

CORONA STAKE NEWS

The official newsletter for the Corona Stake



MORE GREAT STORIES INSIDE:

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THE SKY'S THE LIMIT FOR THESE GRADS!

Congratulations to the 27 graduating seniors from our Stake! The faith, tenacity and resilience you demonstrated this year was no small feat. We are excited to see your growth as you continue on the covenant path and in all of your future endeavors.

CLASS OF 2021

Kyla Anderson

BYU Provo

Michael Anderson

BYU Provo

Sam Bennett

Working and deciding where to go
to school

Valerie Butz

UCI

Lainey Christensen

Norco College

Plans on transferring to BYU Hawaii
or Idaho

Natalie Christensen

BYU Idaho

Preparing for a mission

Lauren Grover

Santa Clara

Cache Coggins

BYU Provo

Preparing for a mission

Kyle Detavis

Preparing for a mission

BYU Idaho

Cynthia Hague

BYU Idaho

Preparing for a mission

Olivia Hague

BYU Idaho

Isami Hoopii

Preparing for a mission

BYU Hawaii

Zoey Marshall

BYU Idaho

Plans on becoming a Nurse
Practitioner



Kyla Anderson



Kyle Detavis



Valerie Butz



Isami Hoopii

CLASS OF 2021

Alexa McKee

BYU Provo

Ryan Niederhauser

Called to Utah, Layton Mission, will attend Utah State University.

Taylor Norris

BYU Idaho

Shane O'Reilly

BYU Idaho

Emmaline Packer

Norco College

Blake Pricer

Graduated in December from Cabrillo Point. Started Spring term at BYU Provo

Reese Rowbotham

BYU Hawaii

Madison Sacriste

BYU Provo

Adrianna Segura

Wyatt Smith

Called to Ogden, Utah Mission, will attend BYU Idaho.

Lexi Turner

Working in Provo as a phlebotomist. She hopes to attend BYU winter semester

Riley Waddell

Utah Valley University

Rachel Wood

Working for a year as a CPR coach then applying to Riverside City College for the prerequisites for nursing and transfer to BYU for the nursing program

Eli Young

Called to Charlotte, North Carolina mission



Alexa McKee



Taylor Norris



Wyatt Smith



Riley Waddell

CORONA STAKE REFUGEE INITIATIVE “I WAS A STRANGER” RAMPING UP FOR REFUGEE INFLUX

Written by Monica Sandberg

Imagine for a moment that you are living in a country where your life and the lives of your family are in danger. What would you do to protect your family? Would you be willing to leave friends, your home, your career, and all that you possess to secure safety for your family? What if you had to live in a new country with a new language and culture that was completely foreign to you? Can you even imagine how hard that would be and the trials that would await you and your family?

That is exactly the situation that many refugee families are facing as they seek safety and asylum in the United States. They are fathers, mothers, children, just like you that will do anything to protect their family that they love.

Recently, the Corona Stake members have been blessed to hear from Darryn and Heather Flexman, our Stake Humanitarian Specialists regarding the “I Was a Stranger” initiative that the church introduced in May, 2016 by Sister Linda Burton of the General Relief Society Presidency. As a Corona Stake, we have been extended an invitation to personally help with the refugee families living here in Corona/Norco.



The First Presidency issued a statement in December, 2019 that says, “As members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we are deeply committed to living the two great commandments to love God and our neighbor. We feel tremendous joy in helping all of God’s children, no matter where they may live in this world. It is therefore of great concern and compassion that we observe the plight of more than 70 million people around the world who have fled their homes seeking relief from violence, war, or religious persecution. We encourage Church members and friends to respond appropriately and legally, to help create welcoming communities by volunteering their time, talents and friendship to individuals and families who are integrating into our societies.”

A familiar scripture in the Matthew 25:37-40 says “Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” Sister Flexman, in her talk asked us if we have ever considered how “very literal that phrase is.”

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Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me

I WAS A STRANGER

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What prevents us from serving? Often we may feel overwhelmed and don't feel like we have the time or resources to help. However, Sister Holly Waite, Corona Stake RS President has explained that we can do small and simple things, such as donating furniture items, help drive someone to a doctor's appointment, help children register for school, tutoring mothers in English, or just become a friend to these families.

Over the past 5 years, members of our stake have served over 30 refugee families and helped them feel connected to the Corona/Norco area. While we have seen a decline in the number of refugee families coming to Corona in the past year, we expect a significant surge in the coming months and year. Serving these families is a rewarding and fulfilling experience.

Sister Leslie Eccles shared her experience with a refugee family. "My daughter and I first started tutoring Behishta her ABC's and 123's about two years ago. We used to go weekly to her home. During the past year, we have met twice a week through Zoom. She has progressed and now she reads at a second grade level and has passed her Driving Test to get her Drivers license! My daughter makes Behishta Quizlet flashcards with pictures, which Behishta loves.

