

Volunteer Spotlight - August 2009

Dale Hinnen

The warehouse at Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services (SFBFS) is a bustling hub of activity. The hardworking staff and volunteers keep all programs at various locations well supplied and running smoothly. One of those volunteers, Dale Hinnen, continually rises to the occasion to make sure the job gets done.

After a family tragedy forced him to leave his job in August, Dale came to SFBFS and began volunteering in the Food Assistance program. Over time, Dale began to take on more and more responsibility, covering for volunteers who called in sick and eventually taking on tasks in the warehouse.



The positive and upbeat family atmosphere of SFBFS continues to bring Dale back day after day. "I never pictured myself enjoying volunteering this much," shares Dale. After a short time, Dale discovered that helping others felt good and he began to give even more time. After a few months Dale started doing donation pick-ups and deliveries for SFBFS, a perfect fit for the former delivery driver. He immensely enjoys being the face of SFBFS out in the community. Shannin Saulnier, Operations Manager, can't say enough positive things about Dale's contributions. "We have been able to expand some of our grocery store relationships as a direct result of Dale's impeccable customer service and dedication to our mission," she says. "I am honored to have a volunteer like Dale in my department; he is a true reflection of selflessness and hard work."

Dale has no problem with hard work, occasionally spending 12 hour days at SFBFS during busy months. "I'm the type of person that does the job until it's done," he says. "I don't mind going the extra mile." Dale definitely does go above and beyond, even working on Saturdays when there is a need. Recognizing the importance of what he's learned at SFBFS, Dale has even brought down one of his sons to help out in Food Assistance and show him the value of volunteer work.

Shannin sums up Dale's importance as a volunteer saying, "Dale is more than a volunteer to those of us in Operations; he is a member of our team, our family. He loves Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services and represents us in the community with dignity and integrity."