

# Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach – an Agency Partner of Feed The Children:

In 2008, the Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach became a Partner Agency with Feed The Children, it was also at the same time another agency in Las Vegas also became a partner and that is Shade Tree Women's Shelter.

We began to discover what products were available to us at the Ontario, California warehouse and then we would call the Oklahoma Office and schedule a pick up. The first trip out we used the Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach Vehicles and loaded up three trucks filled with Water, Candy and odd items. Over the years we switched to saving wear and tear on our vehicles by renting Ryder Truck semi's and now we have a wonderful connection with a company that picks up and delivers called Direct Connect. We save more money on our vehicles, gas and wear and tear on our wonderful volunteers.

In 2010 we also did purchase a truck full of food, for \$7,500.00 and received an abundance of food, hygiene, and clothing. In 2011 Shade Tree Women's Shelter was the recipient of 2 Semi Feed The Children Trucks of which Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach received food for 400 families!

Over the years Saint Therese Center has also been contacted by Feed The Children to do pick ups of local donations and use them for our clients. The typical call is regarding Ice Cream at a Henderson Storage unit.

# Feed The Children Ice Cream Donations Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach



The Saint Therese Centre HIV Outreach Truck helps with overflow Pallets of Ice Cream while the 24 foot Rvder holds most of it.



Pallets of Late Night Jimmy Fallon Ice Cream are getting ready to be loaded on Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach Truck.

## *What to do with 24+ Pallets of Ice Cream?*

Random thoughts and ramblings from Father Joseph, O.P. the executive director of the Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach...

Pictures of our clients enjoying ice cream identify them as being part of the HIV Community so we do not normally ask for pictures. But Feed The Children Staff and volunteers have to know and realize the broad smiles ice cream brings to the faces of our wonderful Children.

We currently help and assist Shade Tree Women's and Children's Shelter and Ronald McDonald House with our own 4,000 plus that is a lot of happy ice cream smeared faces! The following story also tells it all....

In the family of four, with both parents being HIV+, and the youngest being seven years old, times were tough on many levels. With the economy and the illness of various opportunistic infections, taking their toll, there was despair and depression the HIV+ father was settling into.

As the no available work, rent, bills and lack of food continued to build the Dad knew he had to do something, so he decided to rob a couple of Gas Station Mart Stores.. It was during the second robbery that the police shot and killed the father as he believed it was the only way he could protect and save his family.

His family was upset by their Father and Husband's actions, for if they had known they would have talked him out of his plans. They understood the actions of the police but were in the hecticness and bizarreness of the unfolding story.

Mom was able to move with the youngest daughter to a friend's house , while the oldest went to grandparents and they lost their home. It was time for the seven year old to turn eight and mom wanted to celebrate up big for her, to get her mind off all that was going on around them. Mom decided a big celebration in the Public Park was a great way to go and even though it was a Hot Summer day in Las Vegas she would make the best of it and do her best for her daughter!

Turning to the Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach Mom, explained what was going on, what happened, and upcoming birthday party. Needless to say the whole Staff at the Saint Therese Center pulled together to make the Birthday Party and Event to be remembered.



David, helps Versa Cold Fork Lift Driver Mark guide pints of Ice Cream on to our Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach truck.

We had hot dogs and hamburger meat from Smart & Final; Hot dog buns and hamburger buns from BIMBO bread Co; Chips and Pretzels from Barcell USA; Potato Salad and Macaroni Salad from Fresh & Easy; Chili for the Hotdogs from Albertson's. One interesting note, we had picked up Von's donations and there were several birthday cakes, one specific was all pink with butterflies and that was her daughter's favorite color and she loved butterflies!

**To top it all off we had Gallons of Ice Cream from Feed The Children and that was abundant enough to treat everyone in the park that day to wonderful flavors of delightful ice cream!**

Of course we also had on hand the plastic knives, forks, and spoons with table cloths and paper plates! We gave Mom Food Cards to various stores to accomplish the soda pop and ice (lots of) for the event. She and the staff had tears of joy as we helped make the event a reality and mom could not thank us enough for all the Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach helped with and make it happen!

