



HELP of Ojai, Inc.

January/February 2021

Neighbors HELPing Neighbors

Community Bulletin

Happy New Year 2021!

As we start the year in a much different manner than we all hoped, we are still pleased to say that while our regular programs are, for the most part, on hold, our COVID support programs are still thriving. Each day we insure 450 seniors have meals. To date we have paid out over \$50,000 in rental assistance to keep families and seniors in appropriate housing. We have found permanent housing for several previously homeless clients. We have helped 10 restaurants stay in business thereby continuing to employ hundreds of staff. We have a small group of young students using one of our buildings as a school so they can keep up on their studies. We have "neighbors helping neighbors" through our senior phone tree program. These and other basic needs assistance programs are ongoing for as long as there is this unique need.

While much could be said about the difficulties of 2020, I want to start the New Year with many things for which to be thankful. The holiday season programs were a tremendous success and brightened the lives of many hundreds of our friends and neighbors. You "adopted" close to 80 families and 40 seniors for Christmas this year, as well as provided gift cards for Thanksgiving turkeys (Thank You, Rotary) and food boxes to over one hundred families (many done by Ojai Presbyterian Church).

There are many schools, businesses and dozens of families who adopted several families. The individual adopters are too numerous to name...you know who you are, and you made many children's Christmas much brighter for your generosity. Thanking all involved becomes an impossible task, so we thank you all, donors, volunteers, supporters of all kinds.

We also want to thank everyone who supported the tree lighting at the Vons "Y". By remembering and honoring your loved ones through that event, we all benefitted by the tree being bright and shiny for the season.

Finally, I would personally like to acknowledge and thank the dedicated and hard-working HELP of Ojai staff. Each staff member puts in long, extra hours each season in an effort to make the holidays more joyous for the Ojai Valley. This year was no exception.

We hope to see you soon under more "normal" circumstances. Stay tuned for changes in our programming over the next months. Call any time for a chat or an update.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Terri Wolfe
Executive Director

◇ 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 Meets via Zoom on the second and fourth Monday of each month. E-mail Deirdre at deirdredaly@roadrunner.com for more information or to register for the meeting.

Parkinson's Support Group Meets via Zoom on the second Tuesday of the month at 1:30PM. Future meetings will be held on Tuesday, January 12th and Tuesday, February 9th. E-mail Tony at traconsult@outlook.com or call (301) 529-9510 for more information or to register for the meeting.

Senior Yoga and Other Physical Activities Due to the recent increase in COVID cases, the start date of these classes have been postponed.

Ventura County Area Agency on Aging Health Insurance Counseling (HICAP) Please call (805) 477-7310 to make an appointment, e-mail HICAP@ventura.org, or visit <https://www.vcaaa.org/our-services/medicare-help/>.

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.

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

Transportation services have changed due to the "Stay at Home Order" issued December 6th. We will only be providing essential rides to the grocery store and doctor's appointments. We will also continue to pick up prescriptions from your pharmacy and deliver them to you. Each ride will be considered on a case by case basis scenario. We encourage you to stay home if you're not feeling well. Please call Tina if you need to schedule a ride or have your prescriptions picked up at (805) 646-5122 x105.

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 to ensure everyone's safety.

We never can say enough about our volunteer drivers who are ready and able to drive through these tough times. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

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

Thank you to all donors and volunteers who helped make the 2020 Adopt-A-Family and Adopt-A-Senior program a success! Through the generous donations of our community, the Community Assistance Program was able to provide gifts to 219 children and 45 seniors this holiday season.

CAP continues to serve as a hub for low-income services. We see an average of 65 people a week, who access a variety of services including food boxes, grocery bags of food, household and hygiene items, lunches for our unsheltered clients, utility assistance and rental assistance.

During the winter months, many people see an increase in their utility bills. There are multiple programs available to assist financially with these costs: HEAP, EAF and GAF. Please call a case manager at the CAP office for more information.

Donor Recognition

Our deepest appreciation goes out to those who made contributions in the months of October and November, 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.

