Greetings Friends of HELP of Ojai,

The end of summer marks a bittersweet time for HELP of Ojai. For as long as we can remember, we have hosted our volunteer appreciation celebration at the end of August. It’s a fun event for staff and volunteers, involving barbecue and live music at our West Campus location. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we have not been able to host the event since 2019. Fingers crossed we will be back in action in 2023!

With this celebration in mind, we have dedicated the community bulletin to our amazing volunteers. From transportation drivers, to the folks who work in the thrift store, to the community members who make lunches for our unsheltered clients: THANK YOU. Without our amazing network of volunteers, we would be unable to fulfill our mission of meeting the basic needs of Ojai Valley residents.

In the following pages, each program has highlighted current volunteers and included a description of the work they do for the organization. For those interested, we have a range of volunteer opportunities, including recurring positions such as home delivered meal drivers, and one-time opportunities for large groups in our food pantry. If something catches your eye as you read along, please feel free to contact the program director directly, or contact me at the info below.

Finally, we hope to see everyone at Ojai Day on October 15th! Staff will be at Libbey Park from 10am-4pm, ready to answer questions you may have about HELP of Ojai, including ways to support us through volunteerism. Please stop by!

Happy Fall!

Jayn Walter, Co-Executive Director
jaynw@helpofojai.org
September/October Activities Update  •  108 S. Montgomery Street, Ojai  •  (805) 646-5122

We are happy to announce that Maria DePaola will be in a new role as the Executive Assistant at HELP of Ojai. Maria will be coordinating Senior Activities, and is looking forward to helping the Ojai Valley Senior Community thrive with the many physical, intellectual, and social activities that are offered here at Help of Ojai.

HELP of Ojai offers activities to meet the interest and schedules of active seniors. Whether it is an activity for the brain; an activity for the body; or an activity that brings people together, we hope you find something to meet your wants and needs. Included below is a short description of the typical monthly activities. The days and times of the classes/activities are listed on the accompanying calendar. Unless specified, all classes are donation-based. Please notice the Activity Calendar is a two-month format. The next calendar will be published for November and December 2022.

Due to COVID-19, there is a maximum of 20 people per an activity, masks are highly recommended inside the building, and proof of vaccination is required. Hand-sanitizer will be provided for use before and after class.

The appointment-necessary or series-based activities beginning at Montgomery Street for September/October are:
AARP Smart Driving Course will be held on Monday, October 3rd & Tuesday, October 4th from 9:00am-1:00pm. Cost is $20 for AARP Members/$25 for non-AARP members. Make checks payable to AARP and give to your instructor. Register in advance at Montgomery Street by calling 805-646-5122.

Elderhood Workshop – “The Alchemy of Change” w/Linda Merrill, Ph.D., is a 7-week workshop designed to provide guidance and support for those embarking into their elder years. It is important to attend every session as they build on each other. Workshop dates run from September 29th until November 10th, from 1:30pm-3:00pm. There is no cost for this workshop, but space is limited. Call 805-646-5122 to reserve your spot. $5.00 suggested donation per a class.

Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP) will hold appointments on Tuesdays from 9:00am-11:15am. This program provides free and objective information and counseling about Medicare. Please call 805-646-5122 to schedule an appointment.

Skin Cancer Check with Dr. Thacher will be Tuesday, October 4th from 8:30am-9:45am. Call 805-646-5122 for an appointment.

The Ten Warning Signs of Dementia with Dr. Thacher will be Tuesday, October 4th from 8:30am-9:45am. Call 805-646-5122 for an appointment.

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**Transportation**  
*Tina Rosas, Transportation Director*  
370 W. Baldwin Rd., Ojai • (805) 646-7787 • tinar@helpofojai.org

George Cobb is a vital part of HELP of Ojai’s Transportation Program. George has been volunteering for HELP of Ojai for more than ten years. He has driven for Meals on Wheels, Holiday Home Look In, The Lavender Festival and of course, our daily Transportation Program. George not only volunteers for us but also for The Ojai Music Festival and recently drove a few residents from The Gables to an outing to Ledbetter Beach. On George’s off days he can be found at the gym or helping out at Gunya’s Rugs in the Arcade. He is knowledgeable, compassionate, and caring for our riders. Plus, he has a wonderful personality and is a joy to be around.

Please call Tina 805-646-5122 x105 if you would like to know more about this wonderful opportunity serving our community.

**Transportation hours of operation:** Mon-Thu: 8:30-3:30 /Friday: 8:30-12:30

*Ride reservations must be called in by 2:00 the day prior. Doctor’s appointments and grocery shopping is priority over any other appointments. Masks are required at this time. All drivers and riders must be vaccinated against COVID-19.*

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**West Campus & 2nd HELPings Donation Center**  
*370 W. Baldwin Rd., Ojai*

Many thanks to the volunteers who help process donations. It’s a big job, and their hard work ensures the thrift store remains well stocked and the Saturday Sale runs smoothly. Our sincerest gratitude to the following people:

- **Judy**, who processes all our clothing donations, and makes sure all our wearable items are clean, sorted, and presentable.
- **Kathleen**, who helps sort, price, and box up all the fabrics and crafts for the thrift store.
- **Kerry**, who helps maintain and organize the furniture rooms in preparation of the Saturday sale.
- **Mary**, who assists Shelley with pricing and researching collectible items for the thrift store.
- **Patti**, who organizes and displays all outside items for our monthly sales, as well as cashier and prices on the day of the sale.
- **Shayna**, who assists Susie in making sure the clothing room is ready for the sale and the items are presentable.
- **Shelley**, who handles the research and pricing of antiques, collectibles, and kitchenware. She is a driving force for keeping our thrift store well stocked.
- **Stuart**, who assists the donation center employees with sorting, processing, and accepting donations.
- **Susie**, who handles the Saturday clothing room. She ensures the clothes are turned over regularly and that the clothes are neat and organized.