Needless to say the Ice Cream was the big hit especially when everyone got a chance to have some on a hot Summer day in the triple digit temperature. The little eight year old had a wonderful birthday thanks to you – her smiling ice cream stained face, while cute to see, would not tell the story! Thanks for making the party happen!



Versa Cold Fork Lift Driver Mark, places the first of 12 Pallets of Ice Cream that will fit on the Ryder Freezer Truck used for pick up.



Pallets of Ice Cream inside Versa Cold Storage that are set aside to be donated to the Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach.

# *Feed The Children Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach Food Donations*



Pallets of Water, Salad Dressing, BBQ Sauce, Salad Dressing Kits and Salad Dressing Toppings, were all part of a recent run to Ontario's, Feed The Children Warehouse, Jose and all the guys are ready for us and within fifteen minutes of arrival, the Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach Trucks, that is (3) three 26 foot semi trucks are loaded, and ready for the return to the Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach Food Pantry and Storage.



The trip over to Ontario is quick as the trucks are empty, with the exception of the pallets we are returning to Feed The Children. The return takes longer as we are weighed down by the pallets of product and water. The usual day starts at 5:00 AM when all the truck drivers meet with Father Joseph, O.P., the Executive Director in the parking lot, hand out the keys to the Ryder Trucks that were acquired the day before from Las Vegas Ryder depot. After brief instructions and a prayer for safety it is on the road to Ontario!

Usual arrival time is anywhere between 10:00 AM but before 11:00 when the Feed The Children Staff take an hour's lunch. Within 15 minutes everything is loaded, signed for and after a quick lunch for our own drivers the return to Henderson. Arrival at the center is around 4:00 PM and the trucks are parked for the night. The following day with more staff and volunteers the trucks are unloaded and then returned to Ryder. We are grateful to Feed The Children for making this happen and look forward to continued cooperation!



# Feed The Children Odd Donations Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach What to do with them?



## Odd Donations from Feed The Children

*Random thoughts and ramblings from Father Joseph I. O'Brien, O.P. – Executive Director of the Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach....*

The Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach is always happy to partner with Feed The Children, in obtaining water, food, ice cream, and all the surprising odds and ends they have donated and wish to pass on to our agency.

The last call was a wonderful response to pick up water and food (Thousand Island Salad Products) but with it came a request for handling a few pallets of toys. OK we have children and are associated with agencies that could help us; as we would share if we received a large amount.

Needless to say the odd toys included these very large bright yellow chicks and while they were cute and plush I wondered what the heck we would do with them? Well as fate would have it, there was a movie coming out called “HOP”. In it was featured a large friendly evil kind of large bright yellow chick who had thousands of little yellow chicks under his control! The theme was to steal Easter from the bunnies and have the chicks in charge. Well after seeing the movie and knowing we had the yellow chicks we decided to feature them as the center of our Easter baskets. What a hit they were – Pictures to the left begin to tell the story. The Children loved them and the parents were amazed that we were so up with the times including this character from the recent movie “HOP”! We accepted the praise but it was actually Feed The Children that made it all happen.

Of course the hundreds of bright yellow chicks were perfectly clean in safe bags, but in boxes that were covered with several layers of storage dust. A challenge but we are grateful to have had the opportunity to bring a smile to the children’s faces!

Several Staff Members play the role of the Easter Bunny and for some unknown reason we have Three Easter Bunny Costumes! Keeping them clean is real fun! The bunnies tell us that the warmth of the Children’s smile is so amazing and the children are so excited! Once and awhile there is a child who is frightened by the larger than life bunny and wants nothing to do with the big white furry thing – however always ready to take the basket, yellow chick and candy!!





We are Blest in many ways by the children and adults, who make the Easter Baskets for all our clients, (Picture to the left include this year's basket makers holding up the bright Yellow Chicks – they were a hit with everyone!) over the years they have included, and are not limited to....

St. Francis de Sales Elementary School  
St. Joseph Husband of Mary Parish Outreach  
Our Lady of Las Vegas Elementary School  
Christ the King Catholic Community  
Wells Fargo Bank Employees  
Barcell Industries  
Feed The Children  
BIMBO Bread  
Individual Donors



Easter Bunnies - Easter Baskets - Easter Chocolate – all bring happiness to the men, women and children living with the HIV virus in their lives and we are happy to be an avenue for the delivery for such dignity and happiness and thank Feed The Children for the partnership that makes it all happen!!

