



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY Rescue Mission

An Outreach ministry of



June 2011

Changing Lives for Good

Youth with a Mission


No age is too young to be involved in serving the hungry or homeless for the community. This was true for 13-year-old Jared Blair who creatively promoted the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission at his bar mitzvah. This Jewish celebration is to welcome a young boy to manhood, and part of that is assuming responsibilities that are fitting for a young man.

As Jared sent out invitations to his friends, he included a request for them to bring packaged food items for the rescue mission. Jared wrote, "to mark this occasion...I wanted to find something that would make a real difference in the lives of people in my community that are struggling to make ends meet each day. I have chosen to collect and cook food for those who are not getting enough to eat. I have chosen this because I want to be a chef when I grow up and I want to help people who are hungry. I want to help people who must live in shelters or on the street and beg for food each day."

Jared didn't stop there. He wrote letters to the local supermarkets asking them to donate canned and dry foods. The response was overwhelming. Jared's friends donated enough food to fill their family car and the grocery stores gave gift cards toward the purchase of whatever was needed. Jared knew that this food would be used for the mission's Rescue SOS (Survival Outreach Services), which feeds the chronically homeless, poor, and hungry in the San Fernando Valley as well as the homeless mothers, fathers, and children who are staying at the shelter.

Each day of the week, Rescue SOS creatively plans and prepares meals to feed over 500 people at 6 locations throughout the Valley.

Jared was excited to be a part of this process. He continues to be involved with the mission through volunteering in the kitchen and recruiting his Boy Scout Troop to help with special projects. He hopes to stay connected as the mission grows and increases their services toward those in need.



I want to help people
who are hungry.

The Sock Lady

Debbie Ludwig had long known about the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission and wanted to get more involved. She learned about the Rescue SOS program that provides hot showers, meals, and fresh clothing to the homeless in the Valley. Among the items needed are new socks. After having leftover cash when buying fabric for another charitable project, Debbie remembered the program's need for socks. She found that \$8-\$10 can buy 24 pairs of socks. That can help 12 people for what she might spend on lunch.

Debbie's excitement for how easy it can be to help so many was multiplied when her tax lady, Jill Campbell, announced the Ludwig family was getting a tax refund. Debbie's response was, "Now I can get more socks!" Jill was so inspired by Debbie that she sent an email to all of her tax clients with this opportunity, and raised nearly \$1,400 for socks and underwear. Debbie set the example of how doing something small can touch so many people, even if it's just a pair of socks.



Debbie's Enthusiasm is Contagious

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Small Steps bring Big Contributions

Making a difference is easy! So many folks, young and old, have made an impact in the lives of the homeless by tapping into their spheres of influence.

Jake and Cami from Hidden Hills wanted to contribute to a local organization. Big brother Jake took care of the logistics, while Cami and her friends were the man-power behind the operation. Their lemonade stand raised enough money to provide a main course for our hot lunch program for a week!

Mrs. Weybright from Saticoy Elementary collected over 100 cans of food with her kindergarten students. Mrs. Russ from Chaminade Middle School has inspired her homeroom class to support our Mobile Shower program with a toiletry drive for hygiene kits. These drives are critical to the mission and our programs, especially during the lean summer months.

Lauren Shelbourne, 8th grader at LA Baptist and member of Rocky Peak Church, grew up with a heart for the homeless. She was inspired by a chapel sermon to take action, started an organization called Blankets of Love, and donated over 300 blankets for our distribution.

These are just a few of the stories of those who partner with us to make it possible to care for the poor. Our thanks to each of you for your support. Your generosity, creativity, and resources are greatly appreciated!



Jake and Cami



Blankets of Love

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Did You Know?

Congress has just extended the IRA Charitable Rollover. This law allows people who are 70.5 years or older to make tax-free gifts of up to \$100,000 a year from their IRAs.