

# Lifeline

## FOOD FOR LIFE MINISTRY, INC.

IN GRATITUDE TO GOD WE ARE HERE TO SERVE THE  
PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF THE HUNGRY

### THE LESSONS OF THE GEESE

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- "When the Head Goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point."
- "We, the low end volunteers do this work, college professors, teachers, doctors, RN's, welfare recipients, businessmen, housewives, students."
- Spring Fundraiser Gala, June 28th in Chino
- 5 Year Anniversary!

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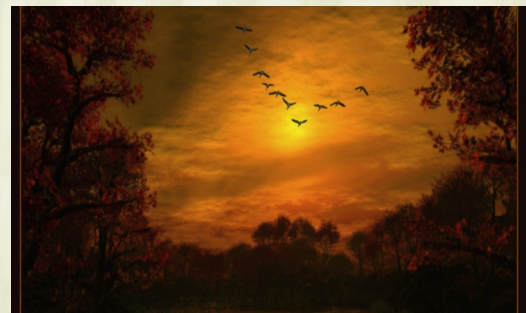
My husband and I live in an area where we occasionally have geese around. Lately, I've heard a flock of geese overhead, but I couldn't see them. I have also noticed one lonely goose wandering around, honking and all alone. It reminds me of a story that speaks volumes about volunteerism and leadership. I have adapted it for inclusion here, because God hard-wired the geese's brains with instinctive qualities so that they may survive. In much the same way, He has wired the hearts and minds of His people to serve Him by serving others. Food for Life Ministries is blessed to have a cadre of volunteers who make what we do possible and successful.

If you are fortunate enough to see and hear the geese overhead, moving either South or North, you will see that they fly in a V formation. Why? When they fly in that way, as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in V formation, the whole flock adds at least 71 % flying range, than if each bird flew on its own.

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

When the Head Goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point. Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed and to complete the journey.

When a goose gets sick, or is wounded and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly or until it dies. Only then do they



launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their group.

April is National Volunteer Month. We want to applaud and encourage our wonderful volunteers with lessons learned from the geese, because without you FFLM would not exist, .

1. When a group of people has a common focus and sense of purpose, they create trust and help each other achieve goals. They move forward on each other's energy.
2. Stay in formation. A team that works together with shared knowledge and skill can expect outstanding performance. Be willing to accept help and give your expertise to others.
3. Share responsibilities by sharing the load, taking turns doing difficult tasks. We depend on each other.
4. Communicate with each other. Hearing words of encouragement is motivating.
5. Help each other. Sometimes people run into difficult times. The best teams are comprised of people who genuinely care for each other and will step in to fill the gap, when needed.

## OUR INCREDIBLE VOLUNTEERS



*I tell you this: whenever you saw a brother or sister hungry or cold, whatever you did to the least of these, so you did to Me.*

*Matthew 25:40*



### INTRODUCING TIM BY MIA GUTIERREZ

We are so very excited to welcome our newest member, Tim Madron, who arrives with an array of specific talents, perfectly suited to our ministry. His experience in food processing, plant management and financial analysis make him well-qualified to take the helm as Warehouse Supervisor.

Tim began working in the food business in college, where he served as an accountant for a meat cutter. Tim excelled and moved on to work as both a General & Plant Manager. During that time, he established himself as a real Problem Solver.

Under his supervision, companies like Day Lee Foods & Panolam Industries saw their profits grow and overhead shrink, while improving efficiency, sanitation and their overall reputation.

35 years later, his many hats will make him invaluable to us, as we continue to grow at a monumental pace.

Tim is excited about his new position at Food for Life. It allows him to apply real-world skills to a "worthy cause." He and his wife Cindy have lived in Ontario since 1982 and consider Chino part of their community.

Tim's plans include working with the Food for Life team to overhaul its systems of organization. He expressed how nice it is to work with such a great team.

"I love the people here," said Tim. "They're all very giving and willing to go the extra mile."

