

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOPE *worldwide* and Local Volunteers Seek to Collect 2,000 Pounds of Food at Contactless Drive-Thru Event

Los Angeles, February 13, 2021-- International charity and relief organization HOPE worldwide and volunteers from Los Angeles based Lifeway Church, aim to collect 2,000 pounds of food to be donated to La Casa de San Gabriel Community Center, a non-profit serving economically disadvantaged children and families.

The contactless drive-through food collection event is open to the public and will take place on **Saturday, February 20, 2021 from 9 am to 12 pm** at the Gabrielino High School parking lot (1327 S. San Gabriel Blvd, San Gabriel 91776). Each January, volunteers from Lifeway Church join forces with HOPE worldwide to celebrate an annual day of community service in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. In recent years, hundreds of volunteers have cleaned and beautified local schools. This year those efforts were moved to the month of February in an effort to address pandemic related needs while ensuring the safety of both volunteers and prospective donors.

“As the COVID-19 pandemic rages on, we know that many of our neighbors are in desperate need of essentials. Food insecurity is a reality in many communities, now more than ever. So, this year we thought the best way to help was to have a contactless food drive benefiting La Casa de San Gabriel. We believe this event will honor the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.,” said Jyllyann Samuel, co-chair of the Lifeway chapter of HOPE worldwide. La Casa has been providing more than 100 households every other week with much-needed staples since the beginning of the pandemic. “We have always looked out for those in the community as well as the families of the children who attend our preschool who are in need of food,” said Interim Executive Director Velma De La Rosa of La Casa.

Anyone interested in making a food donation is asked to drive donations to the Gabrielino High School parking lot. All unexpired shelf-stable goods are welcome but particularly needed items include: Beans (1-2 lb bags), rice (1-2 lb bags), lentils (1-2 lb bags), cereal, oatmeal, pasta and sauce, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meats such as tuna and chicken, powdered milk, shelf-life soy or almond milk, instant soups, peanut butter, jelly or jam, apple sauce, granola bars, and fruit chew snacks. Please sort items in bags with like items if bringing multiples.

The food drive will be held in compliance with local and statewide guidelines. Both volunteers and donors are required to wear face coverings and to socially distance by six feet. Donors should have donations ready in their vehicle trunks or back seats before arriving at the collection site and are asked to remain in their vehicles at all times while volunteers collect the donations at a prescribed drop-off point.

[Lifeway Church](#) is a diverse and dynamic congregation of Christian believers that began in 1989 with a dream of living life God’s way. It has grown to an attendance of around 1,000 every Sunday with a congregation that is diverse in age, race, and socio-economic background.

Lifeway Church is a fellowship of the [International Churches of Christ](#) and a ministry of the [Los Angeles Church of Christ](#). Follow us [@LifewayLA](#) on Facebook and [@lifeway_la](#) on Instagram.

[HOPE worldwide](#) is an international charity that changes lives through the compassion and commitment of dedicated staff and volunteers to deliver sustainable, high-impact, community-based services to the poor and needy.

[La Casa de San Gabriel Community Center](#) serves as a family resource center with a mission to help economically disadvantaged children and families in their efforts to overcome the barriers of limited education, underemployment, language, inadequate housing and lack of medical care.

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