingspirit.org)

By harnessing the talents and generosity of hundreds of volunteers and individual donors, we will positively attempt to impact the lives of over 3,500 homeless individuals this year alone. By reaching out to people wherever they live, our volunteers bring hope in addition to physical aid. At the same time, we instill a growing base of volunteers with the desire to improve the homeless situation in Los Angeles while educating them about the reality of homelessness in Los Angeles and providing them the tools to help those they encounter.



## Give a Gift

### Wool Hat and Gloves

\$6

*It gets cold on the street and wool hats and gloves are hard to come by in California.*

### First Aid Kit

\$10

*Band-Aids, tape, antibacterial cream, etc.*

### Infant Necessities Mini Kit

\$20

*Diaper bag, baby formula, wipes, diapers, pacifiers, etc. There are thousands of homeless families and single mothers with infants living on the streets and in shelters.*

### Full Survival Kit

\$60

*Your gift will provide a kit that includes everything one would need to survive living on the street for a few weeks.*



## The Giving Spirit Story

Cynthia Berry is pregnant and homeless and survives by selling incense on the Venice boardwalk. When she heard someone was giving away backpacks full of food and supplies, she was among the first to show up among The Giving Spirit volunteers.

Ms. Berry claimed a backpack and a free bag lunch and sat down to eat in the shade. She said life on the streets can be hard for a woman, especially one struggling with morning sickness. Things have been better since she and her husband recently got an old RV to sleep in, she said, although police often rouse them from the local parking lots.

Her young friends, who also claimed backpacks, said they have tried to find work, but even minimum wage employers are looking for workers with more experience.

Miguel Pineda, 22, was laid off from his job managing a Starbucks about nine months ago and has been homeless—or “traveling”, as he says—ever since. “There’s no work out there for a younger person,” said Donovan Hage, 19.



## Habitat for Humanity

Since 1990, Habitat for Humanity Greater Los Angeles has built houses in neighborhoods all across Los Angeles County. Shelter is a basic human need, and the goal of Habitat is to eliminate poverty housing and make decent, affordable homes a reality for low-income, working families.

In Los Angeles, Habitat is one of the few—if not



**Habitat for Humanity®**


[www.habitatla.org](http://www.habitatla.org)

the only —affordable home ownership program that serves families earning 30-80 percent of the median family income. Working with volunteers, families, corporations, congregations and donors, Habitat offers a hand up, not a handout. Habitat homeowners are required to invest 500 hours of “sweat equity” to help build their home, and they must each qualify for a non-interest mortgage. Habitat for Humanity transforms lives and strengthens communities in its commitment to developing tangible solutions to the affordable housing crisis.



## Give a Gift

Box of Nails	\$10
Share of Window	\$25
Roof Shingles	\$35
Bedroom Wall	\$50



### **Karen's Story**

Karen and her mother, a retired machinist, do not have much. They rent a small apartment that they struggle to maintain. There is no heating system and several of the windows do not shut. What they do have is a stable work history, good credit scores, and a deep commitment to helping children from broken families.

In 2008, when they learned that two of the children they had cared for since infancy would not be able to return to their parents, Karen and Jean didn't hesitate to file for their adoption. After legally adopting their third foster child, they applied for the Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles' Home ownership program in an effort to provide a safer and healthier home for their expanded family.

Karen's story has a happy ending. In December 2010, the family was surprised with the good news that they were selected to be one of HFH GLA's partner homeowners. Soon, this family of five will begin a new life in a safe and decent home that they can call their own.



# Heifer International

The mission of Heifer International is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and to care for the earth. Since 1944, it has enabled people around the world to obtain a sustainable source of food and income. By giving families a source of food rather than short-term relief, Heifer



**HEIFER**<sup>™</sup> | *Ending Hunger,  
Caring for the Earth*  
INTERNATIONAL

[www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)

International has created an expanding network of hope, dignity and self-reliance around the globe. The organization has helped millions in more than 128 countries, providing more than 30 types of food and income producing animals, and intensive training in animal management and environmentally sound farming and community development.



