

Inland Valley Hope Partners Receives Valuable Grant Funding

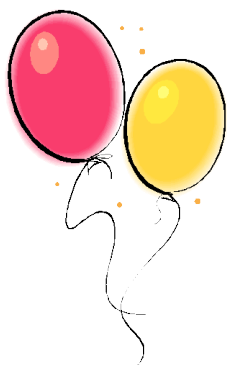
Great things have been happening for Inland Valley Hope Partners! We have been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation in support of our Food Security Program. This program provides no and low income individuals and families with emergency food and supportive services at our four food pantries and once per month distribution at UrbanMission. This funding from Bank of America will enable us to distribute approximately 36,000 meals to more than 600 local families in need. We thank you for your support, Bank of America Charitable Foundation!

Also, last month we shared that both the Ralph M. Parsons and Rose Hills Foundations have agreed to fund a full-time coordinator position for our agency for the next two years. We are pleased to announce that we are putting this funding to good use and have hired an individual for this position. He will officially start with us on Monday, March 16th and will be a huge asset in helping us support and recognize the hundreds of men and women who volunteer their time and talent in support of our programs. Look for a full introduction to our new volunteer coordinator in next month's newsletter.



Emma Roman-Stella (left) and Nerett Velasco (right) from Bank of America's Pomona branch present Hope Partners' President/CEO Wytse Visser with a check for our Food Security Program.

Coming Soon: Our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon



Since April is National Volunteer Month, it's the perfect time to celebrate our wonderful volunteers! In appreciation of all of our volunteers' hard work and dedication, Inland Valley Hope Partners will be hosting our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on an upcoming Friday in April at the First Christian Church of Pomona's Fellowship Hall.

More details about this event, including the date, time and how to make your reservation, will be shared with our volunteers in the coming weeks.

Calendar of Events/Activities

Food Drive.....	March 14 & 15, 2015
Volunteer Orientation.....	March 28, 2015
Constantine Garden.....	April 4, 2015
Volunteer Orientation.....	April 8, 2015
Newsletter Mailing.....	April 14, 2015
Volunteer Luncheon.....	TBA
Volunteer Orientation.....	April 25, 2015
Constantine Garden.....	May 2, 2015
Volunteer Orientation.....	May 6, 2015
Newsletter Mailing.....	May 12, 2015
Golf Tournament.....	May 14, 2015
Walk for the Hungry.....	October 11, 2015

call or email office for bold events (need volunteers)!

909.622.3806, #108;

vcoordinator@inlandvalleyhopepartners.org

www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org

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www.InlandValleyHopePartners.org
ADMINISTRATION/HOUSING
OFFICE HOURS:
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Food Security Program Associate

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Farmer's 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

Did you know that March is National Nutrition Month?

It's a fact that food insecure families—families who often don't know where their next meal will come from—commonly struggle with obesity and obesity related health conditions. No and low income families are often forced to buy cheaper, less healthy foods because they lack the resources to purchase healthier options or they don't live close to a store that sells healthy food. I'd like to use this month's *Blessings* piece to share with you how recent enhancements to Hope Partners' programs are helping local families gain access to healthy, nutritious food.



Market Match: Inland Valley Hope Partners began a partnership with Hunger Action LA this past summer to offer the Market Match program at our weekly Certified Farmers' Market. This program offers a match on families' federal nutrition assistance benefits, including EBT (CalFresh), WIC and Senior WIC, to increase the amount of fruits, vegetables and other nutritious food items these families can purchase at the Market. In the first week *alone*, Hope Partners was able to assist a whopping 400 families in this way!

UrbanMission Outreach: In late 2014, Hope Partners added a once per month food distribution in South Pomona to reach the underserved population in this area of the city. The families in this neighborhood were in need of assistance, but it required them to take multiple buses to avail themselves of the services we offer at Beta and our other food pantries. We alleviated this barrier to food access by bringing the pantry to them each month. We plan to add more once per month distribution locations throughout our service area in 2015.

Together with our Gleaning Hope program and Constantine Family Garden, these enhancements to our Food Security program and Farmers' Market are providing more fresh, local produce to our clients thereby improving the health and nutrition of the food insecure people we serve here in the Inland Valley.

