

Just In Time Delivery . . .

How it sometimes works, with amazing timing and the right contacts! John received a phone call from a homeless man who had acquired a trailer; he was now looking for some plastic dishes, cups, and cutlery. It was suggested that he should approach the van on Sunday and identify himself as the person in need. A donor came up with better than he'd requested: serviceable ceramic dishes, decorative mugs, first-rate silverware, and a brand-new dishcloth. And yes, he did identify himself on Sunday as the one who requested the dinnerware. He also needed some clothes to change out his old and dirty winter duds, so he was outfitted with a



new shirt and pants and two new ball caps. But he had a problem: he could not carry his lunch, and clothes, and the dinnerware that was in a box; you see, he had lost an arm. So, Volunteer Driver Trevor to the rescue! The gentleman was given a lift to his new abode just a short distance away from the City of Niagara Falls Library.

One of our homeless residents living under a railway via duct has been missing now for two weeks. Looks like he made good on his wish to return to New York, removing himself from the streets of Niagara Falls--hopefully not to the streets of the Bronx. John says he has promised to keep in contact and hopes he has a better future south of the Border.

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Needed Right Now!

- **Men's Pants**
26-32
- **Sleeping Bags**

- **T- Shirts S-M-L**
- **Ladies Pants Small**
- **Sweat Pants & Shirts**
- **Under Garments**
- **Hotel Soaps, Shampoos etc**
- **Volunteers--Call 365-880-0818**
- **Donate at**
www.JCsPlace.org

on the streets . . . Direct Report from John

One day I received 2 phone calls from desperate moms looking for apartments, food for themselves and their children. This is a reoccurring problem that certainly needs attention. **April 26, 2023, quoting The Globe and Mail:**

Rental rates soar across the country: For many Canadians, a way to save money is living with roommates. Even that is not a sure-fire bet anymore as rental rates are soaring, forcing many renters **to pay \$1,000 or more per month** for a bedroom in a shared home situation, or a basement room only, with shared services.

Motel rooms in Niagara are more than \$1200 per month average and some for \$1800 - \$2200 per month. It is very hard for single moms to afford this rental rate and still have money left over for food and clothing and other needed items .

A few of our motel residents were able to get accommodation in apartments but this is by far a small number, usually involving 2–4 persons to make this affordable.

The Ministry picks up close to 100 bagels, croissants, donuts etc. from a generous donor on Tuesdays and Sundays. We give them out at two locations to the homeless on the streets, and at a sponsored shelter. This donation has been a blessing in that it enables JCsPM to reduce costs for snack foods and also makes it possible to share with other ministries. One morning we picked up 300 donuts, bagels, croissants etc. We met up with another ministry who was grateful to receive from our abundance and to distribute the food to others in need.

We were able to connect and help the YWCA assist people in 17 rooms at a Howard Johnson. The need across the city is so great; the small part we do with JC's Place Ministries is much appreciated by organizations and the homeless whom we serve.

On another note, the Ministry was given, and picked up, 2 microwaves and 3 crock pots, and all items already have a new home. These items were given "Just in Time," and the Ministry was able to find people who can use them. It is more than coincidence that the timing is just right and everything works out.

Trever and I are able to make a special delivery run on Tuesdays after we pick up the donuts. We meet and pray with, and listen to the needs and desires of the homeless, and the donuts, bagels, croissants are received with a bottle of water and gracious thanks are given in return. During this mid-week run we also make time to stop and visit with shut-ins and motel patrons who live alone and we are able to hold Bible Studies and chat with them for a length of time.

JC's Place Ministries Cell Phone Number has been an effective part of the Ministry. People have been calling who just want to talk or to meet with someone. Some gracious donors have also given many Tim Horton's Cards. These are used to invite folks into Timmy's to chat and have a drink; to hear their concerns and burdens. With this one-on-one time, there have been instances where accommodations or part-time jobs have been found for them.

