

✘ **Beach Cities Interfaith Services, Inc.** ✘

Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.

Matthew 26:40

Purpose:

The purpose of BCIS as an interfaith, non-profit corporation is to be a caring, compassionate, and capable entity in serving those among us in need; to offer food to those that are hungry; to offer clothing to those that have little to wear; and to offer emergency utility assistance to families struggling to stay in their home and be able to maintain a reasonable existence for family members.

Beach Cities Interfaith Services, based in Huntington Beach, serves needy clients from throughout Orange County. In 2006, the following services were offered:

- Food was provided to 7,042 individuals. On average, 170 bags of food are given per month for 525 people.
- 1,695 lunch bags were provided to homeless persons.
- Holiday gifts were given to 577 children (12 and under)
- Clothing and hygiene items were made available
- Job referrals were available daily.

As a United Way Utility Assistance Agency, in 2006:

- \$9,000 was distributed for gas bill assistance
- \$7,500 was distributed for electric bill assistance

Another program of BCIS is “Cuddle Up and Read”. To promote the reading and understanding of English, each month BCIS volunteers read to the second grade students at a local Title 1 school. Three times a year, the students are given new books and a stuffed animal. Books are purchased by BCIS from *Reading Is Fundamental*, a federally-funded organization based in Washington, DC. During the 2005-2006 school year:

- 420 books and stuffed animals were given to the students

New in 2006:

- Homeless lunch bags are given twice a week.
- Bus passes and small denomination gasoline cards are available for medical and employment purposes.
- A case management specialist has been hired on contract. She is a licensed social worker. In the first two weeks at BCIS, she had 57 case management contacts for shelter, mental health, and many others.

How St. John's members can be involved:

- Participate in food and hygiene items in-gatherings during the year
- Volunteer at the Service Center or as readers in the “Cuddle Up and Read” program.
- Donate the use of trucks or vans to pick up loads from the food banks and deliver to BCIS.