

## Helping People. Changing Lives.

Altadena, Arcadia, Azusa,  
Bradbury, Baldwin Park,  
Duarte, Irwindale, Monrovia,  
Pasadena, Sierra Madre, and  
South Pasadena

### Our Mission

We help neighbors in crisis  
attain self-sufficiency  
by partnering with the  
community  
and using our resources wisely  
to provide vital support services  
with love and dignity.

### Our Vision

We envision  
a community where...  
All have their basic needs met,  
including the need to give.  
All get the necessary support  
to become self sufficient.  
All are treated with love and  
dignity ... all the time.



## Send a Needy Child Proudly Back to School

Remember the fun of the first day of school? Many local kids have never felt that excitement — just worry about not having basic school clothes and supplies.

With your help, we can make sure they

the Tzu Chi Foundation; and a new, age-appropriate book from Monrovia Reads.

The day also includes a ceramic art project with Paint N Play and dental and vision screenings by the USC School of



*Last year's Back to School distribution.*

*Jon Didier photo.*

start the school year right. Last year, 1,700 client children poured into Santa Anita Park for our annual Back to School Distribution. This year, we're expecting more than 2,000 to choose brand new backpacks ... be fitted for new uniforms ... gather fresh school supplies ... and sit still (well, more or less) for haircuts.

For parents struggling to provide food and shelter, this event is a godsend. "When they told us my daughters could get outfitted for school — new backpacks, uniforms and all — my wife just burst into tears," one father told us. "I admit, I was emotional myself."

This year, our major sponsors include Walmart, Vons Foundation, Southern California Edison and WorleyParsons, who are covering about half the cost of goods. Each child will also receive a shoe voucher from

Dentistry and the Western University College of Optometry. Additional health screenings and education will be provided by Methodist Hospital, Community Health Alliance of Pasadena (CHAP) and URDC/ Bill Moore Community Clinic.

**Although your contributions of school clothing and supplies are always welcome, your dollars allow us to buy more efficiently. Just \$50 provides a uniform (two tops/one bottom), socks, underwear, a new backpack and school supplies for one child.**

*For more information on Back to School needs and volunteer opportunities, please visit our web site.*

## To See or Not to See

That was the question as we searched for someone to help us give our adult clients the vision care they desperately needed. When the Arcadia Lions Club agreed to partner with us, we immediately set up a free vision screening on May 15<sup>th</sup> — and the client signup sheet filled almost instantly.

Two volunteer optometrists, three optometry students from Western University of Health Sciences, and an optician screened 69 adult clients at our Monrovia site. Our staff, led by Health Services Director Cathy Klose, RN., along with volunteers and young members of the Arcadia High School Leos Club also participated. The



*Arcadia Lions Club vision screening. Back row: Steve Gutierrez, Tiffany Chuang, Emily Lin, Mansi Shah, Dr. Kristy Remick-Waltman, Michael Peterson, George Taylor, Dr. Philip Mischenko. Seated: George Sanders, Cathy Klose, Doreen Taylor. Center photo.*



*Western University student Tiffany Chuang checks Maria Brown's vision. Center photo.*

event was scheduled to end at 1 p.m., but our wonderful providers agreed to stay until 2:30 p.m. to get all 69 clients screened. Of the group, 65 needed referrals and follow-up care. Thanks to the generosity of the Arcadia Lions Club and Western University they will receive the glasses they need.

One woman required urgent follow-up within the week. Volunteer optometrist Dr. Phil Mischenko agreed to see her in his office. He provided her with frames, and

*"I can see so much better and feel so much more confident."*

the Center was able to order the lenses through a local partnership. The grateful client said she could see so much better and felt so much more confident. She told us she would say a prayer for everyone who was so kind.

It's deeply rewarding to give these people an opportunity to SEE, with all it means to both their quality of life and their safety. There is a huge need for these vital health care services.

**With your support, we can help more low-income adults enjoy the benefits of good vision.**

## Pets Feel the Economic Crunch, Too

Many of our clients are facing the heartbreak of giving up their pets because they can no longer feed them. "We learned that local pet shelters were overflowing because so many people could no longer afford pet food," said Executive Director Joan Whitenack.

Talk show host Ellen DeGeneres learned of this sad situation when she visited us for the TV special *Idol Gives Back*. As part owner of Halo, Purely for Pets, she asked the company to help. "Ellen shared your story with us, and we're very happy to donate 5,000 meals of Halo Spot's Stew," wrote Halo's VP of Marketing Communications. "We're all thrilled to be able to support your wonderful work." The company has posted an article about Foothill Unity Center on its blog at [www.haloforpets.com](http://www.haloforpets.com).

We now have Pet Food Banks at our Monrovia and Pasadena locations. Two Center supporters, Jen Havens of Two Dogs Petsitting and Gloria Huss of Monrovia Floral, have offered their help, and have already secured donations from PETCO to augment Halo's contribution.

**We need your donations of pet food or funds to keep this fledgling program growing. Our families in need and the pets they love thank you!**



*Our client Sara's dog Pirate likes Spot's Stew. Sara's photo.*

## Star Sighting at the Center

American Idol star Ellen DeGeneres and actor David Arquette, Chair of the Feeding America Entertainment Council, paid a visit to our Monrovia facility in April to film a segment for *Idol Gives Back*, an annual special which raises funds for worthy causes.

