



# 2011 Fall Edition

# T H E R E S O U R C E

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Executive Director

**John Cooper**  
Assistant Director

**Gail Possert**  
P.O.W.E.R Class Instructor

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Computer Instructor

**Stacy Waddle**  
Director, Thrift Store

**Kathleen Rener**  
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**Lynda Sue Elmes**  
Special Events

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**George Marquez**  
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Administrative Assistant

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## Friends of Grace,

Many know that Grace Resources, Inc. took over the Lancaster Community Shelter in July of this year. In many ways our stepping in as Catholic Charities stepped away is a perfect fit. We'd like to think that our philosophy about running the shelter is innovative, fresh, and moving forward in a positive way. Everyone on staff here at Grace certainly is working hard to make that true.

At Grace we've always followed the same philosophy of ministry. Identify the need, identify the best way to meet that need, and find the money to make it happen. Donors have been very generous to us over the past twenty years and we have been successful in making this philosophy work. Of course the Lord is the reason it all works, because none of us are smart enough, clever enough, or savvy enough to do what we do. Jesus guides us by His unlimited wisdom and provides what we need through His unlimited power. Every person on the staff is humbled and grateful for His guidance and leadership.

When we prayed about the opportunity of taking over the shelter the Board of Directors, local Pastors, and the staff all sensed God opening doors for us, and frankly, until the invitation to participate in the request for proposal we had no ideas what doors were opening or why.

There were no funds to operate the shelter. It costs Grace a little over 60,000 dollars a month to keep our doors open and serve the needs of our community. Our annual budget is \$750,000.00. The annual budget for the shelter is \$650,000.00. Several pastors met with me and took a special offering, and a former teacher from college donated \$10,000.00 to help. In total \$68,000.00 was raised in that initial push.

We have operated Grace Resource Center and the Shelter for 3 months, and that money is now gone, and then some. None of the grants we've applied for have been approved and no funds have come in other than

that first amount. Yet God has made it possible to keep the doors of Grace Resource Center and the Shelter open for ministry! I'm excited to see what He will do next!


Here's the rub. Our donors have been awesome! But they can't do it. God is raising up new donors and bringing money from places we never dreamed it would come from. Yet we need to expand our base of support. Actually, God keeps Grace going with about 1,800 people/families giving generously. Would you pray with us that others will follow that example, open their hearts to the needy in the Antelope Valley, and help us? We are doing our part. Plans for a capital campaign and a new alliance are under way. In the meantime the bills keep coming in, the needs have increased, and every person on staff is stretched to the limit.

I'm having some health issues that are adding to all the usual chaos and trusting the Lord to see me through. Please keep me in your prayers. My staff continues to amaze me, and our volunteers are awesome! I truly love every moment I spend here at Grace Resource Center, and in our community.

Our blessed Lord Jesus continues to amaze us as He meets needs with His usual panache. We are trusting Him to open hearts and provide new Friends of Grace to join with our usual suspects (just kidding!) in supporting this ministry. The shelter has not closed its doors and is operating at a greater capacity than ever. I'm being totally honest when I say that we cannot do this without your help. Thank you. Now let's follow Jesus together and watch him change our world one heart at a time.

Yours to count on,

Steve Baker  
Executive Director

# Thank you!!!

Grace Resource Center would like to thank the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, Albertsons, Vons, Vallarta, 20 Mule Team Borax, Food4Less, All Valley Federal Credit Union, George's Cleaners, Round Table Pizza, Cullen Insurance Agency, Greater AV Association of Realtors, Northrup Grumman, Palmdale Auto Mall, Rally Kia, AV Chevrolet and Waste Management for helping us raise **\$39,980.00** in Pre-sale fair admission Tickets. **These businesses went above and beyond to help**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**NOVEMBER**

**Grace-A-Thon**

KTPI—Hot Country, 97.7 FM  
Friday, November 4th and Saturday, November 5th  
Fundraiser for 2,000 Thanksgiving Food Baskets

**Yes 2 Kids Pancake Breakfast**

Saturday, November 5th  
**Grace Resource Center**  
\$5.00 a breakfast  
9 am to 11 am



**Thanksgiving Day Meal**

Thursday, November 24th, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm  
Volunteers needed to bring prepared food and serve.

