

WINTER 2011

Meeting Families in Need

HOPE for LA

The week before Thanksgiving, Marg was one of many volunteers from churches across LA who helped deliver Boxes of Love – each containing a Thanksgiving meal – to families living below the poverty line.

Marg and her volunteer partner Rachel approached an apartment building to deliver a box to the Padilla family. When the Padillas answered the door and invited these volunteers in, Marg realized their apartment had no electricity, heat or running water.

They lived in one of the building's storage units...

[The Padilla family's story cont'd...]

As the Padillas talked further about their circumstances, including the parents' recent separation, Marg and Rachel realized just how much this box filled with food and a copy of the New Testament would mean to them. Through Boxes of Love, these volunteers were able to not only meet this family but also help meet a real need in their lives.

Overall, Hope for LA coordinated 15 churches to fill 1,500 boxes to go to families around our city. It's people like the Padillas who we want to connect with and encourage through Boxes of Love.

Read about more experiences from Boxes of Love at: www.HopeForLA.org/BoxesofLove

Site Spotlight: Pasadena

As Boxes of Love grows, we're able to serve new ministries around our city.

In Pasadena, a group of over 30 volunteers hosted families at a community center called La Casa. One family who came to this outreach and received a box wrote:

La Casa is truly a home for all of us. This is a place where no one is being judged... a place where everyone gets along. The group who brought the boxes were so kind, and we feel we've made lasting friends.



Volunteer Spotlight: Shao



A few months ago, Shao started volunteering at the Optimist Youth Home, which serves troubled boys. Every month, volunteers walk through the halls and invite the boys to come to a chapel service. Not an easy task on Sunday afternoon when there are TVs on and homework due the next day.

At Shao's first chapel service, he met two teens who have children back at home. Shao prayed with these young men and continues to pray for them, that God would be the one changing their lives as God changed his.

To get involved in your own neighborhood or to make a difference in our city, check out the many opportunities to serve at: www.HopeForLA.org

Hope for Los Angeles® mobilizes people to serve the poor and marginalized through community organizations in Los Angeles. We envision a city experiencing peace, reconciliation and hope in every community through people loving God and their neighbors.

Will you *join* us?