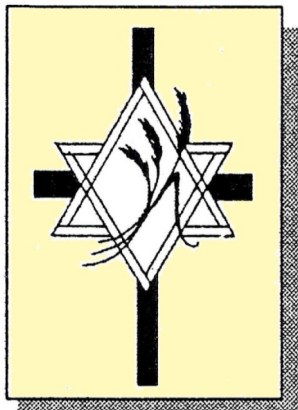


# CLOSET CHATTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE AUBURN INTERFAITH FOOD CLOSET



## Needs

Canned Fruit

Canned Vegetables

Peanut Butter

Diapers

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## Message from the President

As 2011 closes, I notice that the number served has averaged 1,017 families (2,915 individuals) per month. I also noticed that Tuesday still holds the record for average number of families per day (54), only a slight lead over Mondays (51). But our other days are creeping up there too Wednesday (46), Thursday (47), Friday (44) and Saturday (19). Saturday has had the biggest percentage increase over last year (13). Overall, we have seen just under a 6 % increase over last year. Hopefully, with unemployment dropping, more people will find work and our numbers will not continue to dramatically increase. We need to be judicious about making the best use of food and money that is donated to us. Donated food is the equivalent of money. As I write this, I do not know the final numbers on donations for 2011, but at the end of November we were still \$38,000 in the red. This coming year will also be tight.

January marks the end of the term for many of our Board members and we will see some new faces on the Board. I genuinely appreciate how dedicated our Board has been and look forward to working with the 2012 Board. We have some challenges ahead! For one, we need to update our Strategic Plan..amazing how fast the past two years have gone by!

I would also like to encourage you to attend the Placer Food Bank Empty Bowls fundraiser (see information in this newsletter). We receive more than a third of our food from the Placer Food Bank (EFAP program). We need to help support them as they help support us. Thank YOU for all you do for the AIFC!

Sandy Bassett, President



## *Our Heartfelt Thanks to ...*



**Patricia Slaven of Newcastle receives a poster for her food contribution at Regal Auburn Cinemas**

### **AIFC PARTNERS WITH REGAL AUBURN 10 THEATRE FOR FOOD COLLECTION**

In December, AIFC teamed up with Regal Auburn Cinemas to collect food at its Regal Auburn theatre complex. In exchange for the food contributions, donors received a choice of any movie poster. The Food Closet Barrel was in the lobby for 2 weeks. AIFC appreciates community businesses like Regal Auburn Cinema and others, including Howell's Sew & Vac, for making room to collect food in the barrels.

**You are appreciated!**

Another major donation came from Weight Watchers.

Stevie Rea of Weight Watchers, in the K-Mart shopping center, organized the drive and collected 405 pounds of food during the “Lose for Good” national campaign.

In addition to the annual local food donation events, Weight Watchers donates over \$1,000,000 each year to national food charities.

Stevie sent this picture of her event.



Thanks again, Stevie and Weight Watchers!



Max Kane accepts check from Host Lions President Al Dumm on for Auburn Interfaith Food Closet



Juanita Mercado of First Northern Bank in Auburn presents Auburn Interfaith Food Closet with a donation. Accepting on behalf of AIFC is Max Kane.

## Walk to Stuff the Food Closet

Thanksgiving Day 2011

Gathering friends and family on Thanksgiving Day may be typical but for Donah Fry it seemed a good opportunity to do some good in the local community.

Contacting those of a like-mind through the Internet and on Facebook, the group met at Placer High School and made a three mile loop through downtown and Old Town Auburn.

In lieu of an entry fee donations were collected on behalf of Auburn Interfaith Food Closet. This was greatly appreciated as the need was greater for food help this year.



Donah Fry gifts AIFC with proceeds from the Thanksgiving Day "Walk to Stuff the Food Closet"

from left: Sandy Bassett, Donah Fry, Max Kane, David Nielson

Ms. Fry would like to see a similar event happen in 2012. "Everyone liked the idea that this was helping the need in our own community," said Ms. Fry. An email address has been set up to gauge interest and keep communication going. The address is: [walktostockthecloset@gmail.com](mailto:walktostockthecloset@gmail.com).

## \$25,000 Challenge!

An anonymous donor has generously offered to match dollar for dollar any monetary contribution to the Food Closet during January and February plus match each food donation at \$.50 each.

The Auburn Interfaith Food Closet is taking on this challenge. With your participation, all cash and check donations, pledges and food donations and drives during January and February will count towards the Food Closet Challenge results.

Our supporters can help us take advantage of this great opportunity by:

- . Make a donation to Sponsor a Family program.
- . Make a cash donation to the Food Closet.
- . Organize and conduct a food drive through your church, neighborhood or community organization
- . Bring in some canned goods, non-perishable items to the Food Closet.

