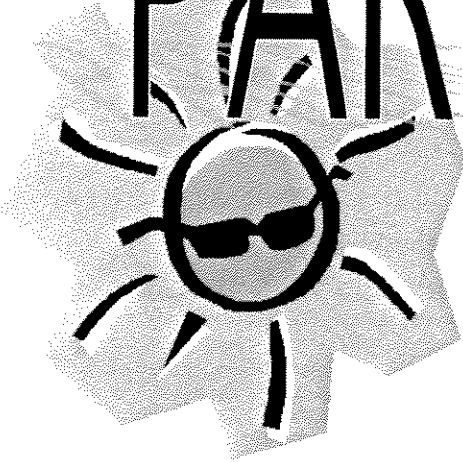
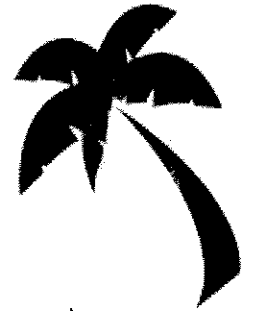


PARTNERING

The Newsletter of
the Southwest
Community Center
Annie Mae Tripp
Founder
Summer
2007



LASTING IMPRESSIONS A LETTER FROM OUR SUMMER INTERN



It is fairly difficult to provide a concise summary of my entire eight weeks at the Southwest Community Center on paper, in essay format. Nothing I write can capture the experiences I have had, memories I have made and people I have met. My time here has just flown by. I remember the first day that I walked in an hour late, after having gotten lost multiple times. I had no idea what was in store for me, other than hoping my new "job" would allow me to help people in need. My first task was to fill out client intake sheets for food bag distribution and then input the collected information into the system. As soon as I had figured out how to ask how much income our clients made monthly in Spanish, I was assigned a new task. This time, my job was to answer the phones. In no time at all, answering with a cheery "Good morning, Southwest" had become second nature to me, when suddenly, I realized that we had two phones, both of which had call waiting!

And so my days passed quickly. Each time I became comfortable with a client service, I was assigned a new one. Answering the phones became so routine to me that I would get home after a day of work at the Center and pick up my own cell phone with "Good afternoon, Southwest!" Regardless, I have enjoyed the great variety of tasks; not only would I distribute food, but I also took appointments for rental and utility assistance, helped serve meals to the homeless, and took appointments for clothing distribution. I was given a lot of freedom; instead of being told how exactly to organize the dry and canned goods shelves, I was given a stack of labels, a Sharpie, and told to do my best. I believe that this attitude is characteristic of how the Southwest Community Center is able to run smoothly: as long as everyone does their best and has the same goal in mind, things will get done.

Continued....



Lasting Impressions continued...

I encountered many different types of people every day. I got to know the director of the Center, Connie Jones, who always seems to sneak into the shelter after-hours to do some last-minute paperwork. I met Jessie Allen, a volunteer who works at the center more than some people do at their full-time jobs. I also met David, Elsa, and Leroy, all dedicated employees who do their best to make sure nutritious meals are served and that the center is clean and functioning. I met Stan, a board member who does most of our food pick-ups and took me to two food banks on my last day. I was amazed by how volunteer-driven the Southwest Community Center is; without the help of volunteers such as Ms. McAllister and Ms. Lois, Leroy's Ladies, and everyone who comes in to help serve meals, Southwest would not operate nearly as efficiently.

However, it is not only those who work at the Southwest Center that left a lasting impression on me. While I got to know some clients better than others, even the simplest of encounters (a warm smile, a few words of gratitude, a curious child) changed me. I believe that the biggest lesson I have taken from my eight weeks is that unless you know someone's entire story, you have no right to judge them. I came into this experience believing that my opinions towards the less fortunate were pretty open-minded and generous; however, as I continued to work, I realized that I have some prejudices against the poor. The most obvious of these was that in the past, if I saw a middle-aged, able-bodied man standing at a street corner holding a sign reading "I'm homeless, please help," my first reaction was: get a job. However, I was forced to come to terms with the fact that it is nearly impossible for the homeless to pull themselves out of their current situation without help from outside organizations. Not only is it difficult for them to discover job openings suitable for their education level, but once they do, they need to find a method of transportation to get to work. They also need access to a computer and possibly help from a person knowledgeable in creating a resume. He or she then needs a contact phone number and address, and clothing appropriate for an interview (if they are granted one). If they do miraculously get the job, the first few weeks leading up to their first paycheck are extremely difficult, as they are still unable to afford any housing other than perhaps a cheap motel room. Hearing the stories of many of our clients opened my eyes to that fraction of society that no one thinks about when they hear "Orange County."