**DECEMBER**

**Adopt-A-Family Program**

We are collecting NEW clothes, toys and food for families in need. If you would like to adopt a family, please contact Grace Resource Center.

**Christmas Day Meal**

Saturday, December 25th, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm  
Volunteers needed to bring prepared food and serve



**WANTED VOLUNTEERS!!**

Grace Resource Center serves Hot "Souper" Meals three times a week on Wednesday evening 5:30 to 6:30, Friday evening 6:00 to 7:00 and Sunday afternoon from 1:30 to 2:30 pm.



**We are looking help with our Thanksgiving Dinner. Each volunteer will need to bring a dinner item or dessert .**

This is a wonderful way share your blessings with others. Start a new family tradition. If you are interested or would like more information please contact:

**John Cooper, Assistant Director and Volunteer Coordinator at (661) 940-5272.**



**A Future and a Hope**

By Bill Bennett, PIDP Coordinator

Few people spend time thinking about the quality of life in the region where they live other than factors like safety and crime rates. For most of us, the bottom line is cost of living. Period. Yet there are some things we should all consider in relation to the region we call

home, the Antelope Valley.

Los Angeles County is home to approximately 10,175,000 people! Of the eight geographical regions the Antelope Valley covers nearly 2,400 square miles. It is the largest of the service provider areas (SPA) and is home to approximately 348,000 residents. Only 3.5% of the population of our county lives in the Antelope Valley (AV). Yet that tiny percentage leads the county in areas that severely limit our quality of life!

For instance, the AV is 2<sup>nd</sup> in LA County in teen pregnancies (per capita) and 1<sup>st</sup> in second pregnancies during high school! We have the most cases of Chlamydia per capita in the county, and are 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 8 SPAs in Gonorrhea. The Antelope Valley also leads the county in surgical procedures (abortions) per capita. This is not a picture of quality of life.

47.3% of our population is Latino while 68% of teen pregnancies are among that group. 30% of our population is white, 9% is African American, 13% Asian/Pacific Islander, and about 0.3% American Indian/Alaskan Native. The AV has the highest percentage of children 17 and under who have special health care needs (23.6%). We also have the highest percentage of children ages 3-17 diagnosed with ADD/ADHD (8.6%)

Almost 20% of all live births occurring in the AV started prenatal care after the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester or had no prenatal care. We also have the highest percentage of smokers, and as a correlation, the highest number of deaths related to lung cancer. We are 2<sup>nd</sup> in the county in the percentage of adults who are obese, and first in the percentage of diabetes related deaths. AV also leads the county in deaths caused by coronary heart disease, stroke, and strokes for African Americans.

As dismal as these statistics are, they are all something that we who live in the Antelope Valley can change for the better! It is one of the reasons Grace Resource Center exists. We are on the front lines of the battle against the root causes of poverty and hunger. In fighting against some of these things we have made our campus a tobacco free campus. There is one designated smoking area outside and away from the general population, and I wish we could eliminate that!

Working together we can make the place we call home a much better place to live. Quality of life can be improved through joint efforts. I salute the Fresh Air Antelope Valley Coalition and Pueblo Y Salud, Inc. for their efforts at making this a better place to live. It is long past time we rolled up our sleeves, put our shoulders together, and faced issues that will ultimately cost lives.

Lives are too valuable to waste. Life is too valuable to treat poorly. Let's not wait until the cost of these things buries us and many people die needlessly. I implore you to stand with the folks in this valley who believe that every individual deserves to live in a place where the quality of life is the best that can be offered! I hope you feel the same way.

*God First • Love Well • Forgive Quickly • Praise Often • Walk the Talk*

## Holiday Adopt-A-Family Program

Grace Resource Center helps hundreds of families during the holiday season and gives thousands of toys to needy children. You can make a tremendous difference in the lives of families by participating in our "Adopt-A-Family" Program.