Blessings,

Wytske G. Visser

President/CEO



Grocery Store Food Drive Update

Volunteers were able to collect 2,000 pounds of food and \$238 in monetary donations at the Albertsons in Chino Hills on February 21st and 22nd. Thank you to Albertsons, volunteers, and donors for making this happen!

Our next grocery store food drive will be at the Albertsons in Diamond Bar on Saturday and Sunday, March 14th and 15th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Volunteers are still needed!** If interested, please contact us at 909-622-3806 x. #108 or vcoordinator@inlandvalleyhopepartners.org.



Workplace Giving Makes Supporting Hope Partners Even Easier!

Did you know that many companies encourage their employees to make charitable contributions by offering workplace giving programs, through which your contributions are deducted directly from your paycheck? Ask your human resource department whether your company offers this giving opportunity.

Your monthly contribution makes a difference:

- \$10/month can provide 60lbs of food to families in need.
- \$25/month can provide a family of four with enough food for about one week.
- \$40/will provide 1 night of shelter and can be the difference between a safe place to sleep and being homeless

Contact Kami Newman at 909-622-3806 x105 or kamin@inlandvalleyhopepartners.org for more information.

Shelter Success Story

Michelle & Alfred – Prior to finding Hope Partners' *Our House* Shelter, Michelle and Alfred had suffered financial and physical setbacks that had forced them to split up their family just to keep a sufficient roof over their heads. Michelle had suffered a massive stroke and was dealing with complications from diabetes that had caused her to lose her job and eventually her home. She and her two minor children were staying with relatives while her husband stayed with relatives in another city trying his best to find employment. After five months living this way, Michelle's family could no longer support her. Feeling exhausted and disheartened, Michelle reached out to Hope Partners in hope of finding a place for her and her family to heal physically, mentally and spiritually.

Michelle and the kids moved into the shelter first. She resumed her therapy and began to improve physically. In spite of everything, her children remained positive and were able to earn straight A's at school. Alfred had felt like he had failed them all, but when he saw how well Michelle and the kids were doing, he made the decision to leave his relatives' home and join his family at the shelter. Utilizing the direction and job readiness training provided to our shelter clients, Alfred was able to quickly land an excellent job with a company in San Dimas. Michelle also qualified for a disability supplement that, when combined with Alfred's earnings, will allow the family to move into permanent housing. Currently Michelle and Alfred's family is living in a transitional housing unit while they look for suitable permanent housing to fit their family of four.



WE ARE SO PROUD OF MICHELLE, ALFRED AND THEIR WONDERFUL STRAIGHT "A" KIDS! *You are awesome, and we wish you the best.*

Bread on the Waters: Feeding Hope through Song



On Sunday, April 19, 2015 at 3:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church of Upland will host 'Bread On The Waters'. This event, currently in its fourth year, is a multiple church, multiple ensemble concert in support of hunger relief efforts in our area.

This year's event will feature choirs and singers from Chino, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, Upland and more singing favorite music of several centuries. There may even be opera. The primary recipient of donations will be the programs of Inland Valley Hope Partners while a portion of the donations will also benefit the Stone Soup Ministry of the FUMC Upland.



We hope you can come hear these talented singers raise both voice and spirit on Sunday, April 19th. For more information contact Kami Newman at 909-622-3806 x.#105 or kamin@inlandvalleyhopepartners.org.

Help Feed a Local Family by Donating Your Old Devices

Did you receive a new phone or electronic device for Christmas or a special occasion? Is the old one just sitting in your drawer? You can make a difference by donating it to Inland Valley Hope Partners!

Inland Valley Hope Partners is collecting cell phones, smartphones, and ipads/ipods. Donate your old device to our main office at 1753 N. Park Avenue, Pomona 91768 and help feed a local family. Every device that is collected will be sent in and the money collected from GRC Wireless will help the community.