Steven Adams	Steve and Roz Kraus	James and Maryetta Sanders	In memory of Caroline Bernard Ralph and Karol Cataldo	In memory of Cookie Miley Susan Bee Sharon Cunningham
Anonymous	Douglas and Dulanie LaBarre	Louise Sandhaus		Rikki Home
Ross and Patty Atkinson	Jonathan and Linda Lambert	Kristi Schoeld		Dottie Loebel
Adella Baker	Roberta Latimer	William Schrader	In memory of William Jerry Blue Gayle Blue	Bill Miley
Bobbie Balderman	Dottie Loebel	Larry Scott		Julie Rischer
Beth Barnes	The Looker Foundation	Jim and Connie Seebirt		Lou Ann Schlichter
Jerry and Dolores Barnes	David and Lisa Luckenbach	Ernie and Sally Seidenkranz	In memory of Robert Chesley Fred Keeler	
Jane Bear	Claud Mann	Ruthanne Shinkle		
Dario and Linda Benedetti	John and Ann Mason	Carlene Sikorsky		
Nicola Bennett	Ginger Maxwell	Charles and Linda Simon	In memory of Gordon Cunningham Sharon Cunningham	In memory of Robert Miller Fred Keeler
Steve Bennett and Leslie Ogden	Dwayne and Susan McCulloch	Lee Ann Skylstad		
Mary Bergen	Isabel McPherson	Charley and Sandy Sledd		
Connie Biggers	Catherine Meek	Andrew Snett	In memory of Heidi Dicapua Peter Dicapua	In honor of Pete Owen Janet Barr
Bonnie Bishop	Oscar and Gloria Melendez	Gerald Stanek		
Katherine Bliss	Peggy Melton	Joseph Stevens		
Barbara Bowman	Don and Rena Mills	Duane and Azar Storhaug	In memory of Bob and Marilyn Essick	In memory of Richard Paige Fred Keeler
Mike Briley	Jo Ann Monak	Dr. Dan Swanner	Roger and Pat Essick	
David Brown	Drew Moody	John and Caroline Thacher		
Elfi Bustillos	Lily Mordasini	Tony and Anne Thacher		In memory of Ed Paulson Claire Paulson
Annette Campbell	Binney Moss	Sharon Thames	In memory of Geraldine Gama Doreen Farr	
Jim and Fran Christiansen	Curt Mossestad and Carol Peterson	Bill Thatcher		
City of Ojai	Vickie Muth	Joyce Tollefson		In memory of Cleo and Mary Pledge Louise Tindle
John Clise	Sylvia Narula	Bruce Tomkinson	In memory of Robert and Norma Griffith	
Carol Cohen	David Nassif	Helen Torok	Bob and Amy Dennis	
David Cohen	Nancy Necker	Terry and Cricket Twichell		
Jim and Dottie Combs	Scott and Polly Nelson	United Way California Capital Region	In memory of Jeanne Harvey Suzanne Harvey	In honor of Jan Rains Anne Grupp
Peter and Ann Costigan	Rod and Karen Nix	United Way of Ventura County		
Susan Cowlishaw	Bruce and Linda Nofrey	Allen Vail		In memory of Barbara Rorke Sondra Anderson
Michelle Cowens	Chuck and Nancy Nordstrom	Jill Vansant	In memory of Mark Hatton Bruce and Virginia Hibberd	
Mike Cromer	Bill and Linda Nugent	Ventura County Area Agency on Aging		In memory of Naomi Rose Allan and Katharine Parigian
Barbara Crowder	Rachel Oakland	Elisa Wagoner	In honor of HELP of Ojai's Volunteers	In memory of Gina Marie Salsedo Donnie Salsedo
Richard Ehrman	Ojai Fresh Grill, Inc.	Brian Warner	P. Gayle Roederer	
Glenn Erickson and Katherine Patton	Ojai Presbyterian Church	Michael and Susan Weaver		
Harriet DiCapua	Ojai United Methodist Church	John and Tina Webb		
Steven Dunham	Ojai Valley School	Dick and Jane Weirick	In memory of Helen Henrickson Joan Cathcart	In memory of Ron Segal Jim Tremaine and Katie Ingram
Judy Eldeb	Carey Pearlman and Tracy Albert	Duane and Margaret Williamson	Boyd and Gwen Ford	
Nancy Escher	Bill and Laura Peck	David and Kit Willis		
Roger and Pat Essick	John and Tonya Peralta	Sasha Wolfe		
Bill and Karen Evenden	Linda Olive	Wood-Claeysens Foundation	In memory of Carl Huntsinger Fred Keeler	In memory of Patti Sinclair Shirley King
Dr. Fred and Shirle Fauvre	Sarah Otterstrom	Terry and Cindy Wright		
Fred and Dana Fleet	Claire Paulson	Karen Wu		
Natasha Fonteyn	Nancy Pepper	Kevin Wynn	In memory of Fred Keeler II Fred Keeler	In memory of Harold Tindle Louise Tindle
Carl Fronhofer	Richard Petropulos	Antionette Zagata		
Celeste Gabriele	Ron and Judi Polito	Mona Zaidi		
Rowena Garner	Marty and Barbara Pops	Dudley and Maren Zoll	In memory of Bill King Shirley King	In memory of Ruth Tindle Louise Tindle
Barbara Gibson	Ana Porter Rhoda			
Andrew Gilman	Dee Pulley			
Chris and Cathy Gonzales	James and Shirley Quinn			
Randolph Graham	Darrell Ralston		In memory of Tom and Mary Korn Maureen Volland	In memory of Lee R. Wilson Debra Wilson
Allan and Carol Gross	Kim Rapholz			
Michael and Carol Hall-Mounsey	Lakshman Rasiyah, M.D.			
Randy Haney	Norman and Susan Reccius		In memory of Ruth and Allen Kroger	In memory of Ward Wright Margaret Wright
Karen Harrison	The Will J. Reed Foundation		Elaine Severa	
Sachiko Hayden	Rich Reid			
Herbert Hemming	Richard and Sharon Rockefeller	In memory of Dick Arellanes Pam Arellanes	In honor of Dottie Loebel's Birthday Ann Oppenheimer	In memory of Ray Zimbelman Debra Wilson
Marion Inchaustegui	P. Gayle Roederer			
Karin James	Terry and Audrey Root			
Eric and Peggy Jenssen	Dick Roper			
Cletta Johnson	Robert and Patrice Rosenthal	In memory of Paul and Darrell Bangs	In memory of Tom MacCalla Jean Kilmurray	
Peter and Harriette Jump	Rotary Club of Ojai West Foundation	Larrylyn Bangs		
Marsha Kaye				
Tim Kenney and Jane O'Dell	Randy and Renee Roth		In memory of Dave Marshall Sharon Cunningham	
Larry Kent and Kathy Yee	Linda Rovai			
Diane Kinzek	Bud and Christine Rowe	In memory of Mirko Basich Sylvia Basich		
Lon and Margareta Kirkgaard	Helen Salmon			
Cynthia Korman	Sam Samaniego	In memory of Dorothy Benedict Charley and Sandy Sledd	In memory of Rhoda Martin Suzanne Harvey	

