



HELP of Ojai, Inc. November/December 2020

Neighbors HELPing Neighbors

Community Bulletin

HELP of Ojai COVID-19 Review

We miss seeing you all in the offices and at our different events that we had to cancel this year. COVID-19 has brought a lot of change to how HELP of Ojai has operated since March, and the staff continues to work hard to meet the needs of the Valley. Since we are eight months into COVID-19, here is a review of our three new programs and update to two existing ones.

NEW PROGRAMS

Neighbor-to-Neighbor

This is the first new program HELP of Ojai started during COVID-19. After the stay-at-home order started, we noticed that the people calling for information really wanted someone to talk to. So, Neighbor-to-Neighbor was born to help community members check-in on each other while they sheltered in place. People are randomly assigned to each other and talk as little, or as often, as they would like on the phone. The program is a success and there are many stories of people throughout the Ojai Valley finding common interests with strangers over the phone. One hundred and twelve people have been connected through this program.

Great Plates

The Great Plates Meal Delivery Program started in May and has been extended four times by the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging (VCAAA). HELP of Ojai is working with ten restaurants to feed 190 individuals lunch and dinner, seven days a week. This program has put more than 1.7 million dollars back into the local restaurants and has served over 76,500 meals. Each time VCAAA has extended the program, HELP of Ojai staff evaluates and adjusts the program to better serve the participants and keep the program sustainable. Adjustments we have made include making more routes for fresher deliveries, reducing the number of days meals are delivered, and having staff from the restaurants themselves deliver meals.

Two goals of the Great Plates Meal Delivery Program were to help seniors stay home, and to help local restaurants. In a survey of the Ojai Valley Great Plates Delivered participants, 90% of those who responded agreed the program allowed them to stay home during COVID-19. In the same survey, 96% of participants agreed the program helped local restaurants during COVID-19.

Berry Man/Vesta Boxes

Through the County of Ventura, the Community Assistance Program (CAP) have food boxes delivered to residents on Wednesdays that contain perishable food. The boxes first came from Berry Man and contained fruit and vegetables. These have transitioned to the Vesta Boxes, which contain dairy, protein, eggs, fruits, and vegetables. The CAP office has distributed 890 Berry Man and Vesta boxes so far.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

Home Delivered Meals (HMD)

Home Delivered Meals has continued running since March. Barbara O'Grady, re-assigned staff, and volunteers help prepare and deliver meals Monday – Friday to seniors in the Ojai Valley. Participants receiving Home Delivered Meals have an option of 1 or 2 meals per day for up to 7 days a week, a change since COVID-19 started. Since the onset of COVID-19, the Home Delivered Meals program has increased by 125%.

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Transportation

Transportation is back in action on a smaller scale! Due to COVID-19 we have created a new system for our riders to ensure the safety of our drivers and passengers. Every rider must complete a COVID-19 pre-screening, have their temperature taken before boarding the van, and wear a mask. Only one person is allowed on the small van at a time and two people max on the large vans. Priority is given to riders going to doctors appointments and the grocery store.

The HELP of Ojai staff has been honored to continue to serve the Valley during this time and be a part of programs that help the community on every level. Thank you all for your continued support as we move forward, one day at a time.

Be well,
Megan Telfer

◆ PROGRAM UPDATES ◆

Activities Update • Little House, 111 W. Santa Ana Street, Ojai • (805) 646-5122

As we continue to practice self-quarantining and social distancing, senior activities will remain vastly limited until further notice. To protect the instructors and the participants, we will use an abundance of caution before re-opening any activities. When we do re-open our activities, we will first consult with instructors on a schedule. We will then send the new schedule to everyone through our Community Bulletin list. Please be patient, as your safety is our priority!

The following are a few activities that have resumed:

The Caregiver's Haven Support Group is now held via Zoom on the second and fourth Monday of each month. Please e-mail Deirdre at deirdredaly@roadrunner.com for more information.

HICAP Counseling can be scheduled by calling Ventura County Area Agency on Aging at 805-477-7310 or e-mailing HICAP@ventura.org.

Parkinson's Support Group will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, November 10th and Tuesday, December 8th via Zoom. Please call 805-646-5122 for more information on how to sign up.

Transportation • Tina Rosas, Transportation Director • (805) 646-7787

Transportation services have expanded to include rides to beauty and nail salons, with the understanding that essential rides to the grocery store and doctor's appointments take priority. Each ride will be considered on a case by case basis scenario.

All drivers and riders will have their temperature checked prior to getting on the vans and are required to wear face coverings at all times. Social distancing guidelines will be required whenever possible.

If you have a temperature over 99 degrees, you will not be able to take transportation and will need to reschedule your ride. All riders will be asked to answer a COVID-19 screening questionnaire, from the CDC website, the day before their appointment.

We encourage you to stay home if you are not feeling well.

As we slowly start to re-open we ask that you please stay vigilant in your safety and those around you.

Much appreciation goes to the volunteer drivers who are able to drive during this pandemic. As always, we couldn't do it without you!

Please call Tina if you need to schedule a ride or have your prescriptions picked up at (805) 646-5122 x105.

West Campus • Kerry Ballantine • 370 W. Baldwin Rd., Ojai • (805) 649-9218

HELP's West Campus remains closed to the general public until further notice. This includes our 2nd HELPing's Thrift Store Donation Center. Please DO NOT leave donations outside of gate. We will publicize a re-opening date when it is determined. Please call Kerry Ballantine at (805) 649-9218 with any questions regarding West Campus or our Donation Center.

