

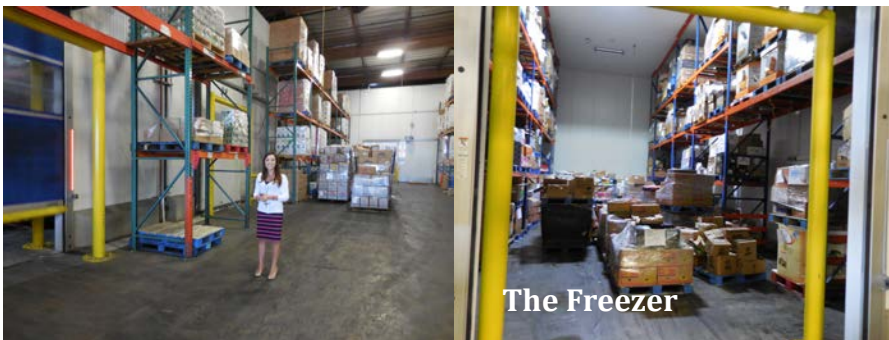
Visit to Los Angeles Regional Food Bank:
To mobilise resources to fight hunger in our community.



That's Mandi Kelperis
my guide for the day

Some people from the Zen Center (where I stay in Los Angeles) had visited and offered their Saturday morning to work as volunteers at the Food Bank. Quite honestly.... They left early in the morning full of joy bravado and came back exhausted and amazed. They spent 3 hours on a conveyor belt stuffing about 4,000 bags and boxes for distribution. As I couldn't go, I decided to visit another day and here is what I learnt.

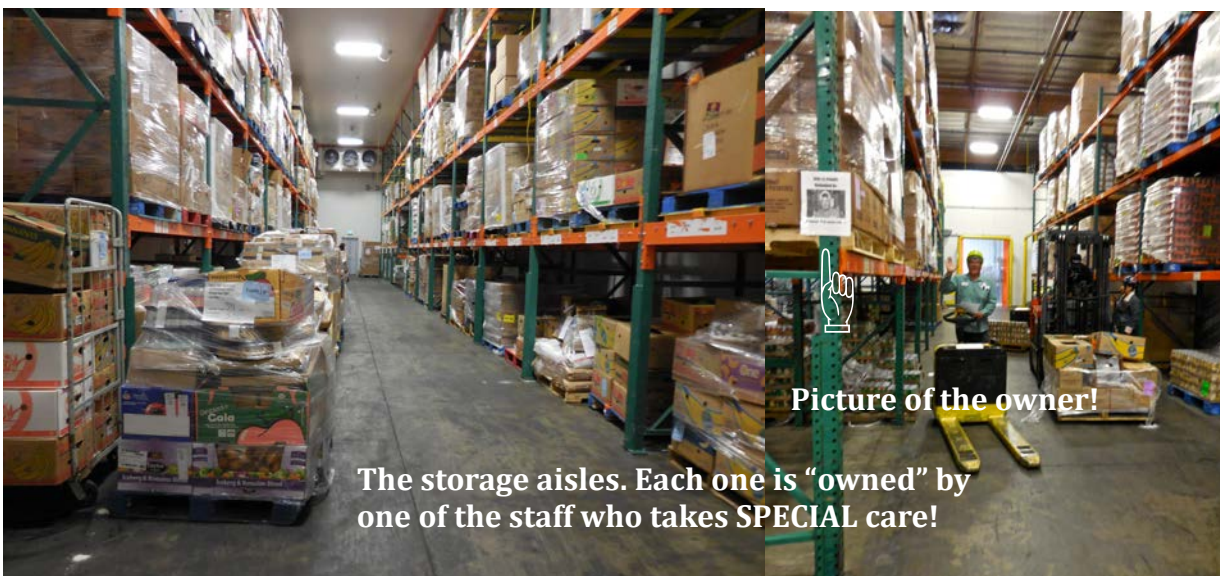
The LA Food Bank distributes 1,000,000 pounds of food every week. It feeds 1,000,000 people a year. It has 33,000 donors, over 30,000 volunteers and a budget of about \$10,000,000 and – the truly amazing fact? Only 3% of the income is used in running costs, 97% goes in food out to the people through 680 agencies. (Apparently the time to go to see the true rush is about 6 am when all the trucks etc. come to pick up the orders!)