### OSCAR BY MIA GUTIERREZ

Oscar Torres is no stranger to hard work. He obtained his first job at the age of 7, earning \$1 per month. For the past 2 years, he has brought his powerful work ethic and contagious energy to the Food for Life Warehouse.

Diverse needs require Oscar's unique set of skills. He accepts the food that is delivered, stores it and makes it ready for the clients to receive. He also solicits food in return for Food for Life trades and operates a fork lift, like a pro.

Oscar enjoys helping people and

Food for Life has given him the opportunity to do something worthwhile with his free time.



He is known for his playful sense of

humor. Oscar keeps the warehouse alive, joking with the other volunteers and visitors. Always kind and caring with our guests, Oscar often translates for those who speak little English. This gives them a grateful sense of comfort in a difficult time.

Oscar is well-loved by his fellow Volunteers. "He has such a giving heart!" said longtime Volunteer Pat Martinson.

Oscar and his wife, Alida, have lived in Chino for 10 years. Thank you Alida and Oscar, for your wonderful service. We could not do it without you!

### I LOVE WHAT I DO

BY GARY VOORMAN, M.D.

Every Saturday morning and Wednesday afternoon folks gather at the warehouse of FFLM. Who are these people, this group of guys and a gaggle of girls that gather to work at the Food for Life warehouse? And why? Why do they do it?

The work is often heavy or dirty. It's often hot or cold. They don't get paid, they don't take anything home, the work is often monotonous and boring, yet they come, scores of them, every shade and color, weak and strong, rich and poor, each one comes to serve, to matter, to make a difference in someone's life.

Those of you who read these newsletters know that FFLM began 4 years ago, the brainchild of a small group of Christians who were already volunteering for charitable service. Their idea was to gather surplus food from large stores and other sources and give it to the poor in our local area. The plan was to partner with local churches to arrange giveaway events using church volunteers for the work involved. This plan has been working well.

However, the plot thickens. There is competition for this free surplus food. It is heavy and difficult to move, it is all disorganized, and it is expensive to transport and store. Furthermore it is labor intensive to bring the food from the back of stores, sort it at the warehouse, store it, and then and put it into the hands of the people in need. This is where the volunteers come into the process, scores of them, hundreds of people.

Scene change, back at the warehouse, the hub of the operation. Food, comes to us, to FFLM, from the back end of big stores, disorganized, thrown in banana boxes, 5 boxes to a tier, 5 or 6 tiers high on a pallet, a total weight of 5 or 6 hundred pounds.

The volunteer team sorts this stuff into a u shaped ring of about 20 banana boxes by kind. These boxes of reorganized food are then stacked on pallets at the warehouse for distribution.



We, the low end volunteers do this work, college professors, teachers, doctors, RN's, welfare recipients, businessmen, housewives, students, people serving time of community service. (Did they do some community disservice? Perhaps. It's called redemption.) We are all dressed in our grubbies. This is where beginner volunteers start. Some of us have never graduated.

Why do they do it? Why do I do it? Is there a human need to serve others, an essential nutrient like a vitamin or a trace mineral? Is service to others a requirement for human health and happiness? If so then the poor and needy may be necessary so that we can be fulfilled. I'm not sure that I like where this is going. I do know that there is a lot of camaraderie and joy among the volunteers.

I don't have answers to my questions. Why not stop in some Saturday morning at the warehouse and ask us questions, better still, wear your grubbies and try your hand at it. You may answer your own questions.

#### 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY & CELEBRATION

COMING UP IN AUGUST  
FFLM WILL CELEBRATE ITS  
5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



#### LOOK HOW WE'VE GROWN

The Number of Value boxes distributed this quarter is nearly 4 times the amount distributed in last year's first quarter.

