

## One Man's Garbage. . . . . Another's Treasure ! ! ! !

On Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, JC's Place Ministries was able to update our sponsoring Church's congregation on what the ministry had been doing in the past few months. Several areas of need were addressed: for more drivers and assistants on our Sunday and midweek runs; for volunteers to sort clothing; for a new location with a commercial kitchen and increased area to sort and store our donated clothing and materials.

Well, what a surprise to find the next day, when we had only 5 medium sized bags and 1 box of clothing to sort, that, low and behold, 10+ individuals, mostly refugees, showed up, wanting to sort clothes and to go out on our route! Well, the sorting was done in short order and we proceeded to outfit these refugees as best as we could with clothing, coats, boots, hats and scarves, gloves and more. However, we could only allow 1 new chap to accompany the crew that week as we had a full set of

volunteers present. He is a foreign student attending university in Canada, and has been coming out every Sunday as he has time off from his studies and work.



Also on this day, the church members were doing some Fall house cleaning. The Children's Department was clearing out some books, mid-size animal

collections, and 2 large garbage bags of stuffies. (Stuffed animals and characters etc.) Well, this material could be used by the Ministry! The leader was a bit puzzled when I asked for her garbage, but I assured her that there was a need for this in the motel housing single moms and refugees--that the materials would be like gold for them.

. . . Continued on Page 3



### Inside this issue . . .

One Man's Garbage ! ! !  
.....1, 3, 4, 5, 6

On The Streets ..... 2,

**Needed Right Now!**

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- **Donate at [www.JCsPlace.org](http://www.JCsPlace.org)**

Lately, I have been receiving numerous calls, daily, from homeless persons asking for help, so I would like to relate one such situation to our readers. The homeless person who was calling, asking for help, was crying in utter desperation and was feeling so overwhelmed, and in such a mental state that their speech did not make much sense. This person needed food and a hot drink. When I got there the person was overwhelmed with emotions and was struggling to make sense of life. A Priority Plan was needed to help them to deal with life's issues. So, we sat down and discussed a Plan; we wrote it out, to get their life back in order. Then we prayed and agreed to move ahead. So, with the Plan securely in place, the crisis subsided; with some food and a bus pass to get some of the items done, the crisis was relieved.



Callers occasionally have suicidal thoughts; others have thoughts of wanting to steal, or to rob someone to get ahead, or to damage property, or even so extreme as to want to hurt someone. The cash funds and Tim Horton cards which had been donated to JC's Place Ministries are used to meet them for meals or refreshments, and time is taken to sit down and talk it through to come up with better ideas. I'm finding that this part of the Ministry is growing. There is much need for the homeless to have someone to listen and hopefully direct them in a better way. Thank God, many situations, that would

have been harmful to themselves and others, have been avoided with kind counseling that has been given during these meetings. I get calls frequently from the homeless where they request that prayers be offered for them. Sometimes they send me an icon with a picture of folded hands that all is now well with them.



On to other news, we have made many contacts with other ministries and churches who are feeding and clothing the homeless. We distributed several cases of meat pies

to them from a generous donor who'd given us 30 cases. At a number of these stops we were asked what JC's Place was all about and how we were operating in Niagara Falls. With this information passed along, there have been requests for the opportunity to ride along with the Ministry, to see first hand how the operation is working. It has been a privilege to take a lady and a few gentlemen with me on my weekly runs and all were wonderful at getting to know the homeless, building friendships and trust relationships as we visited many locations across our city. One lady and 2 gentlemen have signed up for weekly turns to help out with the large Sunday outing. This is a blessing to that side of the Ministry.

I met 2 tradesmen with excellent skills in home building and renovations who had fallen into homelessness. After meeting with them and encouraging them and helping them on a few small jobs, they were able to secure accommodations and are getting their lives back on track for productivity, fully capable of looking after themselves again.

Blessings All ~ John

# One Man's Garbage ...

... continued from Page 1

The first stop for the Cube van was a location such as described above. Waiting on a park bench was a young fellow of about 9 who is an avid reader. If only I was wearing a body cam or we had a professional camera man to capture his delighted face, his huge smile, when he was given a bag of about a dozen books, with the admonition that he not read them all in one day, and that he should share them with the other children in the complex. When we gave his older brother the bag with ~24 stuffies, he broke out in the biggest grin I have seen in a while, and he mouthed a big thank you. "This is cool." A girl of similar age was standing next to him. When I suggested he share with her, she also broke out in a huge smile. Then a mom came out for lunches, soup, and bottles of water for herself and her daughter who was standing next to her. I asked the girl if she would like a stuffy. "Yes! Yes!" was her enthusiastic reply. Dwayne, who was very busy finding lunches, water, and clothing on the truck, reached in a bin and drew out what he told me was a large stuffy named Cymba. Well, the child's smile and joy are hard to describe. I asked the mom if I could take a picture to show the Ministries' readers the delight that was so evident here. The mom was pleased, and immediately said, "Yes!" Instantly, the girl lunged behind her mom and refused to come out and display the stuffy gift and her smile. You will see in the picture what I was finally able to capture on camera. It is a difficult task to be so involved with asking the homeless what they really need, and finding it, and to still be able to record for our donors and readers some of the reactions that are very difficult to catch on camera as they happen at that instant when you are least prepared to photograph the reactions. As we left this location, it was with a warm feeling in our hearts that we had accomplished something special with what was going to be thrown out. "What is one man's garbage is another's treasure", is a wise saying.



