



Metro Bus operators from left, Norma Martinez, Maria Pedilla and Fabian Naruri took their off-duty time to help distribute food to the less-fortunate families. Photos: Helen Ortiz.

San Gabriel Valley Division 9's Generosity is Bounty for Local Food Drive

By LISA HUYNH

(Dec. 27, 2002) The holidays is a time of giving and receiving – the Division Advisory Committee members at San Gabriel Valley Division 9 gave in a big way, last Wednesday, to families less fortunate.

Juan Ausburger, who is chairperson of DAC, came up with the idea of selling Christmas pins at a dollar each and then donating the profit to a local church.

Within two weeks, the DAC members made over \$750 and donated the money to Valley Community Church in El Monte.

With this effort, the church was able to feed at least 200 families – double the amount of what they would normally give.

"Our DAC members here at division 9 are really representing our sector in terms of our efforts of connecting to the community we serve," says General Manager Jack Gabig. "Our hope is that we can do more next year."

Operators, supervisors and employees from the sector helped distributed the food to registered needy families from the church.

"The DAC members, along with the MTA received an overwhelming appreciation from the community," says Communications Manager Helen Ortiz.

The church bought foods such as canned goods, pastas, rice, vegetables and fruit from a local food bank.

"Everyone that walked by me had a smile and said thank you to the MTA," says Ortiz. "It was just a wonderful morning and it brought the spirit of the holiday to our hearts."



Valley Community Church food drive benefited some 200 local families.

[Back to "A very MTA Holiday"](#)