## The Santos Family Story

Mrs. Laura Santos lives in the village of El Pino Zapatón with her husband and daughters. The family is a part of a Heifer project implemented in partnership with the Foundation for the Development and Strengthening of Grassroots Organizations (FUNDEBASE).

Before she joined the project, Mrs. Santos owned five chickens and a turkey, but the birds just wandered around her house.

“I didn’t pay attention to them because I thought they would either get sick and die, or they would be stolen or eaten by a predator,” she said. At the time, coffee was the primary source of family income, and it was not sufficient to meet the family’s needs.

In 2006, Mrs. Santos began participating in trainings through Heifer and FUNDEBASE, partly in preparation for the Passing on the Gift of chickens. During those trainings and exchanges, she learned to build chicken coups and prepare homemade feed, and she began planting white mulberry, alfalfa and other grasses to incorporate into the chickens’ diet. A few months later, Mrs. Santos received 20 hens and two roosters. She implemented what she had learned at the trainings, and the chickens grew fast and strong.



## Give a Gift

### Goslings

\$1

*Geese make a great gift, and here's why: Since some geese can lay up to 75 eggs a year the benefits add up quickly for families in desperate need of protein and a means of income. Geese are easy to care for because they don't require much shelter and can adapt to hot, wet or cold weather. Geese can also find a good portion of their food by themselves, and they efficiently dispose of weed seeds and gobble up insects, slugs and snails.*

### Share of Rabbits

\$10

*A trio of rabbits from Heifer International is a low-cost, high-yield gift that helps impoverished families increase their protein intake and income. Rabbits are easy to care for; they eat simple foods, such as carrot tops, sweet potato vines and grasses. Rabbit manure can be applied directly on gardens without composting.*

### Share of a Llama


\$20

*When resources are scarce, it's important that livestock don't use up land reserved for people. At home in rough, mountainous areas of Latin America, llamas are a blessing to families with limited pasture land because they can eat the scrub vegetation that other domesticated animals won't eat. Llama droppings help fertilize topsoil — improving crops and reducing erosion.*

### Hope Basket

\$50

*The Heifer Hope Basket, with its chickens and rabbits, offers just that to Heifer's project partners. What can be more hopeful to a struggling farmer than a gift of fast-multiplying livestock? Rabbits are easy to care for and reproduce quickly, allowing their owners to sell the offspring for extra income once they've fulfilled Heifer's "Passing on the Gift" promise; and chickens lay eggs and provide manure for vegetable gardens. That's why this gift of Hope goes on and on, lasting much longer and helping more families than the usual gift basket filled with pastries or presents ever could.*



"I now have 100 chickens of different ages," she said. "On average, I collect 18 eggs a day, which is enough to feed my family every day."

Raising poultry is also benefiting the family financially. Mrs. Santos earns money by selling surplus eggs, and she saves money by eating the chickens.

"Instead of going to the store, I go to the coup and get a chicken for a family meal," she said.

Mrs. Santos has learned that raising poultry is only one element of sustainable agriculture, and thus she began diversifying her agricultural production by incorporating fruit trees, corn and beans. She also learned how to save money by making nutritious homemade meals using herbs and tubers found in the surrounding area.

"We are saving money by buying less food and producing our own organic fertilizers," she said. "I began to understand that sustainable agriculture means taking advantage of all the resources for our benefit."

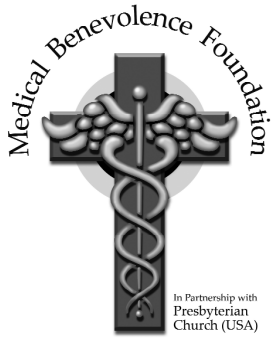
By applying the knowledge she acquired through trainings, Mrs. Santos' family is well on their way to meeting their needs in a sustainable way.

# Medical Benevolence Foundation

The Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) works to bring health and wholeness around the world, proclaiming and demonstrating the gospel of Jesus Christ through healing ministry.

