

Lisa Tang Delivers Groceries, More For Rosie's Place

Longtime Quincy resident Lisa Tang credits years of restaurant work with preparing her for her latest volunteer job at Rosie's Place, a Boston sanctuary for poor and homeless women.

"When you're in the restaurant business, you learn how to talk to everyone," she says. "Being curious and a good listener comes in handy in just about every situation."

For almost a year now, Tang has been making deliveries from the Rosie's Place Groceries pantry to poor women who are confined to their homes. But she doesn't just drop off the much-needed food; she makes time for a visit. According to Tang, getting to know each woman on her route through Boston and Dorchester enriches her life in ways she did not anticipate.

Reaching out to others was not something that



VOLUNTEER LISA TANG, a Quincy resident, helps serve lunch in the Rosie's Place dining room.

came naturally to Tang when she arrived in the United States 30 years ago. She had learned some English in her home city of Hong Kong, but was determined to improve. She found working in Chinese restaurants was an effective way to increase her language proficiency.

"I think I've held every job there is: waitress, cook, bartender, manager," she says. "My English improved gradually by interacting with the customers."

Tang found a field she loves and today she runs and is part-owner of the China Pilgrim restaurant in Plym-



LISA TANG (right) with Director of Volunteer Services Marty Wengert. Photos Courtesy Michele Chausse/Rosie's Place

outh. She eventually settled in Quincy with her husband and son, now 20. "When he went off to college, I wanted to do something meaningful that I wouldn't get paid for," she says. When she asked the restaurant accountant for suggestions, he pointed her towards Rosie's Place.

Her first commitment—and one she still continues—was to prepare and serve lunch on Wednesdays. Every day an average of 210 poor and homeless women and their children can count on having a healthy lunch and dinner in the Rosie's Place dining room. Another 60 women enjoy breakfast Monday through Friday. Unlike other places, guests are not required to line up and wait to receive their meals. Volunteers like Lisa and dining room staff act as waiters and waitresses to serve them at the table. For many diners, it well may be the only respite in their day.

"Lisa is an amazing volunteer who is always willing to jump in and help with whatever needs to be done," says Rosie's Place Director

of Volunteer Services Marty Wengert. "She has been volunteering in our dining room for almost three years and has given over 150 hours of her time to help our guests."

When the home grocery delivery program was being developed, Wengert knew she could rely on Tang. Drivers were initially asked to stop by one home per month, but before long, Tang asked to take on four stops. "Lisa is a positive person with a can-do attitude," says Wengert. "She has been critical to the success of this new service. The women she delivers to truly appreciate her kindness."

And Tang looks forward each month to deepening the relationships she has made. "I just love this 'job,'" she admits. She spends about one to two hours filling shopping bags with meat, fresh produce and non-perishables for each woman and then visiting for about one half-hour per household.

One of the women she visits became blind not too long ago, and Tang marvels

at her ability to be so self-sufficient. She cooks for herself and frequently rearranges her furniture, yet moves assuredly around the apartment. "I'm always changing my rooms around, too," says Tang, noting that while her background is not the same as the women she visits, she finds they share more commonalities than differences.

Another guest is an older woman who recently lost her leg. According to Tang, "She's an elegant and proud woman, very reserved. Getting her to open up is a gradual process. She's like a treasure chest: once you know the combination, there are riches inside."

Tang practices Buddhism and says she believes in destiny. "Things will come to you if you're open to them" are words she lives by. "I am always asking what these volunteer experiences are trying to tell me," she says. "I ask the universe to help me be a better person."

Tang feels her work at Rosie's Place is a gift for her rather than a sacrifice she makes for others. "I am very thankful for this opportunity. To me, giving is taking," she says.

Wengert appreciates the opportunity during April, National Volunteer Month, to recognize individuals like Tang. "Volunteers who we can count on, who stay with us for a while, become part of the fabric of Rosie's Place," she says. "Lisa's contributions allow us to make life a little better for women who come to us with nowhere else to go."

Quincy College Honoring Veterans

Quincy College is honoring its veterans for the upcoming Memorial Day.

College faculty, staff and students were encouraged to submit the names of their loved ones who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Throughout May, Quincy College is posting banners throughout its campus buildings in honor of the living, deceased, and fallen soldiers who have dedicated their lives in service to our country. In addition, Quincy College will host a Memorial Day Commemoration at its Quincy campus, Monday, May 11 at noon at Presidents Place Lower Level Conference Room, 1250 Hancock St.

The service is free and open to the public and will include guest speakers.

Quincy College wel-

comes veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, and their loved ones, to their college. They assist veterans in navigating their education benefits with the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, and develop a personalized mission based on the students educational needs.

