

WELCOME MINISTRY OF EAST COUNTY



2022 YEAR-END REPORT

In December 2022 Welcome Ministry of East County brought on Naomi Madsen as Program Manager. Her history with refugee resettlement and nonprofit management are a good fit to her ministry oversight responsibilities with WMEC. If you have questions about WMEC, or are interested in becoming a volunteer or donor to our outreach programs, contact Naomi by mail at Welcome Ministry EC, 490 Farragut Circle, El Cajon CA 92020, or by email at naomi@welcomeministryec.org, or call her at 619-212-6073.

Hey Volunteers!

Our Volunteer Laundry Coordinator, Debbie, is a former client. We are always in need of more volunteers so we can serve even more guests



The privilege of having clean clothes is one many people take for granted... until they no longer have that privilege. It matters. A lot

Financial donations and donations of volunteer time can make it possible for us to serve more people, to encourage and to empower them.

Give, and you'll be encouraged too!



Good Neighbor Laundry Love

primarily serves homeless persons, people at risk of becoming homeless, those transitioning off the street and other vulnerable neighbors

For those participating in a program (i.e. for youth transitioning off the street, programs helping families and young people and veterans avoid homelessness, and other programs serving needy clients) we request a referral from a case manager. Transportation must be provided by guests.

Our volunteers provide money for laundry. They also have free soap and fabric softener sheets available. The soap is provided by **Laundry Love**, our wonderful partner who helps people around the country start laundry programs to help the unhoused and other needy neighbors.

Our volunteers do not handle laundry. They put the money in the machines for the guest, plus provide them with soap and softener if needed. We can only offer one load per individual per visit, or 2 loads for a family of 2 or more.

We take referrals and make reservations on Monday for laundry the following day (Tues). Call our Volunteer Laundry Coordinator at 619-551-0261. At this time, these are the only times we have available.



Who is doing what?

The **Food Pantry** is organized and overseen by Judy Brown, volunteer from St. Alban's

Good Neighbor Laundry Love laundry ministry is coordinated by volunteer Debbie Astor

Welcome Church in the Park is overseen by volunteer Father Phil Loveless

Table Talk is organized and overseen by volunteers Lee Silk, Mary Curran-Downy and Denise Dreier

Bi-lingual Mass is organized by Father Dave Madsen and Judy Brown.

Thanks so much for all you do!

Total Cash Contributions in 2022 \$59,557

Donations in Kind

Space/assistance provided by St. Alban's Episcopal Church for:

- *Bilingual Mass, Food Pantry, Table Talk
- *WMEC office and meetings
- *Clerical/Office assistance from staff
- *Copies/ Printing, Phone

Time, Talents & Goods—Literally 1000's of volunteer hours and donated goods

Food Pantry:

- *Drivers/Food Bank Shoppers
- *Loaders and Unloaders
- *Packers and Distributors
- *Set-up and Cleaning

Protein Packs provided by 1st Presbyterian Church:

- *Donated Food & Supplies
- *Packers

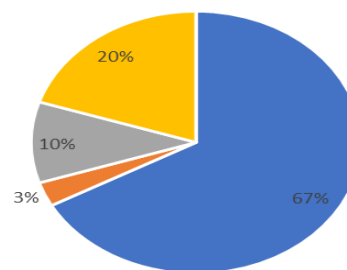
Welcome Church in the Park and Bilingual Mass:

- *Set-up, take-down, loading and transporting
- *Lay leaders, Preachers & Celebrants
- *Interpreters, Greeters, Distributors of Protein Packs
- *Donations of tarps, clean socks, warm hats, gloves and scarves
- * Congregational and Community Volunteers

Table talk:

- *Leaders & Assistants

Donations of Funds in 2022



- denominational support (ELCA)
- churches
- other nonprofits
- individual donors



Food Pantry

Bilingual Mass

Welcome Church in the Park and Table Talk

WMEC's ministries of friendship and worship continue to serve our neighbors who are on the street, new to the country, and all who are in need of fellowship and sustenance, both physical and spiritual.

These much appreciated services are led by volunteers and ecumenical partners who share their time, their gifts and their presence without reservation. They are the heart of WMEC and will continue to be, even as we see our ministries grow in size and in number.