In partnership with Presbyterian Church (USA), MBF provides information about the international

health programs of PC(USA) and its international church partners; raises funds to support medical mission workers and mission hospitals and programs; leverages government grants for construction and renovation of hospitals and nursing schools; and ships donated medical supplies and equipment overseas.



[www.mbfoundation.org](http://www.mbfoundation.org)



## Give a Gift

### Medicine and Supplies for Hospitals & Clinics \$5

*Many people travel far and endure long waits to be seen at community health clinics. An adequate stock of medicines, supplies and working equipment is critical to treat the patients who come to mission hospitals and clinics. You can provide care for a sick person with your gift of medicine.*

### Charity Care for Indigent Patients \$10

*Although many patients cannot pay for the necessary medical care, medicine, hospitalization or surgery, mission hospitals continue to provide the care and depend on gifts of charity care to cover those costs.*

### Food and Care for Orphaned and Vulnerable Children \$15

*AIDS has destroyed millions of lives and left many children orphaned. Community Based Child Care Centers feed and care for these vulnerable children, helping single parents and extended families provide loving care.*

### Indigenous Healthcare Training \$25

*Well-trained healthcare workers, including nurse midwives, doctors and other medical professionals are a critical component for healthy communities. Scholarships make it possible for many to receive the training that results in a positive impact in the overall health of their communities.*



## Hospital Care for Young Mothers

Kenda is 15 years old and the mother of a baby boy. Her baby was delivered by C-section at Good Shepherd Hospital in DR Congo, which helped her avoid the all too common and dreaded obstetric fistula. Fistulas are common for young mothers with prolonged labor, causing them physical pain, incontinence and leaving them ostracized.

Many of these young mothers come to Good Shepherd Hospital for fistula repair surgery. Kanku is one of those young women. A doctor, specially trained for the delicate procedure repaired the fistula. After a few days of recovery, Kanku returned home without pain and no longer a social outcast. Good Shepherd Hospital also provided follow-up care.

The surgery cost \$200, something she could not afford. But because of gifts for charity hospital care, Good Shepherd Hospital was able to offer healing and a new life to Kanku.

## **My Friend's Place**

Founded in 1988, My Friend's Place's mission is to assist and inspire homeless youth to build self-sufficient lives. Over the past two decades, My Friend's Place has grown from a volunteer based group serving meals from the trunks of cars once per week into a dynamic social service agency offering a comprehensive continuum of services to homeless youth between the ages of 12 and 25 and their children.



[www.myfriendsplace.org](http://www.myfriendsplace.org)

The primary goals of MFP programming are three-fold: 1) build trust with the homeless young people, 2) lower the traditional barriers many youth experience when attempting to access services, and 3) provide a diverse array of services to maximize the psychological, intellectual, and physical capacity of youth in crisis. My Friend's Place offers a comprehensive continuum of care in the following three areas:

The Safe Haven Program provides shelter and drop-in services during the day and engages youth by providing food, clothing, showers, communication services and transportation.

The Transformative Education Program seeks to achieve four goals: 1) equip youth with marketable skills, 2) encourage positive behaviors, 3) teach youth how to connect with resources that improve their self-sufficiency, and 4) create an alternative way for staff to build rapport with youth who are reluctant to access more intensive health and mental health services.

The Health and Well-Being Program provides youth with health, medical, and mental health services addressing issues such as pregnancy and parenting, legal issues, sexual health, HIV prevention and emotional well-being.

My Friend's Place programs are 100 percent privately supported, and the need for My Friend's Place has never been greater. In 2010, MFP saw 1,681 individual youth who visited a total of 21,511 times. Over 500 clients were first time visitors to My Friend's Place last year.

My Friend's Place looks forward to continuing to grow and develop as an organization dedicated to helping homeless youth build confidence, strength, and self-sufficient lives.



## Give a Gift

Survival Kit for One Youth	\$15
School Supplies for One Youth	\$25
Diapers and Formula for a New Mom	\$35
Bus Pass for Job Interview	\$50
New Apartment Welcome Kit	\$100



### Tony's Story

A few weeks ago, Tony had his 26th birthday and “aged out” of services. Aging out is a right of passage for many youth, but also can be one of the most difficult moments at MFP for both youth and staff. Our staff works hard to make saying goodbye as smooth as possible.