Now more than ever many families struggle to pay the everyday bills and the holidays are a financial and emotional drain when money is tight. Families will sign-up the first week in December at GRC and complete a family information form. Business and individuals will select their families and have until the 19th of December to purchase their gifts and supplies for their families and deliver them to GRC.

### Items often purchased and donated:

- ◆ Clothing
- ◆ Toys (unwrapped)
- ◆ Gift Cards for stores, restaurants and movies
- ◆ Groceries
- ◆ Gift card for Christmas Tree
- ◆ Tree Decorations
- ◆ Holiday Decorations
- ◆ Gift Wrap and supplies
- ◆ Gas Cards
- ◆ (No cash donations to families—please)



**For more information or to participate, contact Lynda Elmes (661) 940-5272.**

## Parent and Family Coaching

By Bill Bennett



We are looking for mature Christian men and women, strong in their faith, who have a **passion for becoming a parent and family coach**. Are you interested? Call **Bill Bennett at Grace Resource Center 661-940-5272** to find out what training is available and how to become a part of this exciting



Grace Resource Center

**SALUTES**

**Waste Management  
and  
Sandra Pursley**

For their above and beyond support of our ministries. Without businesses like these we could not serve those in need.

**Cheers!!!**



## ABUNDANCE SUNDAY PROGRAM

Please join Grace Resource Center in taking a stand against hunger and poverty! Our "Abundance Sunday / Monday" Program is an ideal way for you, your business, club, congregation or even neighborhood, to directly make a difference in the lives of thousands here in the Antelope Valley.

**A collection barrel can be delivered to your business, church or organization.**

<b>JANUARY</b>	<i>Toothpaste &amp; toothbrushes</i>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<i>Diapers - children and adult</i>
<b>MARCH</b>	<i>Shampoo, hand lotion, chapstick, sunscreen &amp; deodorant</i>
<b>APRIL</b>	<i>Children and adult socks and underwear</i>
<b>MAY</b>	<i>Baby food (jars) and baby diapers</i>
<b>JUNE</b>	<i>Shampoo, hand lotion, chapstick, sunscreen and deodorant</i>
<b>JULY</b>	<i>Shampoo, hand lotion, chapstick, sunscreen and deodorant</i>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<i>Baby formula, baby food and baby supplies.</i>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<i>Diapers – children and adult</i>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<i>Shampoo, hand lotion, soap, feminine hygiene</i>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<i>Hats, scarves, mittens (children &amp; adult)</i>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<i>Baby formula, baby food and baby supplies.</i>

**New children's toys are always welcome!**

**Please contact (661) 940-5272 if you have any questions or would like to participate in this program.**

Visit our website at  
[www.graceresources.org](http://www.graceresources.org)

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## Grace Resource Center

45134 N. Sierra Highway  
Lancaster, CA 93534  
Phone: 661-940-5272  
Fax: 661-940-5274

Our mission is to eliminate hunger in the Antelope Valley and share the love of Christ in a tangible way by the giving of services.

# \$10.00 OF HOPE

[www.GraceResourcesFundraiser.com](http://www.GraceResourcesFundraiser.com)



**Grace Resource Center** is pleased to share with you our "\$10.00 Of Hope" fundraiser. Your generous donation of only \$10.00 a month will help us provide food, clothing, shelter and much, much more to the Antelope Valley residents who are truly in need.

### **How to donate.**

Go online to [www.GraceResourceFundraising.com](http://www.GraceResourceFundraising.com) and become a GRC Fundraising Partner.

### **How to help!**

Get your friends, family and neighbors involved. Invite your co-workers, church group, club or staff member to sign up as well.

**Grace Resource Center**  
**\$10 Of Hope**  
**www.GraceResourcesFundraiser.com**

Help Grace Resource Center provide food, clothing and shelter to more than 8,000 Antelope Valley residents. Join our **\$10 of Hope Fundraiser** today!

45134 N. SIERRA HWY., LANCASTER CA 93534

Thousands in our Valley go hungry every day.  
With just \$10.00 a month you have the  
power to change that.