In the meantime, our other vehicle had leap frogged to another location where we were expecting 2 -3 but it turned out there were more than a half dozen, and at their next stop there were not the usual 2-3 but 5+, so the timing worked on the leap frog to connect both vehicles at the next stop. The smaller vehicle went to service those living in an old motorhome and a very old holiday camper while the large van was sent to a campsite up the dirt road to 7 who were living in the bush. Here, we were told that our normal contact was not coming out because he was very sick. However, after a few minutes of our gathering 7 lunches, soups, and bottles of waters, here he came staggering out because he wanted to personally thank us for what we were doing. In his pain, he explained that he had suffered with a gastro-intestinal disease since childhood, but he came out to express his thanks for helping out all of the residents at this location. ....Continued Page 4



Our next stop was at the back of the train station. Here we used our air horn, and 2 volunteers went in to check. A lone gentleman came out to get 5 lunches. We found out that they were sleeping on the ground as they had just moved to this location. We gave them sleeping mats woven from grocery and milk bags (it takes approx. 800 bags, crocheted, to make a mat) along with a thick blanket.

At to our next stop, instead of the usual 6 people, there was only one person. He was in a very bad mood and yelled at our volunteers. Still, one of the volunteers said he would go back and deliver a lunch and a bottle of water anyway, to go the second mile.

At our library stop the city has erected wrought iron gates and fencing. The homeless can no longer gather under the portico. (**see picture**) So on this bright sunny day the



normal 20 to 25 were missing and we were greeted only by 2 persons. Our 100 prepared lunch total to-day was going to have a lot of leftovers.

So on to our next stop where the usual 20 to 25 came out and were given lunches, soup,

and water, and a few pieces of clothing. This is a location which the region of Niagara sponsors and the residents here are the best looking, but they are still a hungry bunch.

Off to our next stop with only the large cube van as the other volunteers had commitments.

Oh, our student volunteer wanted to continue with us and volunteered to ride in the back of the truck! We had to tell him that in this country this was no longer legal, though as a kid, there were many times I rode in the back of pickup trucks. This is an experience the next generation will not see.

At this next stop we normally see 6-8 people living in the bush in tents. There was no one, not one single homeless on site. This was strange. So now there were definitely going to be a lot of lunches left over. Dwayne and I decided we would visit a motel that was housing refugees, so that's where we headed. We had enough soup and lunches left over.

## One Man's Garbage !!!

... continued from Page 3

I had received two phone calls from a former homeless man living at this location, asking if we could come, hoping there would be some food left over. The previous week he had called and I had to tell him that there was nothing left over.

When we pulled into this location, there was the man and his friend waiting for us. We served soup and lunches to a number of the residents here, single moms and dads with children. Well, guess what? There's Dwayne, in his glory, giving out little stuffies to the kids who were smiling ear to ear with the cuddly toys they received. So now our lunch left overs were down to about 10 so the day wasn't going badly and upon calling Trevor he said he would make a special trip in the morning to distribute the last of the soup and sandwiches.

Our route was finished for the day. We headed back to home base to package the remaining soup, and to wash up the soup containers. Upon inquiry, Charmaine had made an extra pot of soup (last week we had run out of soup before our final 2 stops), so we had a bit left over. One final stop--I needed to drop Dwayne off at his apartment and the clock was saying 7:30 pm. Both of us were tired ... yes, we had had a busy day. Then smart aleck Dwayne pointed to the clock in the dashboard and says, "HEY! It is still on Daylight Savings time!" So it was really only 6:30 pm but still a fulfilling day.



Dear Readers and Donors, as you can see, even when we think that it will be a quiet time just delivering lunches, soup and bottles of water, when KINDNESS and CARING are mixed into the attitude of the volunteers and with the careful watching eyes of both driver and assistant, we find all kinds of needy souls on the street. The smiles of the children, I have to tell you, is something that is hard to put into words.



## **One Man's Garbage ! ! ! . . .**

. . . continued from Page 5

As we pull up to the curb and before Dwayne could open the door and jump out, there came a lady tapping at my driver's side window. And I got a bit of a shock; where did she come from?! We had been saying our goodbyes, so this lady was able to come up to the vehicle in the dark unbeknown to us. As I rolled down the window, she pleaded, "Do you have any clothes and food? We are sleeping in the cemetery behind the church. We are very hungry and cold." Dwayne reminded me that he had a couple of bowls of soup he was taking for his brother and himself. These he offered to the ladies along with some of the sandwiches left in the back. Half an hour later, the girls had been outfitted with a large suitcase, 2 sleeping mats, warm sweater hoodies, 2 warm coats etc. In the picture, you can see the use to which the large suitcase was put.



We are approach the Season of Giving, please keep JC's Place Ministries in your hearts and prayers as we prepare to meet the needs on the streets in the frigid weather ahead. Right now, we do not have a single pair of winter gloves on the trucks, men's winter coats are in short supply, winter boots are being asked for and we do not have large sizes, men's pants size 26-32 are scarce. Hoodies and sweat pants are also needed. Someone asked recently, "What does the Ministry really need?" We put before you first the clothing needs; then we need a new expanded location. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the help you have given in the past, and will continue to give in the future. As we heard on the streets today, from the homeless enjoying a simple bowl of soup— "Please say thank you and give the ladies who made the soup an extra big hug. We love the soup ! !"

I'm thankful I can leave you with these thoughts.

Blessings ~ Carl

### **Ways to Give:**

- 1. Electronically: [www.jcsPlace.org](http://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**

A mobile ministry of  
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