

Calimesa Community Service

Unto the Least of These... Newsletter from the Field Office

November 1, 2025

Loving God, Loving People: For Such a Time as This



A note on the day-to-day outreach from your director:

Honestly, I haven't slept a lot over the last couple weeks. In spite of members' generosity via donations, volunteering and financial contributions, the needs are continuing. Today, our clients have lost their EBT food stamp benefits. Or at least they are indefinitely delayed. I've received many calls and texts for food donations. Folks are seriously stressed—how will they eat? How will they feed their children?

We well know Jesus' instruction regarding his priorities from Matthew 25: the hungry, thirsty, unclothed and imprisoned. We know that Proverbs asks us to step up for the poor, needy and destitute. In the fourth chapter of Queen Esther's story, she is advised that if she does not advocate for her people, God would lift up someone else. Mordecai suggests she may have been placed in her position to use her influence "for such a time as this."

I am honored and grateful to report that our church very much is stepping up "for such a time as this" and is surely part of the solution. Yesterday, Adventurers conducted a can drive in the community for

our food pantry. On Tuesdays, some Pathfinders are working on their Serving Communities and Disaster Ministries honor badges. We have remarkable teams for our 3rd Wednesday Suppers, preparing food and fellowshiping with our guests.

I receive texts as people head out to buy their groceries asking what they can pick up for the food pantry. We get generous donations of clothing and various items, as well as volunteers to help sort and organize. We receive financial donations that enable us to assist those on our waitlist with needs like car registration for the vehicle they live in, utilities assistance, rent help to avoid eviction, emergency shelter after hospitalizations, and so on.

Thanksgiving Box Decision

In the past, we have raised between \$3000-5000 for our Thanksgiving Box food gift to our Community Service clients, and to prepare a festive holiday dinner and fellowship with them in mid-December. Currently, however, due to increases in economic pressures and food insecurity among our clientele, our funds are very low and insufficient for this project. If we choose to provide this service for this holiday season, we will need to raise the money over the next few weeks.

If you are able to donate, all Thanksgiving gifts should be directed to the Food Pantry (first “page” of online giving website) and for other outreach services as mentioned above, direct those into Community Service (second “page” of online giving). Both funds are needing a “shot in the arm.”

Prayer requests

As always, we appreciate your prayers both for our clients and for those of us interacting with them. We are ministering to pregnant teens, families whose father is incarcerated, folks with significant medical issues who are currently unable to get care, folks with immigration appointments, and families & individuals who are experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity.

Updates:

- Our next 3rd Wednesday Supper will be November 19.
- Our Community Service Holiday Dinner will be on Sunday, December 14. Rhonda Adey is our potluck coordinator for that event.
- If you're interested in joining our volunteer teams for either event, please text or call me at 909-382-1522.
- A community service wish list is attached on the back page.

As always, I am humbled by the generosity and responsiveness of our church family. Thank you!

Becky Cohen, Director of Community Service

COMMUNITY SERVICE

WISH LIST

FOOD:

Peanut butter
White rice
Dried beans
Spaghetti
Pasta Sauce
Soups
Tuna
Canned chicken
Cooking oil
Salt & Pepper
Applesauce
Green beans
Corn
Canned Tomatoes
Oatmeal
Cereal—low sugar

“INSTANT ITEMS”

Noodle cups
Fruit/applesauce cups
Instant oatmeal pkgs
Tuna salad/crackers
Tea bags

OTHER ITEMS:

Toilet paper
Laundry detergent
Socks
Shampoo/Conditioner
Lotion
Travel size items
Feminine Hygiene
Band-aids
Safety pins
Lip balm
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Dental floss picks
Shave cream
Disposable razors
Deodorant
Ziplock bags—any size
Trash bags
Grocery bags to re-use

Questions? Text or call Becky at
909-382-1522 or email to
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