



# No room at the Inn

On Saturday, November 16th, two teams drove to Harrison, Dellums and Oaks Shelters in Oakland, California to deliver hygiene baskets to the transitional housing residents who live there. It was an exciting morning as HOPECONNECTIONS volunteers and their children loaded up two vans to hand deliver the gifts to the men and women of these hotels.

The week before five volunteers spent Saturday afternoon wrapping towels around shampoo, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste. These items had been donated by students and teachers at James Logan High School or purchased by Shepherd's Care Ministries.

On this particular morning, as we gave out the gifts, a staff member told us about a young mother and her infant who had sat on the bench outside the shelter because she had no place to sleep that night.

Although the shelter only allows adults to live in the housing project, the staff felt great compassion towards the mother and allowed her to sleep in one of the corridors so that she and her child would be out of the cold and away from the violence of the streets.

As they told us how they were trying to find some temporary shelter, in an area where shelters are filled to capacity, we thought about another young mother and her unborn child long ago seeking shelter and there was no room at the inn.



*Volunteer, Karen Beskeen, with one of the baby's.*

## HOPECONNECTIONS WAREHOUSE

This year, HOPECONNECTIONS, is fortunate to receive a garage centrally located in San Lorenzo, California to store canned food, clothing and toys. Dave Beskeen and Mike Chalberg are busy building shelving so that the team can organize the cans from the various school food drives. Having the garage is really a blessing. We can now receive donations all year long and have a storage place to keep the food.

This will also allow us to help people who the Lord sends our way during other times of the year. "People just don't need help the two weeks before Christmas and Easter," said Linda Rodrigues who donated the garage. We are in need of sturdy shelving and plastic bins to store clothing. Please let us know if you can help.

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### Special points of interest:

- Shelters and more Shelters!
- The need is growing exponentially
- What is an Isaiah 61 ministry?

## THE LORD IS EXPANDING HIS MINISTRY

Last Spring, as we were delivering hygiene baskets to Delums hotel on Mike's birthday, Linda asked Pastor Chalberg what he thought Jesus was going to bless him with on his special day. Mike said, "I don't know Linda", and Linda smiled and said, "I think he is planning on giving you another shelter." At that time, a man came up and asked if they could bring hygiene baskets to his shelter down the street. That is how we went from ministering to two shelters to three hotels this season.



*Children helping Children*

Besides the Lord expanding the ministry in Oakland, we have also seen a substantial growth in our ministry work in the Union City and Hayward area. The number of families needing help this year has more than doubled in need since last year. Because of the current economic condition in the Bay Area, more and more peo-

ple are finding themselves out of work without the resources to make it through this difficult time.

HOPECONNECTIONS will be helping 78 families this December and over 300 children. Our volunteers and students from James Logan High School will be going out into the community on December 22nd to give food, toys, clothing and food certificates to people in the Barrio, South Hayward and West Union City areas. Even with the pressure on to accomplish this over the weekend before Christmas, The Lord continues to provide the ministry with people and supplies to accomplish the task.

## Building Community

What do the winter holidays of Kwanza, Christmas, Hanukah and Ramadan all have in common? All of them deal with the act of giving and building relationships in the community.

The high school students of Logan High School have chosen this as their theme this year in helping HOPECONNECTIONS provide food and clothing for people in their community.

So many times people have negative perspectives of high school students because most of the time the media focuses on the teenagers who are not making good choices.

The leadership class wants to change that perspective. They want the community to see that teenagers do care about the people in their community and they want to make a positive impact in the area. So they are organizing a canned food drive and making

HOPE jars, for classes to donate soda and cookie money to help those less fortunate than themselves.

*.... "the act of giving and building relationships and community."*

## Shepherd's Care Board of Directors

Shepherd's Care held its annual board meeting in October. There are seven members on the board and they oversee the direction of Shepherd's Care Ministries and HOPECONNECTIONS. The members are Dave Beskeen, Kenneth Errington, Helen Jennings, Linda Rodrigues, Judy Withers and Mike and Carol Chalberg.