Proverbs 19:17 Kindness to the poor is a loan to God and He will repay you—in full!

As a closing thought to our readers, if you have not volunteered, either with our kitchen crew or the road crew, we would ask that, this Summer Season, would you consider doing so? With many of our volunteers off for personal reasons and summer vacation times, even a one-day helping hand is much desired right now.

God bless you, our precious readers and donors. ~~~John and Trevor

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Our other resident on top of the railway bridge has left to go up north to join his brother, so best wishes on his new start. However, he left behind his girlfriend who's living in a small cramped lean-to tent; that's all that's left of their former 3-tent encampment. Now she's with a new boy friend, her 3 dogs and **lots** of cats. A tent was in the last shipment of clothing and miscellaneous items received from West Lincoln Community Care, so Trevor and John will attempt to take it to help in this situation. We also received sleeping mats and sleeping bags that will hopefully make this situation more tolerable in the cool wet spring weather we are experiencing.

Just West of this rail top encampment is a brand-new tent site with a gentleman and his lady friend. It looks like he just lost his apartment and should not be on the street. John and Trevor are to visit on Tuesday in the hope of finding out what happened, and if there is any avenue to help return this person to a useful life now before the street living takes over with the drugs, booze and everything else that leads downward. It is much easier to help at this early stage than trying to rescue someone who has been on the streets for years. The lady has found shelter off the streets but comes daily and visits with her boy friend.

The weather today has been wet and cold with a steady rain most of the afternoon. Even with these conditions we were able to locate about 80 persons who gratefully took a lunch and clothing and other needed articles.

It is always hard to know what to pack on the truck for the situations we meet on the road. However, it has happened time and time again with "Just in Time Delivery."



Our homeless folks who live behind the Via Rail Station in tents, trailers, old motor homes, etc. have become a challenge to service. First, the Via Police blocked our entrance to the area because we were crossing live rail lines. Afterwards, we located a back door across an open field. Two weeks ago, this back door was also closed. The owners have 4-wheel atv's racing in the field, and cruising events, and did not want us in harms way. The trees and bushes are greening up, and seeing pedestrian traffic will be more difficult. Well, to get the attention of the homeless, Carl created a portable train airhorn unit. The unit consists of an ammunition box converted into a mounting-and-handle unit with the battery and charger inside the box. By giving 3 short blasts on the air horn and repeating this 3-5 minutes later, the homeless are indeed hearing this and coming out of the bush to get clothing and lunches. Where there's a will, there's a way. A solution needed to be found, for sure.

On a number of occasions my cell phone has rung with a homeless person on the other end, saying, "Could we possibly meet on such-and such a corner. I haven't eaten for a couple of days now." This happened again as we were leaving the Library; the other vehicle had already departed for the next stop. *Continued Page 4*

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Good thing both vehicles had drivers with cell phones. Communications were set up so the homeless would be accommodated by the second van; the first van waited for the other to catch up. A grateful couple received lunches and clothing at the alternate spot.

The clothing put on the vehicle this very morning was exactly what was needed, Hoodies, shirts, socks, sleeping bags, sleeping mats, pants and the list could go on and on. It is a blessing to be able to say, "Yes, we have what you need on board." Still the requests for pants in the 26-30 waist size (which I had purchased a few weeks previously) were all given out and we didn't have any more of these sizes on board. We need a bigger storage area to house more goods to be given out.



Our Simple Production Line. Staffed by our youngest Volunteers

JC's Place Ministry Committee has voted to do the Summer BBQ Picnic again this summer. The wheels are already turning; ideas and goods are being put together for this event. Thank you for your thoughts, your prayers, and your donations. Blessings. ~~Carl

Ways to Give:

- 1. Electronically . . . www.jcsPlace.org**
- 2. Mail . . . JC's Place 2408 Smithville Road Smithville L0R 2A0**
- 3. Phone . . . 905-975-6394 or 365-880-7229**



JC's Place Ministries

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