During his time at My Friend's Place, Tony grappled with past trauma, the stress of living on the streets, and disappointment as he strived for stability. Watching him speak to staff that day, it was easy to envision him leading meetings, inspiring others to live up to their potential, and making a difference in the world. The change in Tony happened gradually, but it was breathtaking to behold.

As the gathering came to a close, one of our staff members summed up what many of us were feeling. Looking Tony in the eye, he said that we were proud of him and that we weren't worried about him. Although he has moved beyond our drop-in services, Tony will always be welcome to call on us in moments of crisis and join us for holiday celebrations. We have been fortunate to be a part of his journey and look forward to his accomplishments in the future.

## New Directions

Since 1992, New Directions has provided comprehensive services to thousands of veterans in Los Angeles County. More than 600 men and women seek assistance from the agency each year. As many as 220 veterans can receive round-the-clock care at our five different residential treatment centers. The agency is also developing a 147-unit supportive housing facility for homeless and disabled veterans.



New Directions is a [www.newdirectionsinc.org](http://www.newdirectionsinc.org) Trauma-Informed service provider, meaning that its programs are continually assessed and modified to provide the best treatment for veterans who have histories of combat injury, PTSD, survivor's guilt, homelessness, physical or sexual abuse, and other trauma-inducing experience.

The agency's comprehensive and holistic treatment approach enables veterans to benefit from a wide variety of resources and services, including: individual and group therapy, intensive substance abuse treatment integrated with mental health services, vocational assessment and training, job placement, legal and financial services, family support, medical and dental care through the V.A., veteran benefits advocacy, housing placement assistance and aftercare services. Veterans leave New Directions with a savings account, housing, a job or other income, computer skills, renewed self-confidence and the support of mentors and peers. Such a transformation takes hard work, motivation and accountability, but the results are life altering—and for many veterans, life-saving.



## Give a Gift

- Provide breakfast, lunch and dinner for a formerly homeless veteran. \$4
- One group therapy counseling session for a homeless veteran. \$5
- Provide intensive substance abuse counseling and treatment for a veteran in recovery. \$12
- Provide the array of comprehensive services (i.e. legal, therapy and more) for a veteran in need. \$50



### Steve's Story

Returning home from the Army, a veteran of Afghanistan and Iraq, I quickly embraced a lifestyle that was neither healthy nor productive. I also brought home a problem that had been with me all my life—and grown out of control while I worked as an Airborne Ranger: an unhealthy thirst for excitement.

It did not take long for me to destroy myself. I was hopelessly engaged in all kinds of addictive behavior. Soon enough, I was thrown in jail. There, by the grace of God, I was visited by a Vietnam veteran named Buzz Holcomb, who told me about a program called New Directions. Upon release from jail I entered the program and got help for my addictions, my PTSD and my legal problems, and I learned how to live a healthier life. The year I spent at New Directions was not easy, but I was tired of being a loser, so I persevered.

Today, I thank God for three and a half years of sobriety. Each day I experience life, not escapism. I now have a handle on my anger and dramatics. I also have a clean court record, which is very important to me. Currently, I am learning to be a broker at a very established securities firm. I feel like I have been given a second chance at life.

More important than anything else, I have learned to care about other people. Loving and helping others allows me fulfillment and a sense of purpose I had never known before. If I can give back to one other person all that has been given to me – then I will consider my life a success.

Founded in 1963, Ocean Park Community Center (OPCC) is a network of housing and services that provides assistance to low-income and homeless youth, adults and families, battered women and their

children, at-risk youth, and people living with mental illness. This assistance comes in the

form of emergency, transitional and permanent housing, mental and medical health programs, food, counseling, peer support, and in-depth preparation for independent living.