More information on these programs or foods we need are found on our website [www.auburnfoodcloset.com](http://www.auburnfoodcloset.com).

As the new year starts we have an opportunity to jump start our fundraising activities. This past year has been a tough one for the Food Closet with more clients added and increasing food costs. As always every donation is appreciated to keep our shelves stocked, but meeting this challenge couldn't be more timely.

We are truly blessed with a wonderful group of volunteers and supporters. Your past donations and commitment are greatly appreciated. Any help you can offer during January and February will be doubly valued!

**Thank You!**



## Client's Corner



### New Medi-Cal Benefits Can Help You Kick The Habit

Just in time for your New Year's resolution, Medi-Cal is covering products that will help you quit tobacco. Zyban, Chantix, and NicoDerm CQ patches will be covered with a prescription from your doctor. Previously, prior approval was necessary to receive these benefits. You can now get two quitting aid prescriptions per year without waiting. Your pharmacy will fill your prescription right away.

Other stop smoking aids will still need pre-approval. These include nicotine gum, lozenges, inhalers or nasal spray. Talk to your doctor to determine which is right for you.

Call 1- 800- No- Butts or visit [www.nobutts.org/medi-cal](http://www.nobutts.org/medi-cal) for more information.



#### Remaking America

"Remaking America: From Poverty to Prosperity," is a nationally televised discussion, on Thursday, Jan. 12, from George Washington University. Author Cornel West, personal-finance expert Suze Orman, filmmaker Michael Moore, poverty expert Jeffrey Sachs and urban-revitalization strategist Majora Carter, among others --will pose their solutions for eradicating poverty. The conversation will be broadcast live on C-SPAN and rebroadcast over three nights beginning Jan. 16 on PBS' Tavis Smiley.

#### **Chicken Divan**

*by the panhandler*

- 1 cup cut and cooked broccoli
- 1 cup cooked chicken cut into bite size portions
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon curry powder
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup Bread crumbs ,potato chips or crackers, crumbled

Combine broccoli and chicken in a greased 8 inch casserole. Mix soup, mayo, lemon juice and curry in a small bowl until well combined. Pour over chicken and broccoli. Combine cheese and crumbs and sprinkle over the casserole. Bake at 350F for 20 minutes.

Makes 4 servings.

Recipe may be doubled. Bake in a 13x9 pan for 30 minutes.

Serves 8 to 10 people.

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day



**Let Me Guess..fruit or vegetable or extra?**

Many of you know we are being more careful about our food distribution in order to be able to give to the continuing increase in the number of families..so it becomes even more important we make the best use of the food we receive.

How would you categorize:

- Canned Yams
- Canned Potatoes
- Canned Cranberry Sauce
- Canned Pumpkin
- Canned Hominy



**?????**

Answers: According to the USDA, "[www.choosemyplate.gov](http://www.choosemyplate.gov)", the answers are:

- Canned Yams - Vegetable (sweet potato)
- Canned Potatoes - Vegetable
- Canned Cranberry Sauce - Fruit
- Canned Pumpkin - Vegetable
- Canned Hominy - Vegetable

Since a big portion of our costs go to purchase fruit and vegetables, when these items are donated, we should get them into the right category according to the USDA. You can help us better serve our clients and help us reduce costs. Thank you for your cooperation.

# JoinUs

You can help raise funds to meet the growing demand for supplemental and emergency food in our community by attending Placer Food Bank's Empty Bowls. Tickets include your choice of a hand-crafted ceramic bowl, and a simple meal of pasta, bread, salad and dessert. Proceeds will be used to obtain and distribute food to the community through Placer Food Bank's network of charitable agencies and feeding programs.



## Thursday, February 2

**\$50** Wine Reception & Supper

5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

## Friday, February 3

**\$25** Luncheon

12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

## Maidu Community Center

1550 Maidu Drive, Roseville, California 95661



For more information visit [www.placerfoodbank.org](http://www.placerfoodbank.org) or call (916) 783-0481



As a senior project, Placer High student, Tanner Jay, organized and promoted a "Bowling for Hunger" event. Students were asked to bring canned goods and bowl for fun.

He collected two barrels of food. This was a great, original idea and we thank Tanner very much for the donation!



### FOOD RESOURCES NEWS

For the second year the **Gold Country Fair** allowed free entry for the first hour on Saturday and Sunday with a donation of two food items to our food closet. This is very popular with fair goers and this year we collected about 3,500 pounds of food. Many volunteers helped collect the food and Don Wolford and his driver crew were fabulous moving all the collected items to storage. They made the job very easy.

Many thanks to Patricia Hitchcock; Larurie Johnson, CEO; and Michelle Nicholas of Gold Country Fair (pictured left to right) for coming up with this idea.