The Freezer

The major portion of food goes to the working poor who simply cannot get food on the table and make ends meet. So they come in to get the extras they need. The Food Bank was started in 1973 by a cook named Tony Collier who hated to see food wasted!!! What a

success he made!!! Of course as time went by, other items were offered, accepted and now widely distributed. These include school necessities, washing powders etc, diapers and so on.



The storage aisles. Each one is "owned" by one of the staff who takes SPECIAL care!

Picture of the owner!

BUT only one fifth of the need is covered....

**So you know what to do! Visit the LA Regional Food Bank next time you are in LA.
1734 E. 41st. LA, CA 90058-1502 tel: 323-234-3030**

Emil Wolter in Moanoghar to light up the LED

Emil arrived on December 4, 2015



Then off to play a very serious football match between school and college students. Some of Emil's finest football hours occurred at this time.



In 2011, Emil endowed (with matching funds from his then company) a large part of the fund which had been

created to offer loans to university and college students. In the afternoon, Emil was able to meet up and talk with some of

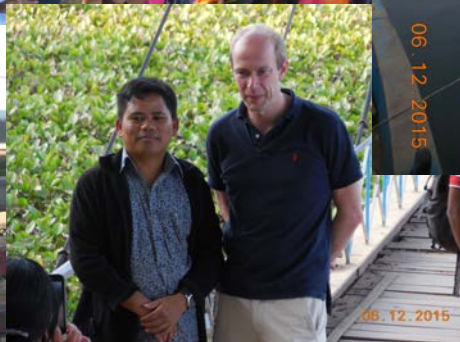
the students benefitting from the fund. Without Emil's help, they could not continue their education. They are all very faithful to Moanoghar, their old school. In the holidays they come and help younger children in their holidays and many intend to return to Moanoghar to work later on.



Then came the ceremony: the cutting of the plaque ribbon and the switching on of the lights, the speech and the cultural show.



And off on a tour of the lake with all the performers



On the bridge and Our boat!

And here is Emil with Ashok Chakma, the executive director of the school.

Final day and off to brunch at Bante's parents' house.

Here is Emil with Bhante.



Return journey was a little less certain...

And Nishan and Emil looked worried. But there was no need as we all returned in one piece.



Thank you Emile from all the over 800 boarders of Moanoghar.

Thank you Emil from the over 500 day students of Moanoghar.

Thank you Congest for helping us to nurture our youth better.

We will NEVER forget any of you!

our BUILDING

It's official, it's OPEN

to the cheering of hundreds and the music and dancing of the region.

Is it beautiful? Well, the general opinion is that it is the most beautiful building that can be built here (but i disagree as i think it is THE most beautiful building anywhere — but then i am biased.)



There were final touches to be made (heart attack stuff seeing people paint like this. He then jumped about 8 meters off the roof with the paint!!!!!!) And we gave a little “tea money” — they earn about \$5 a day for 8 hours of often carrying 40+kgs of sand etc up steps!!!!!!) Everyone helped — it was good to see the little boys carrying bricks AND smiling!!

Then came the official visit with everyone oeing and aching so that we all began to feel quite pleased with ourselves.





We each planted a Mango Tree to commemorate the events.



Then in the evening came the official illumination of the 600+ LED lights offered through the hard work of Emil Wolter and the matched donations of COMGEST Paris. The entire compound was in darkness and then magically drenched in light.

What a difference to the students to have four 22 watt LED lights in a large classroom as opposed to one 35 energy efficiency light! There were many dark patches in the room of 60 + students before: now all can see. Thank you Emil! Thank you Comgest!