In Memory/Honor

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.

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 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.

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

We are so happy to announce that our 2nd HELPing Thrift Store is OPEN. New store hours are Wednesday—Saturday, from 10:00-5:00. Face masks, or proper facial coverings, are required to enter store. We are allowing 10 customers in the store at one time, so there may be a short waiting period before you may enter. Social distancing is expected and is closely monitored. Hand sanitizer is placed at the door and throughout the store. We encourage you to sanitize your hands often while shopping.

Any person who is non-compliant to the above mentioned safety precautions will be asked to immediately comply or will be asked to leave the premises. HELP staff and volunteers reserve the right to refuse entrance or service to anybody who refuses to comply with the store's safety measures.

Our 2nd HELPing Donation Center at our West Campus facility remains closed at this time. As soon as a re-opening date is determined we will post it on our website and social media.

Our First Saturday Sales have been halted indefinitely. Once the Donation Center re-opens we will have a better idea of when the Saturday Sales will resume. Stay tuned.

!! REMINDER !!

HELP of Ojai is currently NOT accepting donations at any of our locations. All staff efforts are focused on feeding the Valley, or other COVID-related programming. We kindly ask that you **DO NOT "DUMP"** donations at any of our locations. Unfortunately this happens on occasion and when it does, it directly takes resources away from providing essential, basic needs that we are assisting the Valley's residents meet during this unprecedented time. We are unsure of when the Donation Center will re-open. You can call 211 to find an organization that will accept your donations. Your partnership on this is greatly appreciated and we thank you for your understanding and patience.