

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

July 2022



**OUR NEW FORKLIFT  
NEEDS A NAME!**

Tucked back in the southwest corner of the new warehouse sits the newest addition to the fleet of Catholic Charities' (CC) warehouse handling equipment. Currently the unassuming orange workhorse is referred to as the 'reach truck' - partly because of what it can do, and partly because this brand-new forklift has yet to be dubbed with a lovable name. With this article, though, we hope you will get to know this forklift, appreciate its complexities and usefulness, and [join us in a contest to name it](#).

When the new warehouse was being designed, the spacing between the racks was set to maximize the usable space under the roof. Spacing was set at a slim 9 ½ feet. The Toyota forklift procured is one of a select few that are able manage to move up and down the narrow aisles and turn into a rack to set or retrieve a pallet.

The machine arrived some months ago, while CC was still distributing food out at the Outpost. Bobby and the warehouse crew created a 'test track' at the Outpost to see for themselves how operating in the confined space of the new warehouse would play out. When the Outpost closed, the reach truck made the move to its new home.

When you first see it, you can't help but notice that it's orange. Not Texas Longhorn burnt orange, not OSU Cowboy orange, but really orange. The operator doesn't sit on it, but rather stands in it. Moreover, the operator doesn't face 'forward' at all; he/she stands facing the left side of the machine and looks to the direction of travel. It appears as if the forklift is moving backwards, when actually this is the way it is designed to safely move!

(continued inside)

**NAME THE NEW FORKLIFT!**

Submit your suggestion  
by August 1st



YOUR name \_\_\_\_\_

What should we call it? \_\_\_\_\_

How does it work? The operator uses a wheel and a stick to control its movements. The wheel is used to change the direction of travel and can turn the machine 360-degrees without moving in any other direction. The stick is used to control the pneumatically-controlled lift. The lift can put a 4,000-pound pallet as high as 30 feet but - due to fire regulations - no pallet in the new warehouse can be above 12 feet. The forks can be extended (this is where the 'reach' in 'reach truck' comes from) outwards, moved from side to side a couple of inches in either direction, and can be tilted a bit forward and backwards to help with handling heavier loads that might flex the forks downward.

The controls can be programmatically dampened – that is they can be set so that what it is they control will change slowly rather than quickly. This setting is used for operators that are still getting used to the machine and helps avoid accidents due to rapid changes in direction or height.

One of the two older forklifts that CC used ran on propane, and the other was electric. The new reach truck

is electric, and uses wet cells charged from a wall charger. The batteries can be kept charged at near capacity without damaging them. (In contrast, the older electric forklift required the batteries to be discharged to 20% then recharged to full to optimize battery life.) The new one can't operate in the rain, and it requires a very flat surface to roll over. Even small shallows or divots on the floor can cause the machine to bottom out and once in that position, it's difficult to move the machine in any direction. The machine weighs over 8,500 pounds empty, so you're not going to lift it or push it anywhere it doesn't want to go. On a side note, CC has also acquired another new propane-fueled forklift for those areas of the campus that are outside or in uneven terrain.

Finally, operators must be certified to be able to run this machine. Reach truck certification is currently in process for only a select few. The number of operators will be kept small to minimize potentially hazardous incidents arising from improperly or lightly-trained operators. Disappointingly, joy rides cannot be given.

So, now that you know a lot about the 8,500 lb. orange gorilla in the room, how about thinking of a clever name for the beast? Maybe some inspiration from the folks over at Oldham Council around Doncaster, UK (east of Manchester) who, through an online contest, have named their newest salt- and grit-spreading road machine the Gritsy Bitsy Teeny Weenie Yellow Anti-slip Machiney, with over 25,000 suggestions received. Use your imagination to come up with something very clever! Remember the Boaty McBoatface Polar Research ship...



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Cut out this slip and bring it to the break room in The Market to enter your name for the new forklift! Suggestions will be put to a vote, and winner gets bragging rights. Be sure to enter your name by August 1st!

## BEHIND THE SCENES

Vic and Susie Alonzi are part of a dedicated team of volunteers who give essential behind-the-scenes support to The Market, Outreach, and Volunteer Engagement.

Four years ago, at Deacon Erick Bell's request, Susie Alonzi started keeping track of the number of pounds of clothing and food that Catholic Charities (CC) was receiving from donors. She entered and maintained this information in a spreadsheet, providing the data to Dcn. Bell as needed. At the beginning of the pandemic it was decided that food was a much higher priority for our clients.

Now Susie tracks the weights of purchased and donated food, but in the future the weight of this food will be maintained with a new online system available soon (additional details below).