2013	BOXES
JANUARY	193
FEBRUARY	145
MARCH	225
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>563</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>BOXES</b>
JANUARY	829
FEBRUARY	725
MARCH	580
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2134</b>

#### WE NEED TRUCK DRIVERS

Bob-tail truck, no special driver's license needed. This is a Volunteer position, we are looking for someone who is willing to be on-call. If interested, please call Ernie: 909-957-4282



## SPRING FUNDRAISING GALA

BY MIA GUTIERREZ

Last year, Food for Life decided to spread its wings and try something new for the Annual Fundraiser. The goal was to create an elegant evening, where Food for Life Donors could be celebrated and given the opportunity to contribute.

Chairman Shanah Daley strung lights across her immaculate backyard and arranged furniture for guests to bask in the starlight. The night began with warm chatter and the delightful clink of stemware.

Live Jazz wafted from the gazebo and some swayed by the sparkling pool, or turned their chairs to watch the musicians play.

A delicious meal was catered by local Italian bistro Pizzaioli. Plates

heaped with steaming pasta and crisp salad shuffled outdoors and the night air stirred with relaxed enjoyment.



Donated bottles of premium wine were auctioned throughout the evening. Guests milled about, examining the wares and picking and choosing their desired items.

Our donors know that these funds are essential for Food for Life. Warehouse rental, trucks,

materials, gas, all of these things must be privately funded.

We hoped to both thank and encourage our wonderful donors.

For this year's event, we would like to extend the invitation to all who are interested in being a financial blessing to our cherished Ministry. We plan to have a vast selection of items to auction.

All the funds go to Food for Life Ministry and are used to continue our mission, feeding those in need.

Food for Life's Fundraiser Gala will take place June 28th, at 7 pm.

Please contact Shanah Daley to be placed on the guest list at 909-268-2628.

### FFLM BOARD MEMBERS & ADVISORS

- David Richards.....President
- John De Vries.....Vice President
- Cindy Vande Steeg.....Secretary
- Shanah Daley...Chairman of the Board
- Warren Stewart.....Board Member
- Jo Ellen DeVries.....Board Member
- Carl Hampton.....Board Member
- Lee Manuel.....Board Member
- Al Vande Steeg.....Advisor
- David Haringa.....Advisor
- Dianne Stewart.....Advisor
- Roy Tjaarda.....Advisor

### FUTURE FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

May 17, 2014  
FFLM Warehouse  
4712 Cheyenne Way  
Chino, CA 91710

May 31, 2014  
Praise Tabernacle  
4550 Eucalyptus Ave.  
Chino, CA 91710

June 7, 2014  
FFLM Warehouse  
4712 Cheyenne Way  
Chino, CA 91710

June 21, 2014  
Chino Valley Community  
14601 Peyton Drive  
Chino Hills, CA 91709

July 19th  
New Day Christian Church  
3865 Hamner Ave.  
Eastvale, CA 92860



### WAREHOUSE HOURS

Wed. 4-6 PM  
Thurs. 4-6 PM  
Sat. 9 AM-11 AM

### FOOD FOR LIFE MINISTRY, INC.

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4712 Cheyenne Way, Chino, CA 91710

Phone: 909-627-FOOD (3663)

Fax: 909-627-6106

E-mail: [acvandesteeg@integrity.com](mailto:acvandesteeg@integrity.com)

Website: [www.foodforlifeministry.org](http://www.foodforlifeministry.org)



### VALUE BOX PROGRAM AVAILABLE DURING OUR WAREHOUSE

Are you experiencing hard times right now? The Value Box Program is especially designed to give you some help making ends meet.

A large produce box is filled to overflowing with a wide variety of fresh, frozen, and canned foods.

These boxes are available at our warehouse for a donation of \$25.00 cash. The actual value varies according to the type of food available. Typically, you will be taking home groceries at 65% less than retail. Value Box Program is especially designed to give you some help making ends meet.

[www.FoodForLifeMinistry.org](http://www.FoodForLifeMinistry.org) for more details