



Torrance-Lomita Meals on Wheels Newsletter February, 2012

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Send ideas for articles to:
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From the President

Thanks to all of you who attended the Volunteer Luncheon. It was great to see you and for the ones who were unable to attend our thanks go to you also for your dedicated service. We salute all the volunteers - without your assistance we would not be as successful as we are in helping the homebound. You delivered 47,128 meals in 2011. Our daily average number of clients is about 100. You are truly angels.

We were fortunate to have special guests at the luncheon, Mayor of Torrance, Frank Scotto and Mayor of Lomita, Jim Gazeley who presented Certificates to the volunteers who faithfully work at the Palos Verdes Thrift Store each week. Those volunteers are Teresa Deland, Jana Ditmars, Gen Gorciak, Nancy Ingraham, Mary Kessler, Connie Lakowski, Vivian Prorise, Ron Smith and Kathy Tomlinson. The Palos Verdes Thrift Store was also presented with a Plaque from the City of Lomita.

Connie Lakowski received a special award, an "Oscar Award," she gives her all to Meals on Wheels. In addition to all the other volunteer work she does for us, she started working at the Palos Verdes Thrift Store and recruited 10 volunteers to join her. The Oscar Award is most fitting for Connie as it reads "Best performance in a Leading Role." That best describes Connie's dedication.

I might point out that all of your volunteers were nominated for this outstanding award. All of the board members appreciate your dedication. Thanks to all of you.

Margaret Estrada
Board of Directors President

From the Office

*A Special Thank You to
all our Wonderful
Volunteers, Generous
Donors and Loyal
Sponsors*

*"We make a living by
what we get, we make a
life by what we give."
Winston Churchill*

Want to know why volunteers wear name badges? They help us get to know each other. With over 16 volunteers each day and 5 days of the week, there are 80 names to know. Also since volunteers deliver in teams of two it helps them to find each other after they sign in for their route, especially if they are going with a new or other volunteer on the route. Additionally the name badges can help our clients feel safe when they see the volunteers coming to the door. The name badges hanging around their necks are easily identifiable and can ease their concerns should they have any.

That leads into the reason as to why we go in pairs as volunteers. Ever hear there is safety in numbers? The volunteers can feel a level of safety by having another person on the route with them as sometimes it can be a bit scary to be going up to unfamiliar houses, even in doing a great deed. The client can also feel a level of safety knowing not just one person is bringing their food should they be uncomfortable with that. There would be a witness should something happen, and there would be another great mind to help in an emergency situation. It is also helpful in distributing all the weight of those meal bags trying to get them to the cars.

The office is tickled pink with the help that GWT provided in setting us up in our temporary "digs" while they do their remodeling. We have not heard one peep about the changes and things have flowed just as smoothly each day!

Laura Bohm, Office Manager

Get to Know Our Volunteers

Meet Linda Jenson



Linda Jenson

Linda Jenson has been volunteering with TLMOW for four years and during that time she has been very active. Linda has served on the Board of Directors and as Vice President. She returns to the Board of Directors in 2012.

Linda has been an active volunteer in her community since high school and along the way has taught English to new immigrants, worked in a veteran's hospital, and participated in activities to protect the rights of women and children. She has been on the Board and served twice as President of the Rainbow Services in San Pedro.

Get to Know Our Volunteers - Cont.

Linda is currently a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for two foster children and serves on the social justice team at her church. We are fortunate that this talented, civic-minded woman has added service with Meals on Wheels to her impressive list of contributions.

You will see Linda around the office on Fridays as she is the regular driver for the white route.

2012 Volunteer Luncheon was Great Fun!

By Jana Ditmars

On January 19th, our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon honoring all of YOU for the many hours contributed in 2011 was held at the new Toyota Museum and proved to be a huge success!

Our distinguished guests for the afternoon were: Torrance Mayor Frank Scotto, Lomita Major James Gazeley, Sister Alice Marie Quinn of St. Vincent Meals on Wheels and President Joan Orelano of the Palos Verdes Thrift Shop.

Approximately 75 attendees enjoyed tasty food, informative speakers and an opportunity to chat with their fellow volunteers. Special recognition was given to those who handle extra tasks which contribute to the benefit of this worthwhile organization.

The 32 great raffle prizes netted \$966 which will go towards the costs of next year's luncheon.

In addition, the attendees had a unique opportunity to peruse the warehouse full of vintage and newer Toyota cars which normally is by appointment only. Toyota was gracious enough to offer the facility to us for free and everyone left with a goodie bag full of Toyota insignia items. The venue was so well-liked that it was booked again for 2013! We hope to see more of you next year when we celebrate YOU, our "Earthly Angels"!

Luncheon Pictures



Luncheon Pictures - cont.