[www.opcc.org](http://www.opcc.org)

OPCC is committed to empowering those we serve to rebuild their lives and overcome mental illness, poverty, domestic violence, and homelessness. Each service provided represents contact with a human being and an opportunity to assist that individual in finding a better life. It's not just a sack lunch. It's one tool among many to feed someone who is hungry and to begin the long process of building trust. A shelter bed is more than a mattress in a building. It's an opportunity for a person to live indoors again as part of a community, and remember what it's like to feel a hint of dignity. It's not just a call to a domestic violence hotline to ask a question. It may be the call that saves a woman's life. Each statistic has a story. A human story that is as complex as it is compelling.



## Give a Gift

### Socks

\$6

*Your gift will provide one dozen pair of new socks for a homeless person.*

### School Supplies

\$15

*Your gift will provide a back pack with school supplies (back pack, crayons, pens & pencils, paper, note books) for the children served by our Family Services Project and the children at Sojourn.*

### Emergency Transportation

\$25

#### for a Woman and Her Children

*Your gift will provide emergency transportation for a battered woman and her children fleeing a violent situation.*

### Two Weeks of Supplemental Groceries

\$50

*Your gift will provide supplemental groceries for a family of four for one month.*



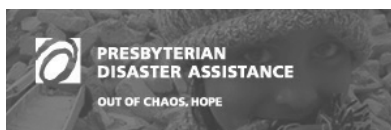
## Michael's Story

Michael, a senior who is partially deaf and blind, became homeless in 1981 after losing his job with the US Postal Service due to cut backs. For 23 years he lived on the streets with no source of income; it was only in the last five years that he received general relief benefits. Always very private and proud, Michael lived “under the radar” and refused any form of assistance. His plan was to “lay low” and sleep on the street until he became old enough to qualify for social security. In the past he came to OPCC’s Access Center, but whenever anyone mentioned shelter he would quickly disappear.

It took an intensive effort of developing enough trust with Michael for him to begin to accept help in small ways, but on his own terms. As he became willing to accept services, however, things came together. He went into emergency housing in a motel room, and worked with his case manager to secure a housing subsidy with the Santa Monica Housing Authority. Michael moved into his own apartment over one year ago, and has shown himself to be an ideal tenant, respectful and responsible.

## Presbyterian Global Response

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Through PDA, congregations and mission partners of PC (USA) care for communities struck by crisis and catastrophic events, and in so doing, witness to the healing love of Christ. PDA focuses on the long-term recovery of communities impacted by disaster; provides training and disaster preparedness for presbyteries and synods; collaborates internationally with church partners and members of the Action by Churches Alliance, and nationally with other faith-based organization; connects partners locally and internationally with key responder organization like the U.N., Red Cross and FEMA; and, in cooperation with other organizations, assists asylum seekers and refugees trying to resettle in the U.S.



## Church World Services

Church World Service (CWS) is a cooperative ministry of 35 Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican denominations, including PC(USA), that



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**  
[www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org)

reaches out to more than 80 countries around the world to provide self-help and development, disaster relief and refugee assistance. The work of CWS has been instrumental in gains over the past 30 years in combating both poverty and illiteracy. On an international level, it works in partnership with indigenous organizations to meet human needs and foster self-reliance. Within the U.S., CWS assists communities in disaster response, resettles refugees, promotes fair national and international policies, provides educational resources and offers local and global opportunities to join a people-to-people network of caring. CWS programs include interfaith Crop Walks, the Tools & Blankets Program and the “Gift of the Heart” Kits Program.



## Give a Gift

### **Joplin, Missouri, Tornado Victims** \$20

*Long term emotional and spiritual care for survivors is part of PDA "being there for the long run" following the massive tornado in Joplin this past spring. Local caregivers are often victims themselves and in need of assistance in responding to overwhelming losses in their community.*

### **Japan Earthquake & Tsunami Survivors** \$25

*Requests for humanitarian support continue for the rebuilding of structures, infrastructures and personal lives in Japan as it recovers from the devastating 2011 earthquake.*

