

# ACTION MATTERS

*Area Christians Taking Initiative on Needs*

A PERIODICAL FROM THE ACTION FOUNDATION  
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## Christmas Joy 2012

On two bright, sunny Saturday mornings this past December, the doors opened to 1500 under-resourced families at five Community Christmas Shoppes across Ventura County. While one parent “shopped” for free toys and gifts in a boutique setting, the other family members enjoyed the hospitality and activities that each Shoppe provided.

Most importantly, the 3500 Christmas Shoppe guests encountered Jesus: 400 of the parents asked to be contacted by one of the participating churches, and almost 1,000 people received prayer.



Across Ventura County, our thanks go to:

- The 1300 volunteers and leaders managing shoppes
- The 55 churches that participated
- The 130 businesses and churches that donated 16,000 toys and gifts
- The 60 social services agencies and schools for delivering invitations to attend the Shoppes

### Feedback

“I got to relate with someone with the same problem I had years ago, and was able to encourage her to come to the Samaritan Center for further help.”

“By the joy in the guest’s faces. A single father of 3 shared that this was an answer to prayer, as his middle child is autistic and he was not sure how he would shop for his family for Christmas.”

When asked how he saw God work, one volunteer simply wrote, “He did a great job!” Indeed, He did!

One of our partner social services agencies is Ventura County Public Health; their nurses work with families across the County; ACTION provides these nurses with invitations for their clients to attend a local Shoppe.

After the Shoppe, Coordinator Claudia Pineda Benton wrote to us: “I want to thank your organization for providing our Public Health Nurses with Christmas Shoppe invitations that were distributed among the needy families. This year, I visited the Ventura Christmas Shoppe and was very impressed with the organization. I really appreciated all the joint effort among all the ACTION members. It is amazing that together as a community we can provide happiness to so many needy families.”

Carolyn Dosick, the Chairperson of the Port Hueneme Shoppe, got a call from an Oxnard business that wanted to donate 100 backpacks. When the driver arrived to unload the backpacks, she showed him around the Shoppe and explained what we do and why we do it. Carolyn says, “The next day, the driver showed up with \$200 worth of toys. He explained that his family was very poor and they were the recipients of a charity bringing toys to their door. He appreciated the way we distributed the toys, as it gave the families dignity and we did it in the name of Christ. He even showed up the next day to volunteer at the Shoppe!”



## Meet our new ED

ACTION Foundation is strengthening its staff and leadership by introducing a new role of Executive Director.

Jill Upson will be responsible for guiding the organization in all areas including strategic planning; programs; finance; support; relationship and volunteer development; and outreach training.



She led the Simi Valley ACTION Community Christmas Shoppe and StoneBridge Community Church participation in ACTION Serve Day for over 4 years. Jill also assembled an outreach team of volunteers that found and developed ways to meet needs and show the love of Jesus to all. She knows ACTION well, is well qualified, and will substantially strengthen our team and outreach.

She has held positions of leadership throughout the community as president of the PTA, Soccer Booster, and Simi Valley Mother of Twins and Triplets Club. She has also served on various boards as treasurer, fundraiser, editor and parliamentarian while chairing many program and hospitality committees. Indeed, her passion for serving others has continually been exhibited through her management and hands-on efforts aimed at meeting the needs of individuals and organizations.

Other experience has included extensive work with children, program management, retail purchasing, finance, and sales.

Jill received her Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation Administration with a minor in sociology at the College of New Jersey. She serves as an elder at StoneBridge Community Church and leads their Local Mission Team. She resides in Simi Valley with her husband Mark and three children, Ryan, Kelly, and Sean.

We're on the Web  
[www.actionvc.org](http://www.actionvc.org)



Action Foundation



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## Thanks to Don

As Don Cole departs ACTION, we give him a special 'thank you' for his support for the past 3 years. His service to the community, leadership in Christmas Shoppe and Serve Day, and his love for God have been a blessing to many. We look forward to working with him on future projects.

## Serve Every Day

At the end October an ACTION project request was sent out for a senior lady needing some assistance with the siding on her mobile home. By the end of the first week in November an amazing team of men from Calvary Nexus Church had completed the project. Bob Grabendike is the team leader for Calvary Nexus's Indoor Projects group, he, along with Ramiro Campa, Tom Sanchez and Bill Shanks were able to replace, re-caulk and repaint the upper molding that was pulling away from the coach. As well as re-caulk and repaint the rest of the trim. They also re-fastened some loose fiberglass panels in the car port area and refastened a loose rain gutter. They also kindly, left the re-remainder of the paint they used for any future touch-up needs. And, they did all of this In service to our Lord and Savior.

This is just one example of needs being met all over Ventura County. Right now there is an average of one Serve Every Day project being done every day of the year! Wow! We have AWESOME participating churches and AMAZING volunteers. A big thanks to you all."



## New Diggs

ACTION is excited to announce that we will be moving to the new Ventura County Community Foundation Nonprofit Center in April. The facility will be home to large and small non-profit firms that will enable us to directly connect with many like minded local serving agencies. Watch for an ACTION Open House "Friend Raising" announcement in May. Plan to come by and see the exciting things that are happening at the new ACTION Ministry Center.

After the first week in April we will be at 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd, Suite S, Camarillo, CA 93012. Same contact info.

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