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Urban Ministries Update

A quarterly review from Presbyterian Urban Ministries 1st Quarter
 A mission of the San Diego Presbytery 2011

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2459 Market St.
 San Diego, CA 92102
 Phone: 619-232-2753
 Fax: 619-238-5211
 Email: info@pumsd.org
 Web: www.pumsd.org

From the Director's Desk

My first three months as the new director have been like drinking from a fire-hose trying to comprehend the wonderful work that is accomplished here by a dedicated staff, committed volunteers, a wise steering committee, and generous congregations. It is a privilege to be associated with this organization focused on "serving the least..."

We kicked off the first quarter with a volunteer "brainstorming session" to set direction for the year. There will not be any drastic operational changes, but we do hope to find some efficiencies in processes and to decrease the dollars spent on items by increasing the donations of supplies as in-kind donations directly from companies. We will work to find cheaper sources of more nutritious foods to include in our snack packs and food bags. We will tighten up policies in order to make our resources last through the year and we will increase our communications with churches, volunteers and other interested parties. But mostly, we will be building on the foundation of this strong and essential ministry.

Although we (PUM) are not directly impacted by the anticipated drastic reduction in Federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), our partner agencies and referral resources have had their budgets slashed. In anticipation of no or limited funding after July 1, many agencies have begun to reduce the amount of services that they provide in order to keep their doors open. Others anticipate closing their doors after decades of service. Their clients become our clients and the need for assistance increases as the providers of assistance decrease.

Something happens here daily to remind us that we are doing God's work. One Friday, a volunteer said that she had a "hover-round" (a scooter/wheelchair for the mobility challenged) to donate from a neighbor. We accepted it graciously, but had not a clue about what we would do with it. On Monday morning, a person appeared on our doorstep who needed a "hover-round" in order to work. It gave us all chills. Late in January, we were concerned about our empty shelves and Rancho Bernardo blessed us the following Monday with thousands of cans of food from their SouperBowl canned food Drive. These "miracles" are affirmations that our hearts are in synch with the heart of our Father as we love our neighbors.

Thanks to everyone for prayers and generous support. Blessings, All!



The King will reply,
 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'
 Matthew 25:40

Inside this issue:

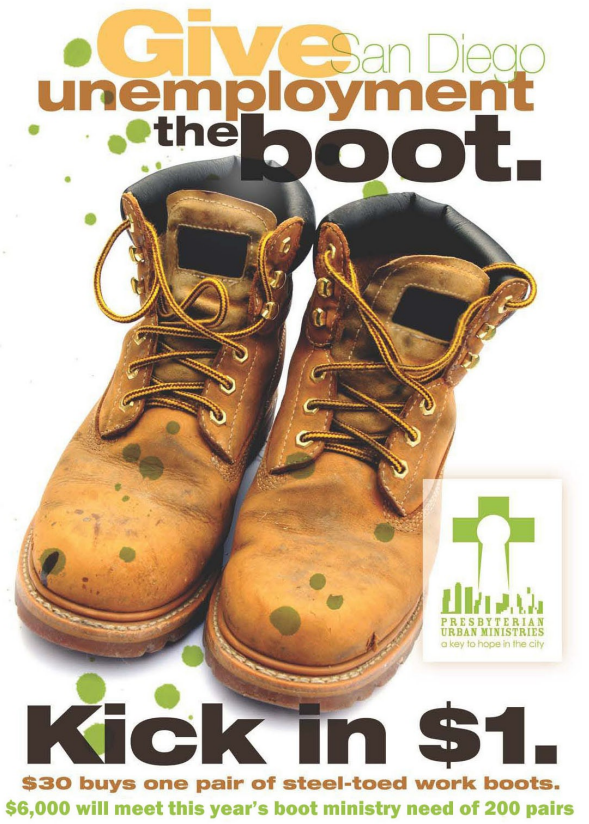
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Now for the Numbers

These numbers reflect the client "stroke tally" rather than the more detailed report from our client database. The category "other" includes things like work-boots, transportation vouchers, non-narcotic prescriptions, etc. Next quarter will include the data in the more detailed report.