I feel extremely fortunate to have been given the opportunity to spend part of my summer working at the Southwest Community Center. While going to the beach sometimes sounded much more appealing than taking rental applications when it felt like it was ninety degrees inside the Center's Office, I don't regret one minute of my work. Not only did I gain insight into the lives of others, but working with those who are less fortunate than I am also showed me the many blessings that have been bestowed on me. Furthermore, I learned to recognize the humanity within each and every person, regardless of how many dollars they have in their pocket or in their bank account. While I do not know if there will ever be a day when no one is living in poverty, I know that helping others is something I want to continue doing for the rest of my life.

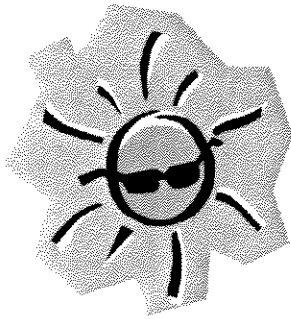
Many Thanks To Our SWCC Partners

Corporations Giving Substantial Support

Aqua Design
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Churches & Organizations Giving Substantial Financial Support

American Postal Workers Union
Church of the Foothills, Santa Ana
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First Baptist Church, Santa Ana
First Presbyterian Church, Santa Ana
First United Methodist Church, Santa Ana
Graceland Baptist Church
Mount of Olives Lutheran Church, Mission Viejo
Newport Beach and Corona del Mar Kiwanis Club
Notre Dame Club
Orange County Register
Our Lady Queen of Angels
Second Baptist Church, Santa Ana
Seratoma Club - Orange
South Coast Apartment Association
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church
Telephone Pioneers, De Anza Chapter
Trinity United Presbyterian Church
United Methodist Women
Women's Club of Santa Ana



Food Servers and Providers

Adopt a Neighbor
Anaheim Japanese Free Methodist Church
Christ Presbyterian Church, Huntington Beach
El Pollo Loco
First Baptist Church, Santa Ana
First Presbyterian Church, Santa Ana
First Presbyterian Church, Westminster
First United Methodist Church, Santa Ana
Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Fountain Valley
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Irvine Presbyterian Church
Korean Martyrs, Catholic Center
Mesa Verde United Methodist Church, Costa Mesa
Mount of Olives Lutheran Church, Mission Viejo
Newman Center, Cal State Fullerton
Notre Dame Club of Orange County
Queen of Angels Church, Newport Beach
Sai Baba
Second Baptist Church, Santa Ana
Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist, Mission Viejo
St. Bonaventure Church, Huntington Beach
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Irvine
St. Joachim Catholic Church, Costa Mesa
St. John the Baptist Church, Costa Mesa
St. Killian's Church
St. Martin's Church, Yorba Linda
St. Mary's Church, Fullerton
St. Norbert's Church, Orange
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Tustin
Temple Beth Shalom
Trinity Episcopal Church, Orange
Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Santa Ana

Help Support the Work of the Southwest Community Center

Yes! *I want to be a part of helping people help themselves through the Southwest Community Center.*

I want to help in the following ways.

- Volunteer by _____
- Provide monthly financial support in the amount of \$ _____
- Offer a onetime gift in the amount of \$ _____ designated for _____
- Our Church or group would like a presentation, please contact me for more information
- Please send me more information about the Center

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Day Time Phone (_____) _____

Use the attached envelope or mail to Southwest Community Center, 1601 W. Second St., Santa Ana, CA 92703

FINANCIAL REPORT

We are so grateful for all of the individuals and organizations that have given us financial support again this year. The small and large donations all add up to help us cover the expenses of all that we do for those who are in need. Even though the income is less than expense so far this year, we continue with all of our programs to help the poor people in Orange County as we hope that contributions will make up our deficit. Thank you to everyone.



Income thru August 2007 \$163,856

Expense thru August 2007 \$179,136

Net expense over income (\$15,280)



- Regular Schedule of Services -	
Breakfast (Daily)	8 am – 9 am
Lunch (Daily)	12 noon – 1 pm
Dinner (Saturdays)	4 pm – 5 pm
Outreach Services* (M, W, Sat)	10 am – 2 pm
* Food baskets, emergency housing, clothing, health checks, etc.	

Southwest Community Center
 1601 W Second Street
 Santa Ana, CA 92703

PARTNERING
 Published quarterly for the friends of
 the Southwest Community Center

Annie Mae Tripp, Founder

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