Your Monthly Need to Know Volunteer Info!

Dearest volunteers (take two),

Quick poll—how many days were there in April? I’m voting for at least 99.

How are you? We miss you. Many Mansions is an organization that is made strong by people like you. Even though our work continues (remotely), we are going through some challenges. But in those challenges are opportunities, some of which are made possible by you.

For example, we were able to safely deliver spring baskets to our resident youth as planned. Although we were not able to hold our annual Spring Fair, our youth were still able to have some holiday cheer with their family. Much thanks to St. Jude’s for their continuous support. This year they donated 150 baskets!

We have masks! Generous friends of Many Mansions have been busy bees during this stay at home period, churning out masks so that our employees can still assist our residents with their emergency needs. One group donated over 100 masks all at once! Wow!

People are being fed! In addition to our partnership with Senior Concerns (more on that later), children and families are being fed daily through the generosity and hard work of the Conejo Valley Unified School District and FOOD Share. On average, we are feeding 150 Many Mansions children a day with CVUSD.

Residents are learning! One particular area of education is how to operate Zoom, an area of interest for both our adults and our students. Once our residents know how to work these tools, we may have a way forward in picking back up some of our regular, in-person workshops and tutoring—remotely.

Although we are still uncertain when things will go back to normal, we are making much progress in ensuring that our mission—to provide affordable housing and life-enriching service—is still strong.

And it is strong... thanks to you.
March’s Volunteer of the Month:

Brad Tawa

Congratulations, Brad, for being our March Volunteer of the Month.

You may know the Tawas from their volunteer work with Many Mansions. But did you know how much of our food assistance was made possible by the consistent and steady work of one Mr. Brad Tawa?

Brad has volunteered with Many Mansions since 2015. He largely volunteers with his family—Jake, Maddie, and Kathy—to support various food assistance projects. They started with our monthly FOOD Share, helping distribute staple food items. Lately, Brad has been our MVP of our Food Forward program. On behalf of Many Mansions, he has picked up Food Forward boxes from the local farmer’s marker. Every week, he loads up his truck with 10-15 boxes of fresh produce for our residents. He’s been doing this for over a year. I personally don’t know how we would manage without him! This fresh produce goes to five sites in Thousand Oaks, serving formerly homeless residents and low-income families alike.

Recently, though, Brad has been stepping up in a major way. In this pandemic, much of our programming has paused—but the need for food has never been greater. This is especially true for not just our elderly residents, but also all seniors in our community.

Brad heeded the call for more volunteers for the Meals on Wheels program. In fact, he and his son Jake were the very first ones to respond. They picked up the Tuesday-Thursday schedule, in which 3 of the 8 stops are for our very own residents. The rest of the Tawa family will be joining the fun very soon.

We’re so appreciative of Brad—for the work he has done and the work he continues to do even in this pandemic.

Way to go, Brad! Thank you so much!

Volunteer Spotlight

About two weeks ago, I sent out an email looking for volunteers eager to get out and help. Specifically, I asked if there was anyone who wanted to assist our awesome partners, Senior Concerns.

I was so excited to see all of your responses! But it wasn’t until I myself joined as a volunteer that I truly saw the amazing work they are doing—and, more importantly, how much more help they need to serve our senior neighbors.

Senior Concerns has been in the Conejo Valley since 1975, assisting our age 60+ neighbors and their families. Like Many Mansions, Senior Concerns offers a wide range of programs to their clients. These programs are aimed at creating a positive aging experience for family caregivers and for all adults in our community.

One such program that has been extremely beneficial to our Many Mansions residents has been Meals on Wheels, and this program is needed now more than ever. Senior Concerns made it their mission to feed all seniors during this pandemic, and they need your help to get there.

There is still time to help! If you are interested in delivering meal, they are looking for drivers Mondays-Fridays. The schedule is either MWF or T-TH, but it’s always between 11:30am-1:00pm. All drivers must be 18+ but parent/child duos are welcome.

I would also like to state that they DO require a background check, which is done online and volunteers will need to pay the $22.

This spotlight not only goes out to Senior Concerns but also out to all our Many Mansions volunteers who stepped up to help deliver meals. You are truly incredible and we are so grateful for your assistance.

THANK YOU!!!!