

THE NEIGHBOR'S HAND

An Adventist Community Services Newsletter

300 VALLEJO DR. GLENDALE, CA 91206



SHARE OURSELVES THRIFT SHOP: More than Just a Place to Shop

BY ELIZABETH RIVERA WITH MIKE ELIAS

Walking into the ShareOurSelves (SOS) Thrift Shop, you're as likely to see a bargain-priced lamp as you are to see two people hugging. The SOS Thrift Shop is a store that has caring and outreach as its foundation.

Each day at the thrift shop is an extraordinary one. Even the simple act of helping someone find a table for their home finds its basis in the impulse to love and care for another person.

There are hundreds of stories of people's lives being touched through the thrift shop, from students and court-referred

volunteer workers to shoppers who receive food and are able to feed their families.

Although Glendale may seem like the picture of affluence, there are actually 306 homeless people in the area, 19% of which are children. Not to mention the hundreds of others in need.¹

Like various other Adventist Community Services Programs, the SOS Thrift Shop is here to help those in need by offering low-priced items, food, and access to information and resources.

The SOS Thrift Shop, however, does more than meet people's needs and send them on their way. It is a location of warmth to many people who are disenfranchised or simply lack a friend with whom to share some time.

Says Director, Diana Elias, "I consider this to be a ministry. Helping each other is what we should all strive to do. It's what Jesus asks of us, 'Love your neighbor.' It's an honor and a privilege to serve others."

¹Information from, *City of Glendale Homeless Count 2009*

People are Asking...



What is Adventist Community Services (ACS)?

Adventist Community Services (ACS) is a local organization that provides aid, resources, and information to those in need. ACS also helps the community through the SOS Thrift Shop and monthly support group meetings. The range of programs covers co-dependency issues, support for brain-damage survivors, food to the hungry, and even helping someone find a job. Adventist Community Services is here to help.

Does ACS need volunteers?

Yes! ACS is always in need of more volunteers. If you would like to help, please contact ACS at 818-246-2476 for more information.

Why is the SOS Thrift Shop closed on Saturdays?

The thrift shop is closed in observance of the Sabbath. In the Bible, the Sabbath is the seventh day of the week, which is Saturday. God has asked us to keep his Sabbath day holy. If you would like to know more about this topic, please come by the SOS Thrift Shop to pick up a free booklet.

Vallejo Drive Youth Serve Their Community

On August 31, 2009 twenty-seven youth from the Life Together program at the Vallejo Drive Church gathered to prepare frozen meals for families and individuals in need. In less than an hour, the youth prepared 100 meals for the community. We thank our youth and Danny Zelaya, director of Life Together, for this outreach into our community.



Members of Life Together's youth prepare meals for those in the community impacted by the economy.

An ACS Wedding

Several months ago, Jackie walked into the SOS Thrift Shop, homeless, dealing with addiction problems, and in need of help. Adventist Community Services gave her access to resources that helped her turn her life around. On September 3rd Jackie got married. Pastor Elias performed the ceremony. The happy couple smiled at each other as they said their vows. A year ago, Jackie was living on the streets; today she is living in a house and enjoying her life with her new husband.








"He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God"

Proverbs 14:31



A MENU OF OUR ONGOING PROGRAMS

 <p>The SOS Thrift Shop Pay us a visit. You can donate something, or see what treasures you can find.</p> <p>We are located at: 311 Vallejo Dr. Glendale, CA 91206</p> <p>Our hours are: Mon.-Thurs. 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Fri. & Sun. 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Closed on Saturdays.</p> <p>Director: Diana Elias</p>	<p>Genesis Outreach This faith-based program uses 12-Step principles to address addictions of all types.</p> <p>A 12-Step program for co-dependents meets at 7:00 p.m. on Mondays at the Vallejo Drive SDA Church.</p> <p>For more information go to http://genesisoutreach.net</p> <p>Director: Jim Hissey</p> 	<p>Depression Recovery Program You can overcome depression! During this eight-week program you can learn the skills you need to battle depression.</p>  <p>Where? Glendale Adventist Medical Center Auditorium, 1509 Wilson Terrace</p> <p>When? Mondays at 7:00 p.m. September 14-November 2, 2009</p> <p>Register: 818-546-8461 http://scchealthmin.adventistfaith.org</p>
<p>Brainstormers This program supports brain-injured survivors, their families, and caregivers by providing resources, services, education, and information that improves their quality of life.</p>  <p>For information on monthly meetings and workshops, visit: www.brainstormerssupport.org</p> <p>Email: info@brainstormerssupport.org</p> <p>Director: Dora Camp</p>	<p>Young-Onset Parkinson's Support Group Sometimes Parkinson's disease strikes early. If you are 30-60 years old and struggling with Parkinson's Disease, join us to talk about it. We meet on the third Wednesday of every month from 7-9:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at the Vallejo Dr. SDA Church. For more information, contact Patricia Low at 1-800-464-0125 or email her at patricia.low@huntingtonhospital.com</p> 	<p>Counseling Service Adventist Community Services has arranged for retired social worker, Patricia Philips, MSW, to be available for counseling at the LIFEdevelopment center, Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>In Gratitude Adventist Community Services would like to thank Scholl Canyon Estates for their Saturday lunch program. The proceeds from this program help fund a variety of ACS programs. If you'd like to find out more about the Saturday lunch program held every first, second, and last Saturday of the month please call 818-246-2476.</p>