Donor Recognition

Our deepest appreciation goes out to those who made contributions in the months of August and September, 2020. Your donations in support of HELP's programs, and especially during this unprecedented time, are valued greatly and we sincerely thank you.

If you have any questions regarding donations, or feel that there are errors in the below recognitions, please call Kerry Ballantine at (805) 649-9218.

Anonymous	Ojai Presbyterian Church	<i><u>In Memory/Honor</u></i>
Ross and Patty Atkinson	Ojai United Methodist Church	
Suzanne Baker	Linda Olive	
Steve Bennett and Leslie Ogden	Doug and Angela Parker	In memory of Larry Bintz's Brother
Dina Bernat-Kunin	Claire Paulson	Larrylyn Bangs
Katherine Bliss	Martin and Joanne Perellis	
Mollyanne Brodie	Morgan Peyton	
Charles and Mary Burrigh	Ron and Judi Polito	In memory of Robert Chesley
Jim and Fran Christiansen	Cary Quattrocchi	Fred Keeler
City of Ojai	Norman and Susan Reccius	
Deborah Cohen	Roberta Rosenberg	In memory of Helen Henrickson
Michelle Cowens	Sandra Rothberg	Marilyn Broomfield
Mike Cromer	Fred Rothenberg	
Tony and Penny Cuccio	Harriet H. Samuelsson Foundation	In memory of Carl Huntsinger
Richard Ehrman	Louise Sandhaus	Fred Keeler
Bernadette DiPietro	Arne Schmidt	
Frank and Pauline Duffy Estate	Scott Family Foundation	In memory of Fred Keeler II
Chris Feddersen	Larry Scott	Fred Keeler
Sue Francis	Jim and Connie Seebirt	
Andrew Gilman	Jackie Sereboff	In memory of Randy King
Chris and Cathy Gonzales	Laura-Beth Sholkoff	Marcene Owens
Louis Graham	Charley and Sandy Sledd	
Gene Haas Foundation	Andrew Snett	In memory of Robert Miller
Randy Haney	Jillian Snyder	Fred Keeler
Matthew Head	Corinne Solow	In memory of Barbara Nakada
Kathleen Hellwitz	Charlene Spretnak	David Nakada
Rikki Horne	Gerald Stanek	
Stephanie Jacobson	Joseph Stevens	In memory of Richard Paige
Rachel Kann	Duane and Azar Storhaug	Fred Keeler
Ray King	Dr. Dan Swanner	
Stephanie Klasky-Gamer	Juan Tamaf	
Deborah Kollen	Jonathan and Julie Teichert	
Peggy Lessinger	Daniel and Evelyn Telfer	
David and Lisa Luckenbach	LaVonne Theriault	
Janet Malki	Charlotte Thompson	
Claud Mann	United Way California Capital Region	
Mary Jane McCall	Ventura County Area Agency on Aging	
Kenneth and Virginia McConnell	Visualized Business Solutions	
Megan McCullough	Waicon	
Daniel Moses	Mona Zaidi	
Sylvia Narula	Dudley and Maren Zoll	
Scott and Polly Nelson		
Bruce and Linda Nofrey		
Bill and Linda Nugent		
Ojai Film Company		

Holiday Tree

Each year HELP of Ojai lights the tree at the "Y" adjacent to Vons. The tradition holds that the lights honor or remember someone special to the donor. If you would like to participate in helping us light the tree this year, we have enclosed a donation envelope. Please include the name of the honoree, and we will publish their name in the Ojai Valley News in January.

HELP of Ojai, Inc.
111 W. Santa Ana St.
P.O. Box 621
Ojai, CA 93024

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



HELP of Ojai, Inc. — *Neighbors HELPing Neighbors*

If you would like to be removed from the Community Bulletin mailing list, or wish to receive your Bulletin via email, please call Kerry Ballantine at 649-9218 or email her at kerryb@helpofojai.org.

2nd HELPing Thrift Store • Naomi Collins Babcock • 841 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai • (805) 646-5812

2nd HELPing Donation Center • 370 W. Baldwin Road, Ojai • (805) 649-8750

2nd HELPing Thrift Store will re-open to the public on Wednesday, November 4th, at 10:00 a.m. New store hours will be Wednesday—Saturday, from 10:00-5:00. Face masks are required to enter store.

Our Donation Center remains closed. We will publicize the re-opening date once it is determined.

Senior Nutrition Program • Barbara O’Grady, Program Director

370 W. Baldwin Rd., Ojai • (805) 649-8018

HELP’s Congregate Lunch Program remains closed at this time. Home Delivered Meals are available to recipients who are 60 years of age or older and homebound by reason of function and/or disability and/or isolation. Please contact Barbara at 649-8018 for more information.

Community Assistance Program

(805) 640-3320 • 108 Fox St., Ojai 93023 • Fax: (805) 640-3322

Please call the Community Assistance Program at the above number if you are in need of food, or need advice or assistance of how to safely maintain social distancing if you are without permanent housing.


SAVE THE DATE!

HELP of Ojai has had a productive and unprecedented year. As a valuable member, please join us for our Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, November 12th, at 4:00, via Zoom.

Agenda

**State of the Agency
Financial Report
Questions and Answers**

Please email Terri Wolfe at terriw@helpofojai.org to receive a link to the meeting.
Meeting will be limited to 100 participants.

 **An Estate Sale benefitting HELP of Ojai
will be held at Little House, 111 W. Santa Ana Street,
on November 6th & 7th, from 9-3.
Masks & social distancing are required.**