	2010 Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	1Qtr Total	% of 2010 EOY
Clients seen:	7533	643	552	675	1870	25%
First time visitors:	2130	175	177	179	531	25%
Clothes:	4141	368	289	383	1040	25%
Food:	1145	95	64	132	291	25%
Hygiene:	1423	101	89	119	309	22%
ID:	1037	98	74	73	245	24%
Other:	2538	171	184	209	564	22%

PUM CALENDAR 2011	
April	Food Drive
May	Boot Drive
June	Hygiene Kits Drive
July	Mission Trips
August	Back Packs Drive
September	Golf for Good
October	Blanket and Jacket focus
November	Holiday Food and Toy Drive
December	Christmas Toys and Food Bag L



Give San Diego unemployment the boot.

Kick in \$1.
 \$30 buys one pair of steel-toed work boots.
 \$6,000 will meet this year's boot ministry need of 200 pairs

Fifth Annual Golf For Good Tournament takes a swing at urban poverty.
 DoubleTree Resort
 Sept. 16, 2011
 Shotgun Start: 12:30
 www.golf4good.org

Client-Tell: Beneath the Surface



PUM Staff: Jose Ojeda, Deb Mitchell, Rene Gonzalez, Dianna Abatecola



Rancho Bernardo Delivers the Goods: over 6000 cans from SouperBowl Sunday and a very generous monetary donation.



The Tobias family donates their children's cherished train set to PUM. The client's children began playing with it before it was set up.



Point Loma Community Communion Class stacks our pantry with food.

Look beneath the surface so you can judge correctly.—John 7:24

Linda,* originally from Ohio, came to the porch of Presbyterian Urban Ministries in a physically disabled state, having lost an eye, two teeth, and two toes to diabetes. While waiting for services, she got into an argument with another woman, Judy, on the porch. After separating the two women, our director Deb Mitchell met with Linda and asked her to tell her story. She told Deb she that she was living in a house with a dozen strangers, but that she had never felt so alone. She was comforted with the assurance that she is a child of God and she is never alone. Linda left with a coat and some food—but also with faith and hope.

Judy, the woman with whom Linda had been arguing, is mentally ill. She came to us for clothes but it was clear that her suffering was more than physical. After separating her and

Linda, Deb discovered that her mother, Inez, was with her and needed to be supported as well. From the front desk to the clothing room, volunteers comforted and strengthened this family, giving Inez not just clothes but support in caring for her daughter.

At many agencies, Linda and Judy would have been turned away because of their rough exteriors. At PUM, we look beneath the surface to see what has brought Linda, Judy, and Inez to us so that we can help them in profound ways. Guided by the love of Christ and his mandate to serve with compassion and humility, we listen to our clients, pray with and for them and their families, and work for real transformation in their lives. Physical appearances and first impressions are the surfaces that people present to the world—and, in many cases, they may make others turn away. But at PUM we strive see people as our Lord and Savior has mandated, to look beneath the surface, and find the child of God within.

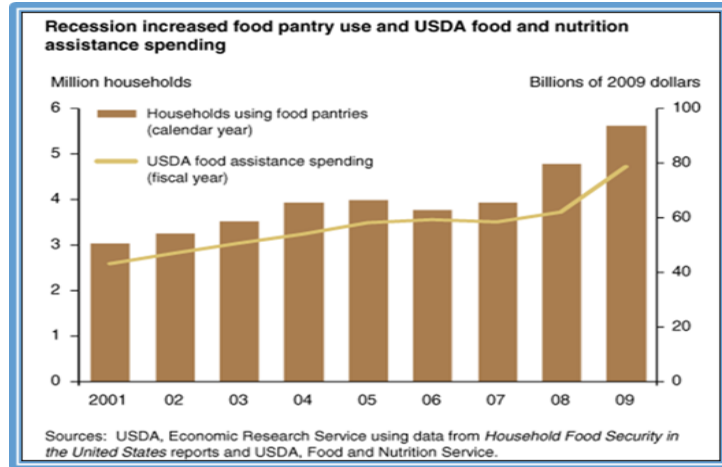
Jackie Bacon-McClish

*Names have been changed to respect privacy.

Federal Statistics Mirror Our Observations

Year over year we see more clients. The increase in need for food assistance grows with the growth in unemployment. The unemployment numbers have become a bit more stable, but as a client pointed out, “they’ve got PhD’s flipping burgers now. What chance have I got?”

