



Our Van Made an Unusual Stop
a few Sundays ago. The Cemetery is not normally where you would expect to find the homeless (no pun intended). However, that is exactly where we found one of our unsheltered persons on our weekly run. He had lost his dearest friend, and told us that he visits every day for the get-together that they used to have everyday. So, we extended our deepest condolences, and, after providing a bowl of soup and lunch, we left our unusual stop.

A Solution to House the Unsheltered?

Could this be a viable solution to housing the Homeless of Niagara Falls; establishing camps of Garden Sheds to house unsheltered people seeking long-term low-cost housing? Uniform garden sheds would allow the establishment of camps close to areas that the unsheltered use as tent cities or

crudely formulated tarp encampments. Money for the project could come from private and public sources, and



the city would provide central showers, washrooms, garbage removal and laundry facilities.

Each shed is insulated, with a window and minimum fixtures--a bed and LED lighting (solar powered). Even though this is minimal housing, each participant would be asked to do the following: 1. Payment of a low monthly mortgage (a loan of \$8,000.00 on 5-year term is \$141.00 per month, a long way from the \$800.00 - \$1500.00 asked for by motels). 2. Keep the area neat and tidy with garbage removal provided. 3. Abide by a code of ethics enacted and enforced by the community itself and policed with the help of Niagara Regional Police. With ownership comes responsibility, and, when leaving the compound, the ability to sell their investment to the next owner.

The one good advantage to these sheds is that the buildings are moveable to any location with minimal costs. Any resident asked to leave can take his investment with him. Are there other options that might be explored? Yes, but a start is needed to help with the homeless situation.

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Special Needed Items:

- Gloves and Mittens
- Winter Boots
- Winter Coats
- Blankets/Sleeping Bags
- Volunteer Call 365-880-0818
- Hotel Soaps, Shampoos etc
- Women's Hygiene Products
- Small Tents for Winter
- Sweat Pants and Shirts
- Financial Donation eTransfer

Direct Report From John and Pam

on the streets . . .

There is never a way that is adequate and personal enough to say Thanks to all the supporters of JC's Place Ministries. It is totally amazing that, when on a personal grocery shopping trip, a checkout person hands me a gift card for \$150.00, and then two weeks later adds another \$75.00

Pam and I want to thank the ladies at the CAA Offices of Niagara who generously filled our small SUV with winter clothing. It would not all go in, so a second pickup was necessary to complete the donation, including an envelope containing cash. Thank you for your support of JC's Place Ministries.

On another morning we found a man sleeping on the concrete with no blanket, just a coat. We were able to supply a blanket and a hot chocolate. We saw three men going through garbage to find returnable cans and bottles for extra cash, and we supplied gloves, toques and hot drinks. Later we found an elderly lady who was very cold, so gave her gloves and a hot drink.

Another man we chatted with was also collecting cans. He told us he had been in a coma for 29 days after being hit by a car. He accepted a hot chocolate and four reading books. He prays everyday that someone will help him. The next gentleman we met shared that he was about to be kicked out of his apartment-- his wife is angry with him. They lost their child a little while ago. He admitted that he was baptized and loves Jesus. As I prayed with him, tears streamed down his face, and he said, "I needed this more than anything else."

Later we saw a lady dragging her suitcase, with her small child waddling by her side and baby on her back. She ran over to us, and Pam and I were able to help her with gloves for her son and herself, hot chocolate, and a Tim Horton's Card for future warm drinks.

Then before the day was done, we found four homeless folks lying on the concrete steps. We were able to supply gloves, toques and warm drinks. Everyone was so thankful and, with teary eyes, accepted several books before we left.

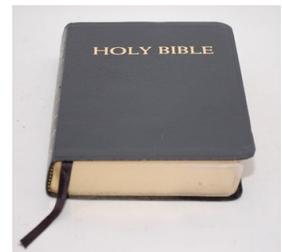
Today I found a coat hanging on our mailbox, and received another \$200 donation. Funds are coming in, just as we need them, to supply the food and drink we are giving out on the streets.

Proverbs 19:17 says "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done."

~ John and Pam

What Happens to Donated Items?