Dave is a technical writer and works out of his home in Dublin, California. He is married to his lovely wife, Karen and they have three children, all major volunteers in the outreach. Pastors Mike and Carol are the founders of Shepherd's Care Ministries. Both Fuller graduates, they currently make

their home in San Ramon, California.

Linda is a math teacher at James Logan High School and mother of three children. Judy is in the health care field and the mother of one son. Ken operates his own painting company and Helen has her own law firm. All volunteer and give financially to support this ministry and its outreaches.



**Dave and Mike  
sorting cans.**

## Thank You Party for HOPECONNECTIONS Volunteers

Volunteers are very precious people. Without them, it would be difficult to do all that there is to do to make a community outreach like HOPECONNECTIONS happen.

On December 1st from 5:00-7:00 PM we will be having a Christmas party for all the volunteers who have helped us over the past year, with their financial, prayer and hands on physical support.

This will be a party of praise for what the Lord has done through and with these people. We will be sharing the stories of the blessings and growth over the past four years, as well as enjoying the goodies made by Karen's loving hands.

Just as the outreach is accomplished in a spirit of worship and celebration of God's love, we hope our

volunteers will experience that spirit in all aspects of their lives... especially at a party in honor of the Lord's presence to those in need.



*A party at Harrison Shelter last year.*

## What is an Isaiah 61 ministry?

HOPECONNECTIONS, as an outreach of Shepherd's Care, is founded upon the Scriptural passage of Isaiah 61:1-2. We wanted to build opportunities designed to allow people of differing faiths and philosophies, denominations or social groupings, ages and experiences, to all come together in a common motivation that connects them one to another, that of 'loving thy neighbor as thy self.'

When Linda took the first steps to set about accomplishing this ministry, her desire was to pass on the love of Jesus Christ in real and practical ways to those in need. She had learned the truth of Matthew 25:34-36, 40; in her own life, as she learned about God's love being shared with her for the first time in tangible ways. Her response was to want to do the same for others.

***"Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the***

***foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you invited Me in, naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me...***

***And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'***

With this in mind, Linda knew of the third principle directive of Shepherd's Care Ministries was based upon this passage, with the overall ministry based upon Isaiah 61:1-2. One could say it was a marriage made in heaven, when we approached her about offering our support of this outreach in connection with our other out-



**The Barrio**

**HOPECONNECTIONS**  
An Outreach of Shepherd's Care  
Ministries

**SCM has moved!**

The new mailing address is

**655 Lewelling Blvd # 337**  
**San Leandro, California 94579**

**Phone: (510) 667-0071**

**Email:**

**hopeconnections@earthlink.net**

**www.hopeconnections.org**

We need your help. Each year the need in these communities grows. We are able to provide the canned food and gifts through the generosity of the New Haven Schools, Borders, Crosswinds Church and numerous individuals in conjunction with SCM, but we need financial help to purchase food certificates, shampoo, soap, toothpaste and towels for the people that we minister to in the communities.

We try to provide a \$100 food certificate for each family so that they can buy fresh milk and meat for the children, from both Safeway and Albertson's stores within their community. We are fortunate that Safeway has offered to give us 10% off on the certificates because of our 501 C (3) status.

But we need the financial support from friends like you, who are called by the Holy Spirit to support Jesus' outreach ministry to those in need within our community. As always, all donations designated for HOPECONNECTIONS are used wholly in that outreach and your donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for your prayers and support. May Jesus richly bless you.

## Isaiah 61 continued....

outreaches.

It has been our belief that Jesus visited with people in differing communities and faiths around Him, ministering to people in need of basic life-sustaining items and instructed His disciples to do the same, often to people who had no idea who He was or would become for them. We endeavor to do the same, in the hope that this outreach will grow to reproduce itself in communities, by the teaching of people by example 'how to help those in need within their specific community first.'

When we bring people together to 'fulfill the Gospel of Jesus Christ' in practical and tangible ways, we share with our volunteers our motivations for doing so as a source of encouragement to take with them into their own homes and cultures to do likewise. The recipients of the gifts will hear only, "God loves you" or "Jesus loves you". Anything else shared will be by invitation only from the recipient

and then from the heart of the volunteer about why they're there.



The community gathering to receive clothing for their families.