



A Note from the Founder

Anna Marie

As we enter our eighth year of serving our neighbors, I continue to reflect on how far this community has come. What began with serving five neighbors at the Tuesday Community Connections Center and five more at the Friday Center has grown into a collaborative network of volunteers committed to walking alongside our neighbors with compassion, dignity and care.

Last year alone, more than 1,000 unique individuals visited our Community Connections Centers and received vital resources and support services. None of this would be possible without the dedication of you, our volunteers, whose generosity, talents and willingness to serve continue to strengthen this community.

This has also been an exciting season for our organization. Our Volunteer Appreciation Event was a wonderful success, bringing together more than half our current volunteers for an afternoon of fellowship and celebration. Looking ahead, we have many exciting things planned for the upcoming fiscal year, including our first fundraising event in April 2027. Watch for more information in the months ahead and join us as we celebrate this new chapter.

As YDI4M grows, this newsletter is intended to keep you informed about and connected with upcoming events, volunteer opportunities and organizational news. Most importantly, we hope it helps strengthen the sense of community that makes our outreach possible. Thank you for being an essential part of our mission.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 18 - 19

Resource Drive

Santa Sophia Church

4:30 p.m., Saturday

8 a.m., 11 a.m.

August 9

Second Saturday Collection

Carlton Hills Lutheran Church

10 a.m. - Noon

August 4, 11, 18, 25

Community Connections Center

Salvation Army, El Cajon

9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Want to get involved? On the next page you'll find additional volunteer opportunities, including flexible ways to help outside of regular daytime events.



Team Spotlight: Resources

Led by Anna Gerhart, the Resource Team manages the essential items distributed to neighbors during Tuesday outreach events. Each week, she has an average of more than 100 neighbors receive clothing, hygiene kits, snack bags, blankets, backpacks, towels and other necessities.

Much of this work happens behind the scenes. Donations are collected through church resource drives, Second Saturday collections at the office, and community contributions. These resources are sorted, laundered, folded, tagged, organized and stocked for distribution by Anna and her team.

When donations do not meet current needs, Resource Team volunteers shop the local Salvation Army sales and other low-cost sources. Shoes remain one of the highest-demand items and most difficult to keep in stock.

The Resource Team plays a vital role in helping outreach run each week smoothly. Their work helps provide not only practical support, but also dignity and care for the neighbors we serve. Donations are always appreciated.

Volunteer Opportunities

LAUNDRY VOLUNTEERS

The Resource Team is seeking volunteers to assist with laundering clothing. Laundry is completed at a local laundromat and times are flexible based on team availability. Contact: granna@youdidit4me.org.

EVENT PLANNING

We're excited to begin planning our first dedicated fundraising event, coming in April 2027, and we'd love your help! This event will not only raise important funds to support our outreach but will also be an opportunity to introduce more people to our mission and celebrate the incredible community that makes it possible. We're looking for volunteers and we would love to have you join us! Contact: karen@youdidit4me.org.



Call to Support

Through the generosity of donors, volunteers, churches, businesses and community partners, YDI4M successfully reached its fundraising goal for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. As we began a new fiscal year on July 1, we also started the important work of raising the funds needed to continue and expand our mission of serving our neighbors with compassion and care.

Throughout the year, this section will provide updates on fundraising progress, current needs, upcoming collections, and the successes and challenges we encounter along the way. We encourage you to help spread the word about YDI4M within your own circles of friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, churches and community groups. Financial contributions, in-kind donations, and new volunteers all play an important role in helping this mission continue to grow. If you're active in social media, check out You Did It For Me Social Media Guidelines: <https://youdidit4me.org/social-media-guidelines-ydi4m-volunteers>

Volunteers Connect is made possible through the generous gift of time and talent from our volunteers. Thank you to everyone who contributed their creativity, writing, editing and design to help keep our community informed and connected.

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