Through the Quincy College Veterans Discount Program, veterans may enroll in either Liberal Arts or Professional Programs classes at a discounted rate. Veterans are eligible for this reduced rate regardless of the number of courses they take in a semester. The veteran discount program is not funded by the state or federal government; therefore, veterans who are eligible for education benefits through the VA may also receive the Quincy College discounted rate.

Quincy College is a member of the Service Members Opportunity Colleges Consortium (SOC); and reviews both military and college transcripts, as well as CLEP and DANTES exam scores, for transfer credit according to American Council of Education (ACE) recommendations.

Veterans, veteran dependents, and active duty service members are able to use their federal education benefits at Quincy College. Programs include:

- Post 9/11 GI Bill
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Montgomery GI Bill
- Tuition Assistance

For more information, call Christopher Breton, Quincy College Military and Veteran Services Specialist, at 617-405-5928.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Service

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south of Long Binh, South Vietnam. Levesque was 30 years old and left behind a wife and two stepchildren.

Levesque had served in Norfolk, Va.; Newport, R.I., and had returned from a three-year assignment in Bermuda before going to Vietnam in July 1968. During his service with the Navy, he had been awarded the Good Conduct Medal with two bronze stars, the Navy Expeditionary Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with one bronze star, and the Vietnamese Combat Medal.

Schofield was a graduate of Quincy High School and was a captain of the school's soccer team. He attended Quincy Junior College for two years prior to joining Army and was a member of St. John the Baptist Parish, where he was active in the CYO. Schofield had been a weapons instructor at Fort Benning, Ga. He left for Vietnam on Aug. 14, 1968,

three days before the birth of his daughter.

Schofield was killed on Sept. 16, 1968, at the age of 21. He was serving as a platoon leader and his unit was escorting a convoy on a road security mission when they came under heavy enemy fire. The lead vehicle was disabled, trapping Schofield's armored personnel carrier. Schofield was killed while carrying a comrade to safety; he was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for his actions.

"The initial burst of enemy fire killed or wounded several members of his platoon. Hearing a plea from one of the wounded men, Lt. Schofield, with complete disregard for his personal safety, braved the devastating enemy fire as he treated the ailing man. While carrying his comrades to the rear Lt. Schofield was fatally wounded by an enemy rocket," the Silver Star citation read. "His valorous actions were responsible for saving several lives and the

successful completion of the mission."

Coughlin was a lifelong Quincy resident and attended Quincy High School before enlisting in the Marine Corps in November 1967. He was on patrol duty near Quang Nam on Oct. 13, 1968, when he was hit by an explosive device. Coughlin died the following day; he was 19 years old.

Coughlin and Schofield both attended Quincy Point Junior High School. They and two other former students killed during the Vietnam War were memorialized by the school, which planted four maple trees in their honor.

Family members of the servicemen will speak at the dedications, joined by local officials. Ward 4 Councillor Brian Palmucci and Rep. Bruce Ayers will speak at the first dedication; Ward 5 Councillor Kirsten Hughes and Rep. Tackey Chan at the second; and Ward 2 Councillor Brad Croall and Keenan at the final dedication.

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<p>Thursday, April 30 6:00pm: Bethany Congregational Church 7:00pm: Quincy Rec. Dept. Middle School BBall</p> <p>Friday, May 1 6:00am: LIVE: AM Quincy (audio only) 11:30am: LIVE: Currently in Quincy</p> <p>Saturday, May 2 12:00pm: The Atlantic Examiner 3:30pm: Real Estate Focus</p> <p>Sunday, May 3 1:00pm: Quincy Rec. Dept. High School BBall 10:00pm: The Constitution: Then & Now</p> <p>Monday, May 4 11:30am: LIVE: Currently in Quincy 7:00pm: LIVE: Eye on Quincy</p> <p>Tuesday, May 5 6:00pm: Eye on Quincy (replay) 7:00pm: Taiwan Programming</p> <p>Wednesday, May 6 6:00pm: Good News 9:30pm: Sound Advice with Tom Williams</p>	<p>Thursday, April 30 5:30pm: Quincy in Focus 6:30pm: FYI:QHD Ticks & Mosquitos</p> <p>Friday, May 1 6:30pm: FYI:QHD Hemochromatosis 7:00pm: William R. Caddy Day Ceremony 9:30pm: At Your Library: May Happenings</p> <p>Saturday/Sunday, May 2/3 11:00am: At Your Library: May Happenings 12:00pm: City Council 4/27 6:00pm: William R. Caddy Day Ceremony 6:30pm: FYI:QHD Hemochromatosis 7:00pm: City Council 4/27</p> <p>Monday, May 4 7:30pm: LIVE: City Council</p> <p>Tuesday, May 5 12:00pm: City Council 5/4 4:00pm: LIVE: License Board 7:00pm: License Board Replay</p> <p>Wednesday, May 6 12:00pm: License Board 5/5 7:00pm: City Council 5/4</p>
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