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It's Time Again for the Feinstein \$1 Million Challenge

Its back again... Inland Valley Hope Partners will again be participating in the Feinstein \$1 Million Challenge. Any donations made to Hope Partners March 1st through April 30th will qualify for the Feinstein Challenge Money. The more money we raise, the more of the Feinstein \$1 million pot, we will get— thanks to YOU! By donating to Hope Partners, you will become partners in the most successful ongoing campaign to fight hunger of all time!

For 17 years, Alan Shawn Feinstein has been giving away \$1 million each year to anti-hunger agencies throughout the United States. He believes that each of us was put here on earth to do what we can to help those in need, and it is his hope that his money will motivate others to give their own gifts to support children and families in need. It's his money that started this campaign, but it is you who decide how many people in our community will be fed by the efforts of Inland Valley Hope Partners. His \$1 million contribution will be divided among the participating non profit organizations in proportion to the amount of money each raises during this two month period.

Maximize your impact by making your donation today! Your donation is completely tax-deductible and will help make a difference in the lives of our neighbors struggling with hunger.

Join Hope Partners for the 19th Annual Golf Classic

Don't forget to reserve a spot for the 19th Annual Golf Tournament which will be taking place on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at the Sierra Lakes Golf Course in Fontana. A foursome of golf, including lunch, dinner, on-course games and tee bag giveaway, is only \$800. Individual golfers and twosomes are also welcome for a donation of \$225 each. If you don't golf, you can still join us for dinner where you will have a chance to bid on some exciting prizes.



Sponsorship opportunities are still available at every level for this year's event! We are especially looking for silent auction and tee bag items. If you would like to join us for this event or are interested in donating an item, package or basket for the auction, please contact Kami Newman at kamin@inlandvalleyhopepartners.org or 909-622-3806 x.#105.

We hope to see you on the links in support of Inland Valley Hope Partners on Thursday, May, 14th!

Shelter Needs

The shelter is currently in need of some potty training chairs for the younger children in the shelter. They are looking for two chairs, for a boy and a girl. The shelter is also in need of some water proof mattress covers as the toddlers go through this potty-training process.



If you would like to donate these items please contact Karen Abram at karena@inlandvalleyhopepartners.org or 909-622-3806 x.#106. Thank you in advance .

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.



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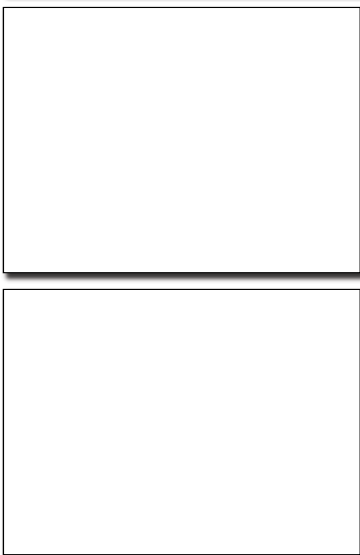
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Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center has been providing quality care for the needs of the whole patient. Our Interfaith Chaplain Service provides clinical pastoral care for patients and their families who come from a variety of faiths and spiritual traditions. We also have taking a new leadership role with our new Clinical Pastoral Educational (CPE) program, accredited by the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy. Our CPE program is linked to PVHMC's Palliative Care services and provides training for those interested in palliative care chaplaincy. For more information, *please call the PVHMC Chaplain Services Supervisor at (909) 630-7697.*


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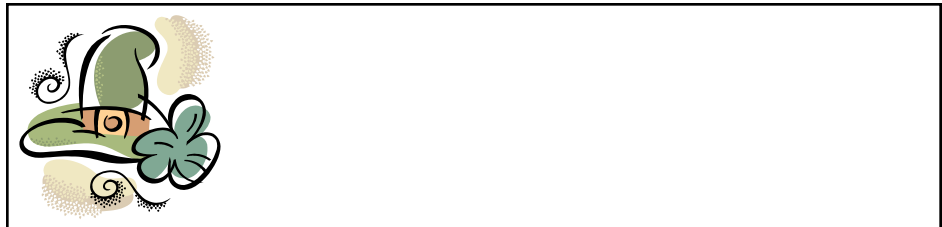
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 (In-Kind Donations
 for February)