We offer hope to our clients and we help them compete for the jobs that become available by providing IDs and steel-toed boots once they have a job...thanks to your support.



Two Online Wish Lists for PUM and our needs!

We now have two lists from which you can order things to be delivered directly to PUM, all from your computer! We will constantly update it with current needs and you can use it at any time. The lists are up and active:

<http://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/>

<http://dollaradays.com/presbyterianurbanministries/wishlist.html>

These lists include our ongoing need for granola bars and cereal, and some of the larger items may be perfect for groups (Women’s groups, Deacons) or families to buy as a group. And if you are coming up on a birthday or other

special occasion and want to give or ask for an “alternative” gift, you can send out the lists!

We are also looking for room dividers (office cubicle walls) to buffer the noise and add some privacy in our case-worker’s offices. If you know of anyone who could donate the room dividers, please give Deb Mitchell a call at 619-223-

God’s Vision for PUM’s Bible Study

PUM’s Bible study was launched in June, 2009, and except for holidays, continues to serve clients on Wednesdays from 10 until 11 a.m.

Measurable accomplishments:

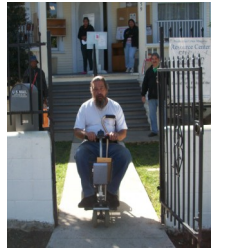
- Monthly visits from pastors in the Presbytery to share in the study and to offer Communion
- Development of a core group of clients (5-6 peo-

ple) who arrive at PUM, not to receive services, but to participate in Bible study on a regular basis

- Opportunities to offer spiritual counseling and prayer in small groups or on a 1:1
- Translation (Spanish) of Bible study discussion whenever Spanish-only clients attend
- Referral to local churches

who welcome the poor and/or homeless, including First Presbyterian, Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana, and Gospel Hall

- Opportunities for clients to share testimonies and music (e.g., vocal, guitar)
- Invitations to all who wish to visit. Contact leaders Linda Sunderland 619-788-8483 or Ros Marver 760-419-3500.



Hover-round: Donated Battery: PUM funded Mobility: Priceless



Point Loma Community’s Deacons sponsored a Pancake Breakfast to benefit PUM in February



In the shadow of Petco Park, a few blocks from our house.



We “cleaned house” with the rummage sale on March 5th. We were able to sell some of the “clutter” to raise money for bus passes.



Linda Sunderland shares her faith in the door-stepping ministry.

Volunteer Spotlight: Ken Kaffka

Literary types will know the adjective Kafkaesque, meaning “of, relating to, or suggestive of Franz Kafka or his writings; having a nightmarishly complex, bizarre, or illogical quality.” People who know our volunteer Ken Kaffka, though, might be inclined to use a new adjective Kaffkaesque, which would have a very different meaning: “of, relating to, or suggestive of Ken Kaffka’s work at PUM, having an enthusiastic, energetic, compassionate, and helpful quality.” Every Wednesday—and many other days as well—Ken is at PUM, serving our clients in his own, Kaffkaesque way. Recently, Ken paused in his service long enough to give us the following interview:

What kinds of things do you do as a volunteer at PUM? Normally, I work in the clothing room. I have also recently been working on cleaning and sorting downstairs at PUM to enable us to be more orga-

nized and store things more efficiently. I also do a lot of chatting and joking around with clients. (Other volunteers have added to Ken’s answer here that he



Ken Kaffka helps a client find a suit along with some help from his new friends from Rancho Bernardo’s Youth Group “Otros.”

also keeps the rest of us entertained with his sense of humor!)

Why do you volunteer?

Because I can.

Are there stories of clients that have particularly moved you?

One man who came to the clothing room told me he was just out of jail. When I asked him how he was doing, he said he missed his cellmate. “You

see,” he told me, “he’s my son.”

I recall another woman who came in to us looking very ill. After I asked her if she needed water, or to sit down, she

shared with me that she was just out of the hospital after having a double mastectomy ten days prior. Now she was back on the street.

What is the biggest challenge to this kind of work?

We have a challenge at PUM to do more with less, to find ways to do what

we do better, easier, faster, and cheaper. Coming from a business background, this is what I bring to my work at PUM. How can we do things more efficiently in order to be most effective?

How about the greatest blessing?

I don’t measure things like that—it’s not about me! You’d have to ask the clients.