It is unfortunate that we cannot tell you the story of each and every item that is donated. However, there are some stories that need to be told so you, the donor, are able to realize the magnitude and gratitude in which gifts are given and received. JC's Place Ministries was given a very precious item a few weeks ago: a Bible, owned by a missionary lady to Africa, in beautiful condition with leather binding and gilded edges. What do you do with such a precious article? We were able to find a home for this Bible with one of our motel residents. When she was told of the Bible's original owner and her service in Africa, she hugged the Bible close to her heart, saying, "I'll cherish and take care of this forever."



We met a man in front of the public library who, after receiving a sandwich and hot bowl of soup, began talking with us about his experiences on the streets. He told us that the leather coat we had given him a few weeks prior was still in his possession and he loved wearing it. Even after weeks of time had passed by, the gratitude of receiving a leather coat was still showing on his face.

JC's Place Ministries #1 Most Wanted Items

What do the homeless on the streets of Niagara Falls need most? As we have just gone through some of the coldest weather of this season, good winter gloves are the most needed. With minus 15-degree weather, we are still seeing bare hands as we make our weekly rounds. We are given lots of woollen mittens, but they do not stay dry in wet weather. Although warmth is needed, that warmth is only obtainable by dry waterproof hand wear. These types of gloves are expensive, running at the low end of the scale at \$15-\$20.00 each and at the high end \$100.00 each. The #2 item is boots; warm, waterproof boots. We are still seeing sneakers as winter footwear on the streets, and if you have ever trampled through slushy snow, you know they do not stay dry. Every single pair that has been donated to the Ministry has been given out. Even with the issue that shoe size makes a huge difference, we are totally out of stock on boots.

The #3 asked for item is backpacks. Here is a project looking for a coordinator, and donors: to prepare 30 backpacks with scarves, hats, gloves, handwarmers, coats, and boots.

Thankfully we have been donated enough blankets, comforters, and sleeping bags; the requests for these items have slowed down. Three warming shelters have opened to help, but we still have only one shelter with overnight accommodation for up to 30 persons. This is a first-come first-serve facility, so if you are number 31 you better have an alternative place to stay when it is freezing cold out there.

Continued from Page 2 What Happens to Donated Items?

Thank You is to Sharlene Pavao of Vineland whose ministry entails taking plastic grocery bags, recycling them in a useful product. Sleeping mats. Here is a picture of an unsheltered person receiving two mats as well as clothing to use with his wife in an encampment beside the busy highway that runs through the Niagara Region. Thank you, Sharlene.



The two pictures to the right show what happens when donated articles are given at the most opportune moment, to fulfill a need on the Street. This suitcase on wheels was donated by West Lincoln Community Care, along with new sock, toques, neck warmers, blankets etc. On Sunday past, we discovered this lady, carrying two large plastic grocery bags with all her goods, on the street. We were able to help her put all her things into the suitcase. Thank you to the staff and volunteers at WLCC. It is difficult to get pictures; the homeless do not want to be photographed. Sometimes I sneak a shot or two. To show what happens.

See photos to the right

So, what happens to the items we give away? They are given with loving care and received with gratitude, often accompanied by the words, "Thank you" and "God Bless You for what you are doing." JC's Place Ministries would love to show you video of such reactions; however, in respecting the person's privacy, we can only tell you about the ones that stand out in our memories. Thank you for your gifts of love, both donated articles and dollar donations, that have helped us to function this year, in blessing others.

Please Donate



Needed a 8-10 Person Passenger Van



Right Item at the Right Time



www.JCsPlace.org is now working. Please join our page and recommend us to your friends. You are now able to donate online . . . Thank you!

A Solution to House the UnSheltered ? . . .



Continued from Page 1 . . . The ultimate goal of the program is to enable unsheltered persons the ability to exit the street life. This would also reduce the cost of clean up on a tent city site, and make it easier to render food, medical, and mental services to the unsheltered population who are in need of so much.

Other cities are already implementing this program: Oakland CA, Denver CO, Duncan BC, Kitchener ON, Halifax NS. Could Niagara Falls, ON be one to soon join in a program of home ownership that is affordable to the unsheltered and helps with correcting the problems on the streets?

~~Carl



JC's Place Ministries a mobile ministry of the

Seventh-day Adventist Church

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