

THE FIRST SERVANT



FirstServe

Community Services of the South Bay, Inc.
"Serving People, Changing Lives"

FirstServe, a CA non-profit corporation, identifies and helps the lonely and vulnerable - particularly the elderly, the grieving, the developmentally disadvantaged and those not native to the U.S.A. Utilizing community resources, FirstServe provides care through individual counseling, small group support, volunteer training, and opportunities for arts enrichment and cross-cultural understanding. FirstServe contributes to the growth of the South Bay as a place of hospitality for all.

A YEAR OF GROWTH AND LOVE, SERVING PEOPLE, CHANGING LIVES



*FirstServe's second year of life as a partner in ministry with First Lutheran Church and School has been one of excitement as we continue our four basic programs of *Serving People; Changing Lives*.*

During the year we received program grants from the Southern California Synod and the Toyota Corporation. Grant applications are out to additional corporations and the Board continues to seek gifts to carry on this essential ministry. In addition, each program has expanded and grown, and two new emphases have gained strength.

This Spring 2009 Issue of the *First Servant* is a report on each of these programs and the good news each is experiencing. Please read and rejoice with our ministry of *Serving People; Changing Lives*.



***Your Financial Contributions to
FirstServe are Tax-Deductible!***

***Thanks for your support and
partnership—it means so much!***

OUR PROGRAMS & SERVICES

English as a Learned Language (ELL): With Pastor Anna-Kari Johnson as Program Associate and teacher, ELL meets each Wednesday and Thursday morning for class instruction, mentoring and friendship. The classes are open to all community residents who are looking to improve their language and communication skills. There is no charge for participation.

Good news — It was a privilege to have the Toyota Corporation make a grant of \$2,000 to FirstServe. Our Southern California Synod also made 2008-2009 grant toward ELL. This year has been a year of growth both in class size material learned.

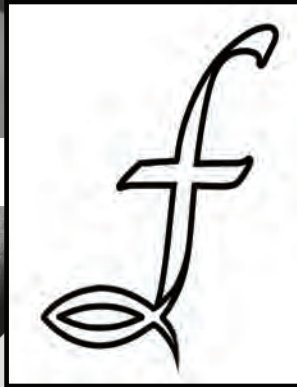
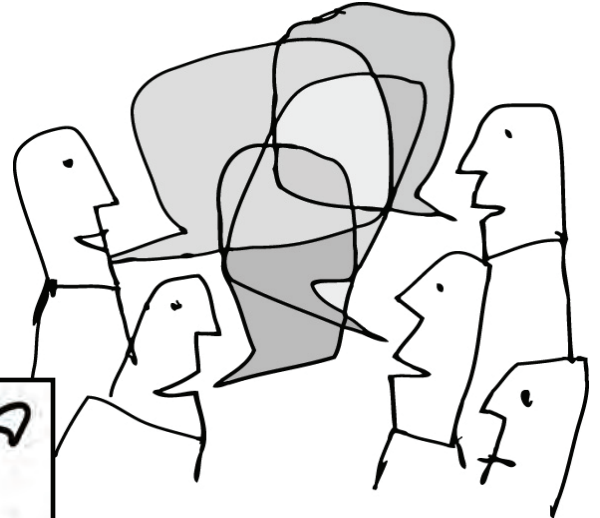
First Friends: First Friends is a growing fellowship and activity group of adults with special-needs. We meet the fourth Wednesday of each month in the FLCS Library, for crafts, food, experience sharing and friendship.

Good news — In the past year, we have gone on a picnic to Rocketship Park, played Bingo with prizes, planted Spring flowers, and watched movies together. If you are interested in helping or joining this wonderful group, please contact Laura Carson, Program Associate (carsonl@flchurch.org).

Monday Night Meals: First Lutheran's long time cooperation with St. John's in Gardena to serve meals for homeless and under-employed neighbors is linked with FirstServe. Carole Colby is the new Program Associate. Monday Night Meals serves a growing number of adults and children each week. We thank Terry Wall for her years of leadership.

Good news — Through the support of so many we served more than 800 hot nutritious meals during the first two months of 2009. In this difficult economy the need to stand with our neighbors in need has never been greater, and Monday Night Meals is one important way to be a neighbor, serve people, and change lives for the better.

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310-320-9920 ext. 161 + www.first-serve.org**



Serving People, Changing Lives



OUR PROGRAMS & SERVICES

(cont'd from page 1)

"Walking the Mourner's Path":

"Walking the Mourner's Path" is a support program for persons dealing with bereavement. This is a new program for FirstServe, and began its work in 2008. The Rev. Dr. Bill Hurst is the Program Associate, trained in this innovative faith-centered grief relief program during his years in New York serving grieving people in the aftermath of the World Trade Center disaster.