She can click on them and hear the pronunciation. We teach her practical words each week like terms for household goods, cooking phrases, food names, colors, driving signs, car parts, body terms, and things like that that are needed to function here in her new home.

Behishta teaches us as well, about her previous life, food and family in Afghanistan. She has taught me many things as well, including how to make yogurt and has cooked many an Afghanistan dish for us. Tutoring English to Behishta and interacting with her family has been a wonderful lovely experience."

As we consider the example of our Savior Jesus Christ, we are reminded that he literally carried the burdens of the world, each of our individual burdens upon him. Sister Flexman simply stated, "ask yourself...are you willing to carry the burden that the Savior so willingly carried for us?"

I invite you all to consider the impressions you are receiving as you read this and to act on those impressions. You may contact Holly Waite (Stake RS President) Darryn & Heather Flexman (Stake Humanitarian Specialists), or Cindy Cragun (Tutoring Specialist) for more information. There will also be a special fireside held on June 27th at 7pm at the Stake Center where more information will be available.





Got Chicken?

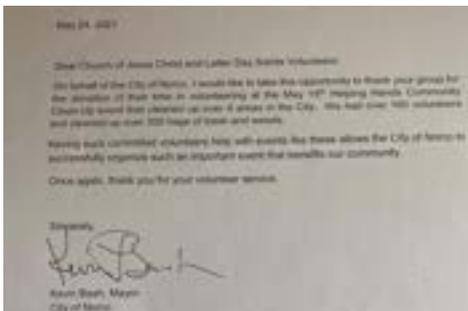
By Kim Lay

What do you do when the Church Welfare department calls and says they are sending a full semi-truck load of surplus chicken to your area? On Tuesday, May 18, 2021, the Corona Stake was able to donate over 6,000 pounds of chicken to local food pantries in the area. The food pantries and churches that received these donations were the Settlement House, Invisible Hands, Inland Vineyard/Manna House, Starting Over Inc., Crossroads Food Pantry, Corona Friend's Church, St. Edwards, Run2Rescue, the Parent Center, and other families in need determined by MaryAnn Sherman, a local food pantry coordinator.

On delivery day missionaries and members from the Stake Communication Council were there to help offload the truck. During that time, members of the Communication Council were able to meet and introduce themselves to the local food pantry directors. Carmellia Chavers from Starting Over Inc. said in an email afterwards "We would like to thank your church for including our organization to your list of recipients to receive the surplus chicken breast. Rest assured that your donation to us will be greatly appreciated by the people we serve in the community of Riverside County."

Top Right Picture: Kim Lay with representatives from various food pantries.

Bottom Right Picture: Missionaries from the Riverside Mission



CORONA AND NORCO CITY CLEAN-UPS!

Written by Kim Lay

On Saturday morning May 8, 2021 County Supervisor Karen Spiegel organized and held a clean-up day for the El Cerrito area. Missionaries and members of the Corona Stake of all ages came out to help with the cleanup. Lots of trash was collected and volunteers received many honks of thanks from vehicles as they drove by.

The following Saturday, May 15th Norco City had roughly 100 volunteers show up for the Norco City cleanup up. Church members, youth groups, and missionaries cleaned over 9 areas in the city and threw away around 300 bags of trash. The church's heavy volunteer presence did not go unnoticed and the mayor of Norco Kevin Bash sent a thank you letter that reads "Having such committed volunteers help with events like these allows the City of Norco to successfully organize such an important event that benefits our community. Thank you for your volunteer service."

Top Middle Picture: County Supervisor Karen Spiegel with Riverside Missionary, Corona Stake, and other volunteers.

Top Left Picture: Kade Francom

Second Down Picture: Justin Lyon at the Norco clean

Third Down Picture: El Cerrito Ward young women and leaders



“ It means so much that Americans haven't forgotten me ”

Coordinators Karen Alexander and Sharon Dodgson were able to not only gather crockpots, but also received rice cookers, panini pans, grills, skillets, and more. Overall, they received over 100 appliances. Because of the generous donations from local community members, they were able to stock all of the units at March Veterans Village as well as suppling Veterans in the Village which is another nearby housing facility for veterans and their families. One veteran expressed his gratitude by saying, “It means so much that Americans haven't forgotten me.”

CORONA STAKE RELIEF SOCIETY MEMBERS DONATE CROCKPOTS TO VETERANS

Written by Kim Lay

The non-profit Operation Love from Home received over 40 crockpots donated from Relief Society members of the Corona Stake this month. Operation Love from Home is an organization that cares for veterans who have fallen on hard times and are transitioning from homelessness at the March Veterans Village located in Riverside. Most of these veterans have little to no cooking appliances.



**Questions?
Contact Donna**

1123 LINCOLN AVE. CORONA

951-734-8119



FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

**new
hours!**

- SUNDAY 5 PM TO 7
- TUESDAY 9 AM TO 12
- WEDNESDAY 9 AM TO 12
- THURSDAY 10 AM TO 1

**Hours don't
work? Make an
appointment..**

951-735-6219