### **Malnourished Somalian Women & Children** \$50

*Refugee camps in Kenya are swollen with newly displaced single women, children, and unaccompanied children separated from their families as the result of the worst drought to hit Somalia in decades. Emergency health interventions and nutrition are part of requested life-saving services through PDA and its ecumenical partners.*



## Give a Gift

### **Warm Blanket** \$10

*A blanket which is designed for use in disasters provides warmth, comfort, and most importantly, the feeling that someone cares.*

### **Hygiene Kit** \$12

*In the face of natural disasters, violence or grinding poverty, this kit can mean the difference between sickness and health for a struggling family.*

### **School Kit** \$17

*A child existing in an impoverished school, refugee camp or another difficult setting has a chance for learning when given basics like pencils and spiral pads.*

### **Bucket Clean-Up Kit** \$60

*Supplies enable people to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a flood, hurricane, tornado or other disasters.*




## Presbyterian Mission Co-Workers

BPC supports the salaries and work of six mission co-workers who serve the denomination—and us!!—internationally. When PC(USA) World Mission is asked for how individuals and congregations can best respond to our partners' overwhelming needs, the answer is often: "Support the co-workers who are accompanying partners in their everyday lives."



**Carl Agsten and Leslie Clay** are mission co-workers in Managua, Nicaragua, with CEPAD, the Nicaragua Council of Churches. They work through CEPAD's Nehemiah Office and their primary role is to help CEPAD in its relationships with international partners. Carl edits publications, newsletters, and Internet communiqués for CEPAD and Leslie organizes travel exchanges between Nicaraguans and U.S. churches. BPC has a covenant relationship with the Bluefields Pastoral Committee which has expanded through the enthusiasm and dedicated time Carl and Leslie have spent with Bluefields pastors and ongoing communications with BPC. Since their appointment by PC(USA), they have visited BPC twice with their young daughters.



**Jeff and Christi Boyd** are mission co-workers in Yaoundé, Cameroon, through the invitation of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon (PCC). Jeff is the PC(USA) liaison for Central Africa with a special focus on the educational work of partner churches. Christi is the companionship facilitator for the "Joining Hands Against Hunger" initiative through the PC(USA) Hunger Program in Cameroon which facilitates the development of cooperative grain banks, a microfinance program, and revenue management advocacy in oil, gas and mining projects. The Boyds have been instrumental in the establishment of the covenant relationship BPC has with the Presbyterian Church Bastos in Yaoundé and have been frequent visitors here.




## Give a Gift

Support for the work of  
Carl Agsten/Leslie Clay in Nicaragua \$50

Support for the work of  
Jeff and Christi Boyd in Cameroon \$50

Support for the work of  
Frank and Nancy Dimmock in Lesotho \$50



**Frank and Nancy Dimmock** are mission co-workers in Maseru, Lesotho, where Frank serves as the PC(USA) Africa Health Liaison in Africa with emphasis in eight countries including Malawi and Cameroon. He works with partner churches and ecumenical agencies to develop programs for children and coordinates the Christian Health Associations of Africa. Nancy founded and continues to coordinate a Crisis Nursery, an orphanage for children whose parents were victims of HIV/AIDS—a nursery she also began in Malawi when their family served there. Frank and Nancy are the parents of eight children—two of whom are birth children. They also are frequent BPC guests when on home leave from Africa.

## Westminster Transitional Living Center

More than a decade ago, Brentwood Presbyterian Church decided to respond to the needs of women without homes and their children by



building a transitional living center in Venice. Since its opening in November 1993, the Westminster Transitional Living Center (Westminster TLC) formerly known as “650 Westminster” has provided a safe, secure home for more than 150 families. In addition to housing, Westminster TLC provides support services to help the mothers achieve economic self-sufficiency and ensure that they make a lasting transition out of homelessness. The program includes up to 24 months of stable housing while the women complete their education, learn new job skills and find steady jobs. Children attend local schools or childcare centers while the mothers are in school, a job training program or working.