If you’re interested in helping in the donation center, please contact Zac at zacb@helpofojai.org.
The Community Assistance Program serves an array of people in need. Our volunteers are not only very special to us as staff, but to our clients as well. We currently have three volunteers working in the CAP program. We would like to sincerely thank our volunteers for all their hard work and time and highlight these amazing ladies.

**Kathy McHugh** began volunteering for our program after the Thomas Fire. Kathy is an amazing asset to our team. Kathy not only does what is asked of her, she goes above and beyond to make people feel welcomed and valued as individuals. Kathy helps Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays during our food distribution. Kathy has also enlisted the help of her wonderful husband Tim. Kathy truly has a heart for service, and we hope she chooses to continue her service here for many years to come.

**Paula Scott** volunteers at the CAP front desk one day a week. Paula has volunteered with HELP of Ojai longer than Whitney has been employed by the agency (Whitney has been with HELP for almost 10 years!) Paula is a retired nurse with a heart of gold and an amazing sense of humor. Paula is a joy to have at the front desk and we cherish our time with her.

**Sandy Grotsky** is another front desk volunteer who has also volunteered in the senior nutrition kitchen. Sandy has a heart for helping people. We are so proud of her: she recently went back to school and received her AA in social work. We always look forward to having Sandy’s sunny disposition at our desk on Friday mornings.

We would also like to thank all our lunch volunteers. We have a wonderful group of people who donate lunches to our homeless services program. Thank you to Susan Coulter, Sue and Roger Dickens, Briana Beebe, Teresa Velasco, Linda Aldous, and Ann Oppenheimer. If anyone is interested in making lunches or donating items for lunches, please contact Whitney Nunes. The support and kindness of our volunteers makes our community better. We want to sincerely thank everyone who helps keep our program running smoothly. Thank you!

**2nd HELPings Thrift Store • Naiomi Collins Babcock • 841 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai • (805) 646-5812**

HELP of Ojai’s 2nd HELPings Thrift Store opened in 1982 and for 40 years the thrift store has been primarily staffed by volunteers, ranging in age from 15 years old to 95 years young. We currently have 20 incredible volunteers on the schedule weekly. Each individual has a fascinating life story as to how they came to settle down in Ojai and how they came to volunteer at the thrift store. Working in a retail environment can be exciting and fun, but it is never easy. Thankfully our thrift store staff has become one big happy family and work exceptionally well together. Every day new treasures come in for sale from our donation center and the staff gleefully merchandises these items, creating colorful and intriguing vignettes. Our store could not function without these volunteers who are generous with their hearts, their time, and their skills.

Thank you to those who work hard every week to create a positive and lively environment to spend time in. It’s difficult to call it ‘work’ when you’re surrounded by laughter and smiling faces and folks who are friends. We appreciate all you do to better our community.


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**Save a tree!**

Sign up for the electronic version of the Community Bulletin!

If you'd like to receive the CB by email, please contact Jayn Walter at [jaynw@helpofojai.org](mailto:jaynw@helpofojai.org)
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*HELP of Ojai Monthly Activities Calendar for September 2022*

- 1:30-2:30 P.E. Intermediate P.E.
- 9:00-10:00 Yoga
- 10:00-11:00 Yoga
- 11:00-12:00 Yoga
- 12:00-1:00 Yoga
- 1:00-2:00 Yoga

**Labor Day**

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Donor Recognition

Our deepest appreciation goes out to those who made contributions in the months of June and July 2022. Your donations in support of HELP’s programs are valued greatly and we sincerely thank you.

If you have any questions regarding donations, please call Megan Telfer at (805) 646-5122.

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Allan and Joyce West
Allen Vail
Ann Gartrell
Anonymous Unknown
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Barb and Mike Rugo
Barbara & Charlie Snyder
Barbara Feild
Barbara Hoffman
Benjamin and Caroline Templeton
Betty Iwemks
Beverly Schuberth
Beverly Spurgeon
Bill and Karen Evenden
Bill and Linda Nugent
Bill Thatcher
Bob and Judy Billett
Bob Tallyn and Betsy Bachman
Bruce and Linda Nofrey
Bud and Christine Rowe
Butch and Kathy Hill
Carl and Barbara Enson
Carol Cohen
Carol Smith and Larry Yuva
Charlene Spretnak
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Chris and Cathy Gonzales
Chris Feddersen
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David and Leanne Tilmont
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Don and Sheila Cluff
Doug and Barbara Hoff
Douglas Levee
Duane and Azar Storhaug
Duane Dammeyer and Marty Bonvechio

Dudley and Mareen Zoll
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Howard and Dottie Criger
Huora Williams
Irene Petroff
J. H Macy
Jacqui Burge
Jaspa Unknown
Jeannie S. Keller
Jim and Connie Seebirt
Jim and Fran Christiansen
Jim and Robyn Halverson
Jim and Sally True
Jocelyn Coggeshall
Joe and Frances Stevens
John & JoCarol Snyder
John and Jessica Nava
John and Jo Ann Howard
John and Kelly Van Houten
John Clause
John Horwicz
Judy Oberlander
Katherine Patton and Glenn Erickson
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Kathleen Straube
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In memory of Adellia Baker
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In memory of David and Ginger Morgan
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In memory of Della Baker
Jean Robinson

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In memory of Hazan 'Sam' Samatiago
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In memory of Jack Brodowy
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