Perhaps our biggest challenge and opportunity in the future will be to share WMEC's ministries and to encourage community and congregational volunteers from partners new and old to join us.

What a gift we have to offer!

Guests waiting for the twice monthly food pantry to open. We serve our guests on the first and third Tuesday mornings of each month.



Holy Eucharist table at Welcome Church in the Park, held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in various locations



Volunteer Table Talk leaders, (left to right) Mary Curran-Downey, Lee Silk and Denise Drier, meet with English learners who want to improve their language skills each Wednesday morning at 10AM in St. Alban's parish hall.

***First Presbyterian Church of El Cajon members
find the secret to happiness! (at least one of the secrets...)
Packing Protein Packs for Welcome Church!***



Cindy Graham, Director of Outreach and Operations at 1st Presbyterian, shares how she made this amazing discovery.



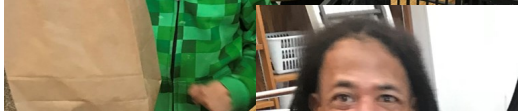
“So here’s what I did:

We were already collecting items for the Protein Packs from the congregation, so I advertised in our Sunday announcements, Sunday bulletin and weekly eblast that I was inviting members to come and participate in putting the Packs together—and they loved it!!!! (Just look at those faces!)

Also, I included pictures of items to purchase, which a lot of people started doing, which pressed their happy button. Some people preferred to make financial contributions, which made them happy. So, then I would go shopping. (Always a happy place, right?)

Now we host a protein pack assembly day about once every other month. We have 15-20 people turn out, and the whole process takes about 15 minutes. We pack and distribute about 100 packs a month. The opportunity is open to new packers to participate. First come, first served! We’re willing to share the opportunity.

Then *even more* people will have a chance to find the secret to happiness!”



Who knew?!



Welcoming Matters.... And you can be part of it

**Intissar is a happy member of
Welcome Ministry's Table Talk**

for about a year. That's when the group started meeting in person inside again, after spending the many months of the pandemic meeting in small groups on FaceTime or Google Duo, and then outside in the yard – six feet apart, of course, before finally coming back to their classroom at St. Alban's Episcopal Church.

She is a refugee from Iraq, and was invited by her friends, Nawal and Mary, also from Iraq, and faithful members of Table Talk since the first gathering over 5 years ago. These ladies all love gathering for conversational English, and for the additional instruction from leaders Lee Silk, Mary Curran-Downy and Denise Dreier.

Intissar, who has been in America 8 years, wanted to make it clear how much she values the classes. "I keep every story and every lesson sheet in a file. I read the stories again at home, and work on my English at home too. When I first came, the lessons seemed hard to me. But I have improved! They seem much easier now. Our teachers are always so helpful."

She is far from her home and family who are still in Baghdad, and since come to America has endured loss of work twice, the stress of trying to find her own apartment, 2 leg surgeries (now she does yoga !) and more.

But, she is always quick to tell how grateful she is, for America, for her doctors, for her apartment, for friends. *And, for Table Talk.*

***Help change someone else's
life...and change your own
Volunteer!***

Email: naomi@welcomeministryec.org

It seems like a long time ago now ...

that the pandemic invaded our personal lives, our ministries, our plans. And we all felt the consequences. I realize we have 'moved on', but we still remember the strings that bound us all, held us all down, including our children and grandchildren. But we have learned, as we always do in adversity – if we're paying attention, that we must prepare to be ready for 'the next big thing'. Because we never know when or how it will come, only that it will.

Welcome Ministry, like many other organizations that have as their mission to be of help to those on the margins who have needs, never stopped helping. The food pantry kept providing food the first and third Tuesdays of every month, without fail. The Welcome Church, even though we could not meet in person, had volunteers that went out and shared lunches with those on the street, who were always grateful, and surprised that people remembered them.

The two spheres of Welcome Ministry continue to be engaged in service: Welcome Church, looking for ways to serve the "unsheltered" and those living on the margins of society, and Joy Force, working with refugees, asylum seekers and all immigrants. I am so grateful and honored to be associated with the volunteers of Welcoming Ministry, amazing people who give of their time, talent and treasure in order to share, and to become, the love of God made visible to the world.



Fr Dave Madsen,
Senior Pastor of Welcome Ministry