

IRSland

The following appeared in the FEB quarterly [News-at-a-Glance](#):

The Untold IRS Story

IRS bashing has become a popular sport among the media and politicians. We wish they were as interested in publicizing two long-standing volunteer programs of the IRS Los Angeles District.

The Adopt-A-School Program, the brainchild of now-retired District Director Richard Orosco, has flourished since 1994, with each post-of-duty choosing a different neighborhood school to help. Employee-mentors visit the schools for up to 2 work hours per week to assist underprivileged pupils, typically in reading and math. Periodically, volunteers raise money for the schools, such as the candy sale led by Coordinator [Clara Jones](#) which netted \$430 and enabled 4th and 5th graders from the [Breed Street School](#) to see state government in action in Sacramento.

[John Eubanks](#), a school board member and IRS manager, who participates in the program along with employees in every IRS job category, shared this, "I volunteer in a first-grade classroom and the little kids are so great! It is fun to see their smiling faces and hear them greet me, 'Hello, Mr. Eubanks!' They are genuinely happy to have another adult helping in the classroom."

*The **Volunteer Corps**, created as a response to the 1992 L.A. Riots by [Art Hylton](#), Chief, Collection Division, participates in various projects, some with [L.A. WORKS](#), such as Beach Clean-Up and Landscaping, Public School Painting, and Holiday Angel Trees for Needy Children. The 30 to 70 employees who turn out for each project give up to 8 hours of their weekend time to better the community. Art founded the Corps because, "I was very sad to see L.A. destroyed after the riots. I was born in L.A. and I love the city. I have had a good career and I wanted to participate in something to help make the L.A. the way it used to be."*

Numbers

Carrying on the great volunteer tradition described above, the IRS has the largest FVC membership at 95, including 66 current volunteers.

- At the FVC Kickoff, 29 IRS employees signed up to start volunteering.
- The most popular cause by far (54) is Federal programs, such as the IRS Volunteer Corps, followed by Local (19), Religious (16), Children and Environment (7 each), Health (5), Disadvantaged (3), and Other (2).
- Fifty-three volunteers reported average annual hours of 139.

- Sixty-five respondents indicated an average of seven years volunteering.
- Twenty-two volunteers helped an average of 199 people each.
- Of the 65 reporting, 62% volunteered in their work cities and 48% volunteered in their home cities. The total of over 100% results from some volunteering in both.
- No significant correlations among survey items were discovered.

Stories

In the words of dedicated volunteer, Antonio Asejo:

1. **“VITA: This is my third year helping in the electronic filing of Forms 1040; wherein every Saturday, I go to the VITA site at the LA Mission College in Sylmar where low income taxpayers file their income tax returns.**
2. **“Northridge House is an adult residential facility for developmentally disabled persons...During my off hours or days from my regular job...I help...do the grocery buying, take/drive clients to doctor/dental appointments, train the clients to do household chores, etc. I drive for the facility free of charge, on trips going to Las Vegas, Monterey, etc. My wife and I teach these disabled persons how to live a normal life...We have been doing this work...almost 12 years.”**

Antonio volunteers to increase his knowledge and skills, to feel good about himself doing it, for religious reasons, and to make the world better, in that order. He contributes about 554 hours annually and has helped at least 137 people each year.

For the last five years, Stella Clayter has been donating 100 annual hours to *L.A. Works*, to Feel good about herself doing it, Make the world better, and Increase her knowledge and skills.

Mary Ann Cossentine, in addition to helping on the FVC Kickoff, has contributed over 200 hours yearly to the *West Valley Boy Scouts* for 22 years, helping over 2000 boys. She also has volunteered 50 hours annually to the *Wildlife Refuge* in the Santa Monica Mountains for the last two years. Finally, for the last 15 years she has worked over 400 hours each year for the *Christian Church of the Hills*, helping over 25 individuals.

In Daun Doering's words, "I am very involved with my church and the affiliated Sorority. We are always volunteering to not only help those within our organization but our community as well.

- I have helped paint lunch tables, pull weeds and plant new plants at a local elementary school.
- Recently our Sorority helped *L.A. Works* fix up around a school.
- I have run in the *Revlon Run/Walk* for Women with Breast & Ovarian Cancer raising \$300.
- I have made food to help serve the homeless at a local church that was set up as a temporary shelter for the homeless that were trying to get integrated back into society.
- I helped clean several miles of beach picking up garbage and debris that had washed up on the beach or was left by others.
- I have helped clean vacant lots around our community.
- I have helped at the church owned cannery packing food that is distributed to those who cannot afford to buy food.
- I take food to the ill or shut-ins and sometimes leave a box of stuff anonymously.
- As Assistant Advisor to our Sorority *Lambda Delta Sigma*, I helped raise \$1,000 to be combined with the Sorority as a Region wide Organization to make a donation to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of over \$10,000 in April.

I have been involved with my church for 25 years and there is always service to be done...There is always a willing spirit from those...involved. I feel I've really made someone happy somewhere by sharing a little bit of my time doing service to those who need help."

For the last four years, another volunteer has helped feed over 350 people at the *Skid Row Ministries* for Religious reasons, to Make the world better, & to Feel good about herself doing it. In her words, "I feed every second & fourth Sunday; we leave at 10:30 A.M. from the Skid row office...downtown and serve food to the homeless, a home-cooked meal, still hot with dessert, sometimes a drink. Also I go to the Skid Row office at West Angeles Church, 3045 Crenshaw, and help prepare the desserts and other things to feed. I help do whatever is needed...in the Skid Row office on Friday and Saturday, my off days. The *Skid Row Ministries* give food and clothes to various...organizations and people. Sometimes we go to Mexico for Christmas and give toys, clothes, food and money to churches and people we fellowship with. We give on every holiday too. One Thanksgiving we cooked at the church and brought some of the people from Skid Row to church and fed them."

Katherine Harris feels good about herself volunteering for 16 years for the *American Legion Auxiliary*. She gives 300 hours yearly, going "to the *VA Hospital* to help the homeless veterans and veterans in the hospital. Helping others is always good." She also volunteers at an *AIM-IRS Adopted School* in Compton, providing school supplies and toys at Christmas.

Diane Royal volunteers one day a week to the *Civil Air Patrol* in Los Alamitos, feeling good about herself doing it, making the world better, and increasing her skills and knowledge. She has also spent one weekend a month for the last 17 years with the *US Army Reserve*.

To make the world better and to feel good about himself doing it, Brian Sisk volunteers for four organizations.

- "I have done lots of different types of volunteer work coordinated by LA Works, such as: Habitat for Humanity - I have been involved for the past 1 ½ years helping build nine houses on a lot in Panorama City, have been there more Saturdays than I can count helping with all phases of construction. The houses are almost complete.
- Other Projects I have helped with are picnics for abused kids, painting schools and day-care centers and tree-planting.
- Union Station Foundation is a homeless shelter/mission...in Pasadena. Every Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter they hold a huge dinner in Pasadena Central Park for homeless and less fortunate people and families to come and eat a good meal. I volunteer each Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter morning and afternoon to help serve the food. I have also helped on other occasions to cook food in their kitchen.
- Sierra Club: I have helped plant trees at freeway interchanges.
- IRS L.A. District Volunteer Corps: I have participated in several organized volunteer events, such as painting schools & planting flowers."

You see things and you say, "Why?"
But I dream things that never were and I say, "Why not?"

George Bernard Shaw

IRS Reasons for Volunteering

■ # of Replies □ #1 rankg