Do you ever wonder where the client registration sheets that we collect every day (at least until June 1, anyway) wind up? Well, the information about each family – number of households, adults, children, and seniors, and for a while, license plate numbers – is forwarded over to Susie, who transcribes it into another spreadsheet for Dcn. Craig Victor. He uses that information to create a monthly report required by the USDA outlining the number of households we serve.

As of June 1, the new online registration system, AssistOK, is replacing this paper-based reporting. Hopefully, once information about each household and client is entered into that system, subsequent visits to CC for services will be streamlined, allowing clients to obtain CC-offered services more quickly.

In addition, Susie maintains Sign-Up Genius for The Market. As CC changes volunteer activities, shifts, and responsibilities, this needs to be reflected in the free, online sign-up systems. CC uses this Sign-Up Genius to for scheduling and to get an accurate count of what volunteer staff will be on-hand each day. Knowing how many volunteers to expect is very important in planning how to allocate the resources that are available to staff the Market.

The Volunteer Office uses multiple lists to communicate with volunteers, each one tailored to a specific group – Disaster Relief, The Market, Porta Caeli, Afghan Resettlement, etc. The mailing lists are generated from Volgistics, the volunteer sign-in system.

Vic Alonzi (yes, he's Susie's husband), made his career in IT and has been responsible for maintaining the structure within Volgistics to generate these mailing lists and run different reports for our leadership team. Adding members is straightforward, but knowing when to change or remove a structural entry is quite another matter. Vic spends ALOT of time keeping these structures current for the office.

Vic also maintains the Volgistics volunteer sign-in system, taking direction from the Volunteer Office. Adding and removing assignments and associated tasks is a never-ending job. Vic also provides the number of volunteer labor hours to CC's Development Office staff so that they can show non-paid participation in CC's programs when writing grants. Volgistics also tracks certifications that may be required for some jobs (like handling food, or driving a truck, for example).

Vic is also helping Sr. Lucy Marie configure and implement a new Inventory Control System for the warehouse. The Primarius system – after over a year of planning, designing, and testing – is slated to go live within the next few weeks. This system will maintain an inventory of food on hand both in the Harvard warehouse and at Mary Martha Outreach in Bartlesville by keeping track of inbound deliveries and outbound food usage.

Vic spends some time helping Deacon's Erick & Craig and MaryLynn, with analyzing data from a number of different sources so they can make more informed decisions, or just save some time, when wading through the numbers.

Although life can seem quiet behind the scenes, know that the back office is humming as volunteers like Susie and Vic Alonzi support the Catholic Charities mission, as they have done for years. Their work and commitment, and the work and commitment of other volunteers like them, consistently provide CC with information and assistance needed to serve more clients with fewer resources.



## Ice Cream Social!

Join us in celebrating two of our CCUSA nominees for volunteer of the year, Dennis and Diane Hayes!

**CCEOK Back Patio**

**Wednesday, July 13 at 2:15 PM**

# Blueberry Muffins

## Ingredients:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 1/4 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3/4 cup fresh or frozen blueberries



## Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400°. In a small bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. In another bowl, whisk the egg, milk, butter and vanilla; stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Fold in blueberries. If using frozen blueberries, use without thawing to avoid discoloring the batter.
2. Fill greased or paper-lined muffin cups three-fourths full. Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, 18-22 minutes. Cool for 5 minutes before removing from pan to a wire rack.

## CALL TO ACTION: Increase Volunteer Usage of SignUp Genius for Scheduling Shifts

### WHAT'S SO GENIUS ABOUT SIGNUP GENIUS?

Market volunteers signing up for volunteer shifts can easily click the link they receive in an email, and sign up for the shift(s) they want. Just be sure that after all of the dates and shifts you want to volunteer for, you scroll to the bottom of the page and select "Submit and Sign Up".

After clicking the "Submit and Sign Up" button you are taken to a screen to enter your contact information.

- A Pro Tip is to create your own SignUp Genius (SUG) account and your past sign-ups will be available on your "Invited To" tab so you can go back and sign up for more shifts, change, or cancel sign ups.
- If you do create your own SUG account, there is a small box that says "Save my contact information for future sign ups" and that way you don't have to fill in your address, phone, etc. each time you sign up!
- If you are unable to make the shift you signed up for, it's helpful to the Program if you cancel your sign up on SUG. This sends CC a message that you aren't going to be there and that CC may need to find a replacement for your spot.

SUG is a tremendously helpful tool for scheduling because it helps the Brent and Tim anticipate the help they'll have each day. And, it helps ensure we have each volunteer's correct contact information.

[www.cceok.org/signup](http://www.cceok.org/signup)



## GET INVOLVED



Volunteer with us! [cceok.org/volunteer](http://cceok.org/volunteer)  
Join our Facebook Group!

For story ideas, feedback, etc.,  
email: [volcommunications@cceok.org](mailto:volcommunications@cceok.org)