*"It was moving,  
incredibly humbling,  
and something  
I will never forget."*

Our segment represented Feeding America, the nation's leading domestic hunger relief charity. (Foothill Unity Center receives about 40% of its food from a Feeding America organization, the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank.) The segment was seen worldwide by an estimated 30 million people.

"Feeding America and the *American Idol* producers looked long and hard for a perfect place to film this segment," said Ross Fraser, media relations manager for Feeding America. "We were delighted to find Foothill Unity Center, and especially the tremendous help and passion of Betty and Joan."

"Spending time at Foothill Unity Center was an absolute highlight for me this season on *American Idol*," said Supervising Producer Toby Gorman.

"I felt privileged to meet the families who use these life-changing services, and I was amazed at their willingness to share their stories. It was moving, incredibly humbling, and something I will never forget."

While *Idol* did a great job of making people aware of hunger in our area, the funds the show gives to Feeding America will be shared among thousands of food banks across the country.

**Without contributions from you and other caring local people, we couldn't do what we do to help neighbors in need right here at home. We're so grateful for your support.**

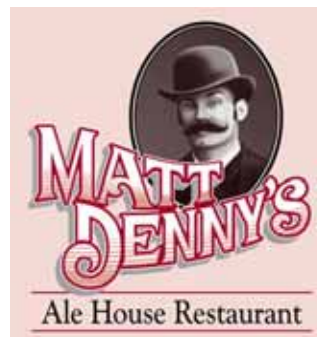
*The Idol Gives Back video segment can be viewed on our web site.*



David Arquette, Ellen DeGeneres, our clients the Uribe family and volunteers and staff pause for a picture in our Monrovia warehouse during the *Idol Gives Back* filming. Fox photo.

## Raising Green on the Greens

Two great companies came out swinging in June with fundraising golf tournaments benefiting Foothill Unity Center.



Funds raised by Matt Denny's Ale House Restaurant, Arcadia, at its 8<sup>th</sup> annual Bob Mac Classic golf tournament were shared by us and the Red Cross Arcadia chapter.

Our thanks to the event organizer Matt McSweeny and all the participants for their support.



**WorleyParsons**  
resources & energy

All proceeds from the annual WorleyParsons golf tournament also went to the Center. These funds will provide much-needed support for our annual Back to School event in August.

# Our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala: A Memorable Celebration

Many told us, “this was the best ever!” Over 350 community friends and supporters celebrated Foothill Unity Center’s 30th Anniversary at our Golden Plate Awards Gala fundraiser at historic Santa Anita Park.

The evening’s silent auction was a huge success, as folks



mingled and saw old friends. ABC7’s George Pennacchio was the celebrity master of ceremonies, and actor David Arquette was the keynote speaker.

Top Humanitarian Awards went to Patti and Jeff Bader, founders of the Soldiers’ Angels Foundation, and Les Peterson, Monrovia volunteer.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Awards were presented to Kathy Valentine, Marshalls, and Monrovia Reads.

Scott Ochoa, our volunteer auctioneer, had everyone’s attention as he generated fun and funds for the Center. Of course, the majority of funds raised came from the purchase of tickets and tables by generous local people like you.



**To see a complete photo album of the Golden Plate gala, visit the photo gallery on our web site.**

*Top left; Monrovia Mayor Mary Ann Lutz presented Les Peterson the Golden Plate.*



*Bottom left; General Eugene Tattini, JPL Deputy Director, presented the Golden Plate to Soldiers’ Angels co-founder Jeff Bader.*

*Jon Didier photos.*

*“When your children are hungry, it’s hard to focus on anything else. Once that weight is removed, the return to self-sufficiency can really begin.”*



Follow us on Facebook.

If you wish, you can make a secure donation electronically from our web site or our Facebook page.

Would you like to be added to our email list? Or do you have questions

about our programs and donor opportunities? Email [helplocal@foothillunitycenter.org](mailto:helplocal@foothillunitycenter.org).

To volunteer, email [volunteer@foothillunitycenter.org](mailto:volunteer@foothillunitycenter.org).

## A Happy Ending, with Your Help

How do you go from being a two-income couple expecting your first child to homeless

*By the time they came to the Center, they had been homeless for five months*

parents with a seven-month-old-baby? In this economy, it can happen in a heartbeat. One layoff. One job cut. Two jobless people with few places to turn. Of course they applied for unemployment benefits — \$236 a week for a family of three.

By the time they came to the Center, they had been homeless for five months and were barely subsisting on transitional food stamps. They were seeking work — but even in a healthy job market, being homeless is a crushing disadvantage.

We immediately gave the family food, a clothing voucher and baby supplies, and signed them up for regular food distributions. We also arranged for them to talk to Volunteers of America about emergency housing assistance, getting them placed in a 90-day temporary shelter.

Then the couple began working with our Foothill Area Jobs Collaborative (FAJC). The wife was placed in a job, while the husband cared for the baby and took living skills classes. Today, both parents are working and in the process of obtaining permanent housing.

## See How Our FAJC Program Helped These Clients Find Jobs

Scott Nolan and Joseph Torres (at right with FAJC director Perla Bernal) are just two of our 134 Foothill Area Jobs Collaborative success stories so far. To see their video along with other videos featuring our programs and client stories, visit [www.fulfillingthepromise-ca.org](http://www.fulfillingthepromise-ca.org).



*Center photo.*