

# Arturo 'Art' Reyes

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Arturo “Art” Reyes, 71, is a volunteer at the Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center for the Center’s nutrition program which serves more than 200 meals a day.

Reyes is a pastor who volunteers and finds purpose volunteering to help other seniors. He also returns often to the Philippines for humanitarian missions. He has volunteered in prisons and to assist victims of domestic violence. Currently, Reyes returns once a year to the Philippines to bring clothing and other supplies to more than 200 needy children.

“It is a labor of love and gives me strength,” he said.

Born in Cebo City in the Philippines, Reyes worked as a pharmaceutical “detail man,” a certified public accountant and as an auditor. However, his devotion to his Christian faith has been central to his life.

Reyes and his wife moved to the United States in 2005. Four of his five daughters now live in the U.S.

In 2011, Reyes and his wife moved to Canyon Country with one of his daughters and her family. The family previously lived in the Pasadena area and Reyes volunteered at a Filipino senior center in Eagle Rock.

When he moved to Canyon Country he sought out the SCV Senior Center and began volunteering.

“I love to serve, I love to work with people,” he said.

Reyes arrives at the Senior Center at 8:15 a.m. Monday through Friday and doesn’t leave until 2 p.m. He works setting up the room for the daily lunch service, helps serve the lunches and then assists with clean up.

“I just love it, it gives me a reason,” he said.

Reyes said the SCV Senior Center is “better than Disneyland.”

“It is not a building that makes a place, it is the people,” he said. “This is the happiest place on earth for us, it is here at the Senior Center.”

Reyes said he has found companionship with people from all walks of life and from around the world at the SCV Senior Center.

“We laugh, eat good food, exercise, there is air conditioning and so many activities,” he said. “We might have different opinions, but we enjoy laughter and smiles, that is what life is all about.”

Reyes said he hopes the new building for the SCV Senior Center attracts more seniors.

“The community needs to support their seniors. Their children are busy, their grandchildren are at school,” he said. “This is a place where we can share our experiences in life and have fun. That’s why the Senior Center is the happiest place for us. For me I have to share my love with other people. I am here to serve and smile and give you this food and whatever you need I try to do it.”