

Report on the Community Service Field Trip to the LA Food Bank, April 26, 2008

Six students from the senior class and eleven parents of CMLA (San Gabriel Branch), arrived bright and early at the LA Food Bank at 8:45 a.m. on April 26 to volunteer their services for packing food for the needy of Los Angeles.



The LA Food Bank* is an impressive warehouse stocked to the roof with various kinds of food generously donated by corporations, restaurants, grocery stores and individual donors. While the LA Food Bank coordinators showed off their warehouse and operations, many of dedicated volunteers were itching to get to work and did not want to lose even a moment.

Next, we all assembled in a large room and were informed that we would be packing food to be supplied to disadvantaged seniors. We were quickly organized to be part of an assembly line. For many of us this was our first experience of being part of an assembly line; we were there to assemble food packages. This arrangement allowed the students and parents to work together closely on the same task and also share good conversation.



The food packages began as trays with two plastic bags each with a cereal box placed in them. The trays with bags journeyed down the assembly line to be met by each of our agile and eager volunteers who were poised and ready with the canned beans, milk, peanut butter, spaghetti, rice and other such items to fill the bag.

Our volunteers worked at a really brisk pace, and in the first hour our group had already helped assemble over five hundred packages. We even took turns at different stations to relieve others, and in the process made friends with other volunteer groups. It was truly elevating to be in this atmosphere filled with co-operation, service and lots of good fun. After about 2 hours of work, we had assembled almost a thousand packages. Our assembly line seemed unstoppable. However, as we approached 11:30 a.m. we were suddenly informed that they had run out of a particular food item and that we had to just stop.



As the food trays were crated away for dispatch, it felt good that we had played a small part in relieving the hunger of over a thousand seniors. The students even got their community service hours recorded.

As we walked out of the LA Food Bank the only conversation that prominently aired among the students and the parents were along the lines of “Why we could not do this more often?” or “Can we come again in two weeks?” and so on. Undoubtedly, we had all had a good time, and we had once and for all been bitten by the community service bug.

Prepared by S. R. Narayan, Community Service Support to CMLA San Gabriel Branch
May 9, 2008.

* The LA Food Bank is located at the 1734 East 41st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90058 and is helping to feed the hungry of Los Angeles since 1973. Without volunteers the Foodbank would not be able to accomplish its mission. For more information on the LA Food Bank, please visit www.lafoodbank.org. Volunteer opportunities are open to individuals and groups during the week, Tuesdays-Saturday. Children must be over the age of 14. For specific information on volunteering please contact in advance, Ana Martinez, Volunteer Director at <amartinez@lafoodbank.org> or 323.234.3030 Ext. 144.