



Food for Thought

FIGHTING HUNGER

FEEDING HOPE

It is More than Just Food

Carlos is a sweet man who came to our food pantry line about two months ago. Back then, he was new to the process of receiving assistance. He has just lost his job due to some misunderstanding with his employers. Since then, he has been coming almost every week, sometimes just to get encouragement. At his last visit, he mentioned, "If it were not for the pantry folks, I would feel utterly alone in this world." Carlos is separated from his family and he has no other friends. Others have taken advantage of his kindness, so now he feels he can no longer trust anyone but the pantry staff and volunteers.

Today Carlos was in line again and he told us that he had bought some new shoes at a discount shoe store on sale for \$10. He was excited and said he had dressed very nicely for his job interview that went well. He was very hopeful, but in the end, they did not choose him. He

looked like he was fighting back tears as he shared this news. He shook his head and put on his smile again saying, "It's okay! I'm not going to get discouraged, I'm going to keep doing what I need to do and go out there again tomorrow. I know there is a job waiting out there for me."

And that is what we love about Carlos; he keeps going no matter what. He is not an addict nor is he disabled, just unemployed in a difficult economy and job market. He goes to several job interviews each week and all he needs is one "break" or should we say "breakthrough" or miracle from God.

Our pantry staff continues to pray that an opportunity will present itself for Carlos and that he will not become discouraged. We are so grateful to you for making it possible for us to help people like Carlos and provide, not only food, but hope for a better tomorrow.



Director's Corner

The economic downturn continues to put a strain on organizations that help feed those in crisis. As the economy continues in flux, demand for food continues to increase at the same time donations are falling.

When we have less donated food coming in and more people needing food, it is a very sobering situation for us. We are trying to be as creative as possible, in hoping that we can reach out a wider net for donations of food.

There are many empty shelves at the food bank. If they can not be restocked through food donations, we are forced to purchase food or reduce distribution. Very often, the need is for protein items. Items that we always need are rice, beans, and cereal.

Meanwhile those on the front lines of feeding the needy say they are seeing many new faces in the

crowd. It is very noticeable that we have more families, more single parent families with their children, people we never have seen before. The other category that continues to increase dramatically is senior citizens.

As the holidays draw just around the corner the demand for food will likely go even higher. We continue to be so very grateful for our faithful partners and heroes that help us meet the need of our hungry neighbors.

Warm blessings,



William Hernandez
Food Bank, Director



What, No Hug?

Just the other day, my special friend Tall Tony came to the pantry. Tall Tony is one of the members of the basketball league that plays at the park across the street from the pantry. He has not been there in quite a while and we have missed him. He and his friend came toward the end of our distribution time. We almost missed him as his friend was carrying a guitar and a small amp. Then we noticed Tony in front of him, loaded down with bags as well. I know very well what the scripture means when it says that God delights in us. We “delighted” in seeing Tall Tony and his friend.

When introduced, Veronica (new volunteer serving that day) stretched her hand for a handshake. Tony looked at her, grinned, and said, “What, no hug?” She promptly said of course and gave him a warm hug. Tony had to take off the bags he was wearing so he could get a proper hug. I could not help myself...

I had to point out that this was the same guy who resisted hugs and all communication when he first came to our lines. He laughed and looked at me and said “See what you have done to me?” and acknowledged that he definitely was not one to be hugged or touched in the past, but now meets and greets everyone with a hug, if they will allow him.



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YOU SHALL
RECEIVE**



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