

JOHN LEE

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMEMBER • DISTRICT 12



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COUNCILMEMBER LEE LAUNCHES LUNCHES WITH LOVE PILOT PROGRAM TO SERVE FRESH MEALS TO UNHOUSED RESIDENTS OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

CHATSWORTH – Councilmember John Lee joined with community partners the Rotary Club of Granada Hills and the nonprofit homeless outreach ministry About My Father’s Business to kick off the first Lunches with Love meal delivery program for individuals experiencing homelessness in the northwest San Fernando Valley. The pilot program aims to enlist the help of everyday residents to serve those experiencing homelessness and let them know they are not invisible and not forgotten. Initially, Lunches with Love will provide care packages twice a month consisting of fresh, wholesome meals, hygiene kits along with a personal message of hope from the donor.

“I have always been impressed by the engagement and generosity shown by the Council District 12 community and this is but another example of my constituents stepping up to serve in a time of great need,” said Councilmember John Lee. “I am grateful to Laine Caspi with the Rotary Club of Granada Hills and Pastor Kathy Huck with About My Father’s Business for their passion to serve our most vulnerable population, and their willingness to partner with my office to bring this program to fruition.”

At today’s inaugural meal distribution, representatives from the participating community organizations brought lunches from their congregants/members to the Council District 12 Community Service Center where they were sorted for distribution. Hygiene kits and hand washing kits were also be added to the care package. Once the lunches were sorted by category (meat, vegetarian, etc.), homeless outreach coordinator Kathy Huck grouped them by geographic location focusing on hotspots throughout our community.

Mobilizing local Valley residents and community organizations is critical to the long-term sustainability of the fresh meal program. The following Valley organizations and their members have also committed their support and participation in this new Twelfth District program:

The Church at Rocky Peak, United Methodist Church of Chatsworth, Shepherd Church, Shomrei Torah Synagogue, Temple Ahavat Shalom, North Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, Chatsworth Kiwanis, Northridge Kiwanis, Get Together Foundation, and Granada Hills Woman's Club.

“For the last 20 years, About My Father’s Business has been conducting outreach and assisting the unsheltered in our community,” said Pastor Kathy Huck, Founder and Executive Director of the nonprofit. “I’m thrilled to partner with Councilmember Lee to launch this meal program and not only create a way for more in our community to get involved and make an impact on this crisis, but also bring dignity and hope to our community’s unhoused residents.”

“The Rotary Club of Granada Hills has worked with Councilmember Lee throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to provide a helping hand and relief to those who are struggling,” shared Rotary board member Laine Caspi. “And we are proud to partner once again on an initiative that will bring people together to make a difference and show care for our neighbors experiencing homelessness.”

Lunches with Love also received a generous \$5,000 community grant from the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas), which will be used to purchase coolers and wagons to transport the meals to unhoused residents.

According to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), homelessness in the city increased by 16.1% in the last year despite significant increases in housing placements.

“We hear numbers about our homelessness crisis all the time and it’s easy to forget that those numbers represent real people who have fallen on hard times,” said Councilmember Lee. “The purpose of Lunches with Love is to show our unhoused neighbors that we see them, and that they matter.”

Individuals and organizations interested in volunteering with the Lunches With Love program should call 818-882-1212 or email ron.rubine@lacity.org.

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Los Angeles City Councilmember John Lee represents the Twelfth Council District in the Northwest San Fernando Valley which includes the communities of Northridge, Chatsworth, Granada Hills, North Hills, West Hills, Porter Ranch, Sherwood Forest, and portions of Reseda.