How I Came to Be a Member of *Brainstormers*

By Joan Santon

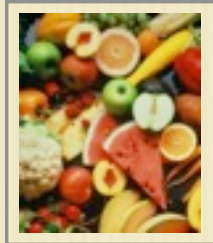
<p>I came to be a member of Brainstormers the same way as everyone else. <i>Wham! There was an accident.</i></p> <p>My nineteen-year-old son crashed on his bicycle. He decided to jump off a curb, and while in the air, his front wheel fell off.</p> <p>He broke his nose, both cheek bones, fractured his right eye socket, and broke both his upper jaw and his lower jaw. He knocked out five teeth—the top two front teeth and three bottom front teeth. The handle bars also knocked out an approximately half-inch wide section of bone from his lower jaw.</p> <p>His surgeons installed two titanium plates and seven screws to bolt his jaw back together.</p> <p>I struggled to care for him, not understanding that he had a brain injury in addition to his obvious physical injuries. He was agitated, confused, and aggressive. He was unable to figure out simple things like how to make a sandwich. He wandered about the house aimlessly, day and night.</p> <p>After doing some research, I wondered if my son might have a brain injury. I found a brain injury</p>	<p>rehabilitation program that sent clinical evaluators to our home. After spending five months in their residential program, my son now functions very well. The program also referred me to a local brain injury support group, <i>Brainstormers</i>. What a resource!</p> <p><i>Brainstormers</i> is a support group for people recovering from brain injury, due to stroke, heart attack with anoxia (lack of oxygen), epilepsy, or brain tumor surgery, as well as traumatic brain injury from car accidents, bicycle or sporting accidents, or falls. They and their family members and caregivers share ideas and coping strategies, as well as socialize and go on outings.</p> <p>Since I am studying assistive technology, I started a computer workshop for the group. We use educational and rehabilitation software to help group members practice skills lost due to brain injury.</p> <p><i>Brainstormers</i> gave me much needed information and support when I really needed them. Thank you. Please see our web site for information and a list of educational and rehabilitation software!</p>
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DIANA'S

Tales From the SOS Thrift Shop

Theo's Fruit Basket

A few weeks ago, a church member, named Leann, donated a basket of fruit. A bit later, Theo, one of our regulars, came by. He stops over every month or so for food and fresh clothes. This time, he was delighted to hear that we had some fresh fruit available that day.



I couldn't stay to visit with him. I needed to drive an elderly customer to her home with some food.

As I was driving back, I saw Theo leaving the store, pushing his basket with the food and clothes he had just received. He held up his fresh apple as a salute. Then he gave me a big smile as he went on his way.

Lisa and the New Pair of Shoes

Lisa, a woman around thirty, came into the store in tears. She hopped around as she tried to remove her shoes. They were at least a full size too small and had cut and blistered her toes and heels.

The hospital chaplain had sent Lisa with a request for new shoes. She was welcome, we told her. We would love to help her find a pair of proper-sized shoes.



One of our volunteers found her a soft new pair of socks as we looked for a comfortable pair of shoes. We were able to find a great shoe for walking—exactly the size she needed. With new shoes and with a bounce to her step, she began to leave. But she looked back in tears. She said, "I am crying because everyone here was so nice to me, and they listened to me without judging."

What a privilege to share the care and love of Jesus with our community.



An Opportunity to Share

The ShareOurSelves Thrift Shop is not only a place to pick up a great bargain and make donations, it's also a place where people come to help and be helped. We need volunteers to help with sorting donations, pricing, and cashier duties. Anyone with a willing heart and a set of hands is welcome. To volunteer, contact SOS Thrift Shop director, Diana Elias at 818-409-8056. Hours of operation are:

Mon.-Thurs. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.;
Fri. & Sun. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Closed on Saturdays.

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