



August Newsletter  
Volume 2, Issue 8

Special BBQ Issue



## JC's Place Ministries BBQ

Why are volunteers so important? If you have not run a non-profit organization or a charity you may not have the answer. Let me tell you the reasons in the story of our successful BBQ. JC's Place has about 50 volunteers who assist the Ministry in various important ways, from driving our vans to preparing food and sorting clothes. It is wonderful to know we can depend on our volunteers. However, because they serve on different weekends, the volunteers are not in contact with each other. So, our BBQ had a two-fold purpose: 1. To enable the volunteers to fellowship with each other; 2. To feed the homeless in a relaxing sit-and chat setting.



On Sunday morning, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, some volunteers were on the road before 8:00 am. Our BBQ Day's weather was glorious. Work began in earnest: picking up the BBQs, loading equipment, food, and supplies, and the items necessary to meet the Region of Niagara's health standards. It was amazing to see the team come together, all in good humour.

Most team members arrived at A. J. Whitney Park in downtown Niagara Falls around 10:30; everyone began the setup process in earnest. Tarps were arranged on the ground for the food handlers, BBQs were set up and tested, the awning was extended, tables and chairs setup, and our power generation system connected and tested. **Continued on Page 6**

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### Needed Right Now !

- [Mens Pants 28-32](#)
- [Ladies Pants Small](#)
- [S & M Sweat Pants and Shirts](#)
- [Under Garments](#)
- [Backpacks](#)
- [Hotel Soaps, Shampoos etc](#)
- [Women's Hygiene Products](#)
- [Volunteers--Call 365-880-0818](#)
- [Donation to our Van Purchase](#)
- [Financial Donation](#)  
[donate@JCsPlace.org](mailto:donate@JCsPlace.org)

Volunteers play an important role in the operations of the Ministry. Not being in the field often and on a regular basis, there is a lot of information that they will never know about. It is easy to see the physical needs, but not the problems and the circumstances that are causing the problems. The past histories, behavior, and life styles that are placing the unsheltered in the positions in which they find themselves.

The challenge for the Ministries' volunteers is to understand the unsheltered situation and to extend compassion, while keeping a positive attitude to decipher what is the best method to "Lend a Helping Hand." Just giving out clothing or food is not the total solution; relationship building, which creates trust, is the first step in getting to really, really understand people in need.

We know a girl on the street who doesn't trust the authorities; so they have asked for help to see if she will or can be talked back into a room. Building on the relationship with her, as I pray and talk with her, hopefully she will tell me some of the things going on in her life and in her city that are really upsetting and deeply evil to her.

We have established contact with Gateway Community, a contractor for the Niagara Region, on an additional older motel being used to help shelter the homeless. On talking with the managers there, it was discovered that 17 individuals would like the Ministry to add their location to the Sunday distribution route, making them a regular stop on Sundays. This is building bridges with the folks in the motel, as well as with our Regional Government and its agencies.

The part of the Ministry that I (John) really love is being able to connect on a personal basis with the folks, to see if we can better their lives by introducing them to the Gospel. To the Glory of God, a one-on-one Bible Study has been started with a gentleman we meet on a park bench. This man has asked Jesus into his heart and for forgiveness. He will be coming to our weekly Bible studies on Wednesday. Over a year ago, at this same bench, we meet another gentleman who studied the Bible, gave his heart to the Saviour, and was baptized.

One of the motel managers asked about our men's Bible Study Group, and said there was a man who would like to join. She told me his name, and I said, "I know him. I helped him almost two years ago when he lived in a forest by himself." The manager went to the room and told the man I was at the picnic table. He ran out and we hugged awhile, then sat down and chatted for a while more. It was decided to do Bible Studies together there every week; hopefully, others from the motel will join in.

Pam and I recently met a lady we had met 1½ years ago. She had high praise for the volunteers on the Van. She even talked about her and her friend coming to church. She shared about her family and life history. What a story! Our talk turned to starting a Bible Study with her and others in this particular area. It could be a busy summer with all the study requests coming in!

There are more homeless coming into Niagara Falls from other cities. The City is trying to get them back to where they came from, because the overflow cannot be handled. It's becoming a challenging situation;

My last and final request is for a volunteer to visit and read the Bible. If anyone is interested, let me know. Thank you everyone for your support and prayers.



Thanks for donating to help pay for our newest vehicle!



### **How does JC's Place Ministries Value volunteers?**

Over the past few months, JC's Place Ministries has re-evaluated how and where we are drawing on our volunteers base. Are we discovering, and tapping into, their strengths? By understanding individual backgrounds and work experiences, and then empowering them to manage areas of the Ministry that need help, they are providing leadership to the other volunteers.

The Ministry tries to provide the proper tools and instructions so that the work being done is meaningful; so the volunteers can see the bigger picture, how their efforts help to make the tasks of scheduling volunteers, food preparation, and clothing and food distribution efficient and effective. This is accomplished by the lead personnel serving on the streets with seasoned workers, to taste and feel what the mission of the Ministry is all about.

We are grateful we have a well-equipped kitchen, and two vehicles providing transportation as needed. Now we ask for input and feedback from our lead volunteers; this is the test of what has been put in place. return gratitude for their efforts. The list below makes what we are talking about into a concise document.

### **Five Ways to Value Volunteers**

1. Recognize Personal Strengths. Volunteers come to organizations with differing backgrounds and experiences.
2. Provide Meaningful Work.
3. Supply Necessary Tools.
4. Seek Input and Feedback.
5. Give Appreciation and Gratitude.

### ***Are volunteers important to an organization***

***Volunteers are vital to nonprofit organizations.***

*Their active participation in fundraising, marketing, and program delivery saves their organizations millions of dollars a year.*

### **How do volunteers add value?**

Sometimes the words of wise men and women can be used to tell the story so much better than I can, so here are some quotes that tell the story in a concise fashion:

Something to Think About . . . [Continued](#)

**“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”**  
~ Elizabeth Andrew

***“You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.”***  
~Winston Churchill

***“Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another.”***  
~Erma Bombeck

***“The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.”***  
~Oscar Wilde

***“Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve.... You don’t have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”***  
~Martin Luther King, Jr.

## **Welland Report**

by Craig Haslam



Our Maiden Voyage was a success. Except for myself, this is the first time any of the volunteers had participated in reaching out to the unsheltered and needy. We made eight stops throughout Welland, met about 15 people, handed out sandwiches to all, and distributed some clothing. Our group had a Divine Appointment in being able to pray with one person. Once again, the reception from the people was one of gratefulness for what was provided.

Got a chance to speak to some folks, and have begun forming those all-important relationships. We started off with minimal notification to group homes as we did not want to be overwhelmed, but, with our positive experience, we will be letting others know of our time schedule.

I was able to speak to an owner at a group home and he informed me that he has three rooms available for rent in Welland, \$650-750/mth. His name is George - 519-535-2176.

**[www.JCsPlace.org](http://www.JCsPlace.org) is now working. Please like our page and share us with your friends. You are now able to donate online . . . Thank you!**

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Believe it or not, by 11:45 everything was set to go and our first guests began arriving. All in all, we had around 35 volunteers on site, fed roughly 35 unsheltered folks, and provided 10 lunches to those in the motel who could not travel.

Special thanks to Jan Paonessa who headed the BBQ food drive and organizing the volunteers; and to Davy Bayuk who provided sound equipment and gospel music interspersed with song introductions and a very strong personal testimony of his love for Jesus Christ. Oh, and we must not forget our volunteers for their weekly work and this special day. ~ Carl



*Thank You!*



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