## Give a Gift

### Holiday Gifts

\$10

*Holidays can be extremely emotional and difficult times for the moms and children at the Westminster TLC. We recognize and celebrate each mom and child by providing gifts on his or her birthday, at the Christmas party, in an Easter basket and as party favors at the Mother's Day dinner. Your gift will provide gifts for these moms and children at these special times throughout the year.*

### Bus Tokens

\$15

*Transportation to fulfill the minimum 25 hours per week requirement of school, work or job training is often difficult for the moms. Most do not have cars and even those who do, find the increase gas prices a financial challenge. Your gift will provide bus tokens so the moms and children can get to work, school or job training each day.*

### Grocery Certificates

\$20

*While the moms at the Westminster TLC are working hard to improve their financial situation, they struggle with very limited income. Gift certificates to a local grocery store are given as incentives to increase individual savings plans, attain educational goals and recognize personal achievements. Your gift will provide grocery certificates as reward to these moms as they work toward independence and self-sufficiency.*

### Target Gift Cards

\$25

*Moving is expensive! When the moms successfully complete our program and leave the Westminster TLC, we give them Target gift cards (one per family member) to purchase items they may need in their new home, household supplies or groceries. Your gift will provide support to families as they transition into permanent housing.*



## A Mom's Story

One of the moms arrived at the Westminster TLC with a young baby and a part-time job. With assistance and support from our program she was able to secure full-time childcare for her child. That allowed her to increase her work hours and ultimately become a full-time employee with benefits. In addition, she was able to save a significant amount of money, which is so important in the transition to self-sufficient and independent living.

In appreciation she wrote: "Your acts of kindness are great and abundant. My child and I are ever so grateful to you for giving us the opportunity to gain a leg up during this tough season in our lives. We thank you for all your assistance and the grace and mercy you have afforded us during our stay at the Westminster TLC. I truly appreciate your dedication to my continued success and well being."

# Westside Food Bank

Westside Food Bank's mission is to distribute as much nutritious food as possible to local food assistance agencies, and to reduce food waste in our service area.

Now celebrating 30 years of service to the community,



**WESTSIDE**  
**FOOD BANK**

Westside Food Bank distributed [www.westsidefoodbankca.org](http://www.westsidefoodbankca.org) over four-and-half million pounds of food over the past year to agencies serving low-income individuals and families in our community. Food is acquired through donations, food drives, and bulk food purchases, allowing a great diversity of nutritious foods to be available. Food from Westside Food Bank's Santa Monica warehouse reached over 98,000 people last year, nearly half of whom were children.

Our member agencies are coping with the greatest demand for food assistance that we have seen in our history. For families dealing with long-term unemployment, grocery bags from our member food pantries can make the difference between going hungry and having enough to eat. We are especially concerned about the nutritional needs of local children, whose growing bodies cannot wait for better times to get the nutrition they need now. Support from the local faith community plays a critical role in supporting our local hunger relief and prevention efforts.



## Give a Gift

8 Jars of Baby Food	\$3
15 Cans of Beef Stew	\$10
50 Pounds of Yams	\$15
3 Cases of 180 Eggs	\$50



### Maxine's Story

Maxine began her career right out of high school as a bank teller in the 1970s. Over the years she advanced to a management position and was able to raise her daughter and two sons in a comfortable home, and enjoy a typical middle class lifestyle. When her youngest son graduated high school with honors and went away to college, she took out a second mortgage on her home to pay for the costs not covered by his scholarships and student loans. Then, in early 2009, the bank she had worked at for nearly 30 years went under and Maxine lost her job.

"I thought that with my experience and reputation, it wouldn't be long before I could find a job at another bank. I never dreamt that 2 years later I'd still be looking for work."

Struggling to keep up with mortgage payments, her son's tuition and health insurance costs, (she is not yet eligible for Medicare,) Maxine began to fall behind. Things got even more stressful when her daughter was also laid off and moved back in to Maxine's house with her two young children. They tried to stretch their budget, but found themselves avoiding expensive trips to the grocery store and feeding the children from fast food dollar menus and skipping meals for themselves. "After working so hard to build a better life for my family, I felt embarrassed to be living this way, and I realized that without help, we were going to lose my beloved home."