So after handling the Bright Yellow Chicks what else had we received from Feed The Children? Two pallets of Feather Boas! OK we are in Nevada and Las Vegas so Feather Boas? But there were 6 Boas in a bag and 4 bags in a box, so 36 boas in a box. There were over 75 boxes on the pallet so about 2,700 boas a pallet! That is about 5,400 feather boas!



One of our sister HIV agencies holds an annual event called the “ribbon of life”. The agency is known as Golden Rainbow, and their major assistance is to help people living with HIV with housing. Their annual show this year was their 25<sup>th</sup> and the theme was both Broadway and Hollywood.

Father Joseph had a bright idea and called the director of Golden Rainbow, Leah and her wonderful assistant Leslie and asked what would you think of handing each member of the audience a feather boa on their way into the showroom? They loved the idea!

The event took place at the Parish Hotel in Las Vegas at their main theater which holds around 2,600 seats! Of course the show itself has performers from all over Las Vegas and the Strip (up to 400 on the stage at times!)



Well this would help us put to use the feather boas and help a sister agency who helps families house parents and children so Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach was praised for their donation of Feather Boas. Many of the cast and news media wanted to know how did we make this happen? Of course, we told them of our association with Feed The Children and it is actually Feed The Children who deserve the credit! Feed he Children helped make two HIV agencies in Las Vegas look great.

Each member of the audience and all the cast received a free feather boa for the event. The pictures to the left give you an idea what the boas looked like in the lobby of the Theater before they were given out to the members of the audience! It was a wonderful event and time for all thanks to Feed The Children!



The main entrance to the Paris Theater in Las Vegas featuring the Golden Rainbow logo celebrating 25 years of the Ribbon of Life Show and the Feather Boas from Feed The Children !

Thousands of Feather boas from Feed The Children await distribution to members of the audience as they arrive for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Golden Rainbow's show: "Ribbon of Life."

Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach Volunteer, Norman, a Las Vegas Showgirl from Paris Hotel and Executive Director Father Joseph, O.P. all show off their feathers and feather boas from Feed The Children!

# Feed The Children & Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach

## *Purchase & Delivery March 2010*



With the collaboration of several Physicians in town the Saint Therese Center HIV Outreach was able to purchase from Feed The Children a semi truck loaded with food, hygiene and Avon products. The date for food to arrive was in March and the truck was on time even after having experienced a flat tire and the necessary fix and exchange of new tire! As the truck parked outside our storage area our staff facilitated the unloading of 24 pallets of products that were broken down into 10 pallets of food, 10 pallets of hygiene and 4 pallets of Avon Products. Jim and Mark worked inside the truck with a pallet jack and David handled the Fork lift moving all the products to various locations in the storage area.



In storage over twenty volunteers worked at sorting the various products there was a section for food and a section for hygiene. The Avon boxes were left in tact and handed out to the clients as is. The reason for the sorting of the products is specifically to help more people. In a box that is just handed out they may not use or like some of the food inside – so our staff shelves all the items and then the clients have the choice to choose the



items off each shelf as to what they can use, need and enjoy. It gives all involved a sense of dignity and more clients are helped with the over 10,800 food items we received.



The Black labeled boxes marked “Feed The Children” contained the food items with 27 items in each box, which included rice, pasta, soup, vegetables, fruit and fruit juice. The Red boxes marked “Feed The Children” were the Hygiene items and they included a wide variety of items including soap, lotions, toothbrush and toothpaste, Clorox wipes, Kleenex, tanning lotion and a wide variety of items including sweat pants, tote bags and black cardigan shirts.



The Avon boxes are distributed as is, but contain many interesting sample Avon products as well as children’s shoes and caps. In breaking down the Food and Hygiene boxes we are saving all the boxes (close to 800) for our Thanksgiving and Christmas distribution Food Boxes! The Volunteers were and are amazing. From clients who are HIV+ themselves and giving back to the community to a couple of grandmothers whose grandchildren have the virus all worked together to make the day move along quickly. The truck was unloaded in One Hour! The sorting was done within five hours! Thousand have been helped and touched by all the wonderful efforts.