Good news — The newest Mourners Path group began its Eight Week support process early in March and will conclude shortly after Easter. Plans for facilitator training and additional 2009 groups are underway.

More good news

- **Broadway at First**, a night of song and laughter led by members and friends of First Lutheran will return for another night of joy and celebration on **Sunday, June 14th**. The new theme will be based upon radio shows of the past. Save the date for a time of fun, entertainment, and sharing gifts to serve people and change lives!
- **Basket Bonanza**, a Saturday morning sharing (by bids) of baskets of specialty items prepared by First Lutheran members, will be introduced for the first time this fall, October 17, in the Fellowship Hall. Members will be invited to prepare their special interest baskets and then offer them for silent auction. The morning will be a fun time of fellowship, refreshments, and bidding. Watch for more information. Roxanne Achenbach is the chair for this event.
- **Ministry with the elderly** is an important emphasis for both First Lutheran and FirstServe. FirstServe has expanded its cooperation with local services for the elderly, and its ability to guide individuals and families to agencies and sources of important information.
- **Cancer Support**—A new faith-based support group for cancer patients, survivors, and families has begun. The first meeting set the vision and goals. The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 15. Each session will include devotions, medical information, and time for sharing. The group will always be open to new members. For questions ask Ms. Randal Snyder or Floyd Lawson.
- **First Kids**—A partnership with First Lutheran School is beginning with its school and community program: *First Kids*. This program educates and encourages children to discover and develop their skills in creative arts, academic subjects and human development—and is filled with fun!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

FirstServe's Board of Directors for the 2008-09 fiscal year are:

- Steve Schwarzkopf, president;
- Pamela Mallowney, secretary;
- Don Underwood, treasurer;

Board members:

- The Rev. Dr. Bill Hurst, Karen Skaff, Paul Henry, Karen Davis, Richard Propster, and Manny Valdez.
- The Rev. Floyd Lawson is Executive Director.

The Board has already addressed the need for additional grants, looked at new programs to be added to FirstServe's mission, and reviewed *FirstServe's* ongoing ministries of caring, serving and changing lives.

TAX EXEMPTION AND MATCHING GIFTS

FirstServe Community Services of the South Bay, Inc., has is now in its second full year as an IRS tax exempt recognized corporation. **Tax ID#: 32-0187458**. This recognition opens the door for corporations to provide matching funds for gifts to FirstServe, and through FirstServe to First Lutheran's new Projected Faith property redevelopment. Throughout this past year FirstServe has been active in researching and seeking corporate grants. In addition, members of First Lutheran have begun gifts to Project Faith which can be matched by employers.



You can be a part of all this great ministry of *Serving People; Changing Lives!*

Attached to this *First Servant* is a list of ways in which you, local companies, and the corporations which employ so many of our community can contribute and assure that these vital programs are continued and enhanced.

SHARING AND SUPPORTING THE LOVE of FIRSTSERVE



FirstServe Community Services of the South Bay, Inc., is supported solely by the gifts of individuals and corporations which make direct contributions to further its ministry of *Serving People; Changing Lives*.

You can help these ministries in many ways:

...You can continue to learn more of each program and to pray for their service in the lives of those they reach.

...You can support the fundraisers we offer at First Lutheran: *Broadway at First; Just for Laughs, and our new Basket Bonanza*. By doing this you have a time of joy and fellowship, and you contribute to the basis budget of *FirstServe*.

Thank you!

...You can serve as a volunteer in one of the programs. Contact Floyd Lawson for details.

...You can make a second mile contribution, added to your First Lutheran offering, marked for *FirstServe*. Several members already make these gifts, and it enriches each program significantly.

...You can add to any employee deductions you make at work, noting *FirstServe* as the recipient. Employers often match these contributions. Make sure you tell the Human Resource staff that *FirstServe* is a tax exempt recipient and use the tax number on this First Servant.

...You can see if your employer will match a direct gift to a "local charity" (i.e. *FirstServe*). You can then make a direct donation to *FirstServe* and have it doubled. Again, use the tax number on First Servant.

...You can see if your corporation, or one your family is engaged with, makes grants to charities which meet their criteria. Just give the name to Floyd Lawson, and he will check the requirements, and, if we meet them, submit the application. This is a major source of income. And, many companies deeply appreciate their employees participation with local charities.

FirstServe as a California Non-profit, and as a IRS recognized charity reports to both and meets all their standards and requirements.

Share in the excitement...be a supporter,
Serving People; Changing Lives.

Thank you for all you do.