For the first time, Maxine and her daughter, who in the past had donated to local food pantries had to turn to one for help. "At first I felt ashamed to be there, but the pantry volunteers were so kind and understanding. After talking to some of the other people waiting in line at the pantry, I realized that I'm not the only person in this situation. So many people have lost jobs as a result of the recession, and are struggling to hang on. It occurred to me that life is a give and take. We gave what we could, when we could, and were glad to help others. Now we need some help. I'm looking forward to having the chance to give again, and I am so grateful for the safety net that is helping me and my family get through this difficult time."



## **BPC Liaisons**

To learn more about a mission partner or to become involved, please contact the 2011 Mission: Faith in Action leaders shown below.

### **Amor Ministries**

Neal Dickey, (818) 710-9338, neal.dickey@gmail.com

Amy S. Klinkovsky, Youth Mexico, (310) 826-5656,  
aklinkovsky@bpcusa.org

### **Angel Interfaith Network**

Nancy Munn Smith, (310) 826-5656, nsmith@bpcusa.org

### **BorderLinks**

Tom Elander, (818) 788-6830, tomrelander@yahoo.com

### **CASA-Friends of Child Advocates**

Jan Miller, (310) 459-0377, janmcm@aol.com

### **Chrysalis**

Wade Huie, (310) 313-4448, wade.huie@mndspring.com

### **CLARE Foundation**

Joe Takamine, (310) 479-3709

### **Common Ground**

Julie Simpson, (310) 838-5117, julies@eagle411.com

### **The Giving Spirit**

Tom Bagamane, (310) 442-9489, tbagamane@hotmail.com

### **Heifer International**

Rebekah Lowe, (310) 826-5656, rlowe@bpcusa.org

### **Habitat for Humanity**

Steve Ruth, (310) 587-1135, sruth@prarchitects.com  
Dani Zapotoczny, (323) 717-9219, dani@zapfam.com

### **Medical Benevolence Foundation**

Dick Hulquist, (310) 440-5234, cth@ucla.edu  
Jim Varga, (310) 459-6089, vargaart@aol.com

### **My Friend's Place**

Ivan Tether, (310) 476-6120, ivantether@verizon.net

### **New Directions**

Phil Friedman, (310) 824-5020, plf310@yahoo.com

### **OPCC**

Nancy Munn Smith, (310) 826-5656, nsmith@bpcusa.org

### **Presbyterian Church (USA)/Church World Service**

Nancy Munn Smith, (310) 826-5656, nsmith@bpcusa.org

### **Dinner for People Without Homes**

Gill Boyd, (917) 868-2500, gillchef@aol.com

### **Westminster Transitional Living Center**

Richard Bencivengo, (310) 600-0969, rbencivengo@lex-usa.com  
Rob Hudnut, (310) 344-7485, robhudnut@earthlink.net

### **Westside Food Bank**

Wade Huie, (310) 313-4448, wade.huie@mindspring.com

## **BPC Mission Leadership**

**Rev. Dave Carpenter**, *Pastor and Head of Staff*

**Rev. Dr. Roché Vermaak**, *Associate Pastor*

**Rev. Amanda Riley**, *Parish Associate*

**Nancy Munn Smith**, *Director for Mission: Faith in Action*

**Tom Elander**, *Elder for Mission: Faith in Action*

## **2011 Catalog Team**

Angel Store Catalog Artist:

**Christiana Grotlich**, *BPC Young Adult*

Angel Store Catalog Layout and Design:

**Amy S. Klinkovsky**, *Director for Youth and Young Adults*

Angel Store Catalog Production:

**Julie Simpson of Eagle Graphics**,

*Committee Member, Mission: Faith in Action*

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Brentwood Presbyterian Church

12000 San Vicente Boulevard

Los Angeles, CA 90049

Tel: 310.826.5656

Fax: 310.826.5272

Email: [info@bpcusa.org](mailto:info@bpcusa.org)

Website: [www.bpcusa.org](http://www.bpcusa.org)

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