BWA 2.0 May 2021 Report

Better Way Anaheim 2.0, the COVID-19 Job Opportunity and Skills Development Program, started July 15, 2020, after receiving City Council approval for its funding.

Like the original, Better Way Anaheim 1.0, a program that provides a work-like experience for homeless, Better Way Anaheim 2.0 is a program operated by Love Anaheim, an organization with a “service project platform” that seeks to love and serve Anaheim by “Spreading Goodness, Meeting Needs, and Demonstrating Kindness”.

The BWA 2.0 COVID-19 Job Opportunity and Skills Development Program provides immediate employment opportunities for Anaheim’s homeless. This unique program provides at least 1 day a week employment, life skills education, connection to services, job coaching and a link to a job opportunity network. Each BWA 2.0 Participant is in the program for approximately 15 weeks.

In May, BWA 2.0 did the following:
- Supported Riverbed Farm 2 days.
- Supported 3 weekly, two twice-monthly Food Distribution Operations.
  - Salk Elementary School (Mondays) - serves about 350 families / week.
  - Brookhurst Community Center (Saturdays) - serves about 350 families / week.
  - Magnolia Baptist Church (Wednesdays) – serves about 100 families / week.
  - Native American United Methodist Church (Wednesdays) – twice-monthly – serves about 300 families / month.
  - La Palma Park Parking Lot (Saturdays) – twice in May, served 242 families.
- Delivered food supplies donated by Eastside Christian Church to 3 Magnolia School District Monthly Food Pantries.
- Assisted the City of Anaheim at Maxwell Park, to prepare for the opening of the Dog Park.
- Assembled ~4,700 “Touchpoint” items (gift given with a smile, encouraging word and card to a person coming to a food distribution).
- Assembled Care Bags delivered to the Downtown Community Center for distribution to Anaheim’s Senior Citizens
- Learned Life Skills from the Love Anaheim “pilot” Life Skills Curriculum (4 hours total).
- Provided 42 employment opportunities (6-7 hours each).