



'You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'
Deuteronomy 15:10-11

November 2025

2025 Annual Letter to our Donors and Supporters

As 2025 ends, I reflect on another year of serving our friends experiencing homelessness in Kansas City. Many of those we serve rely on our meals and our presence each week, and thanks to the generosity of our supporters and volunteers, we continued to provide nourishment, and hope to those who need it most.

We are proving that compassion can bring warmth and hope to the streets — one meal, one smile, and one human connection at a time.



As I reported in last year's newsletter our van was stolen. I am pleased to announce we have a new to Hope in The Streets "Vittle Van". We have been using the van now for several months. I would like to thank all our drivers who stepped up and used their personal vehicles during the search for a new van. We did not miss a single route.

A special thank you to HJ Design for making the buildings in the new logo images of buildings from our downtowns skyline.

It is interesting how a single act of kindness can bring so much joy to our friends on the streets. The parents of one of our volunteers wanted to somehow be involved as they cannot donate their time. They collected several hundred single service cereal containers in a large variety of cereal types. Over the course of several "vittle van" routes this year we would sit a box of those cereal types on the ground, let folks pick one or two of the ones they wanted. I found it interesting that regular Cheerio's was more popular the Honey Nut Cheerio's. The smiles and thank you's this generated was amazing.

By the numbers – a summary of services provided this year.

Year to date in 2025, we have served 8925 meals to our friends on the streets. In addition, we have provided: 188 pairs of socks, 200 hygiene kits, 43 blankets, and 150 Hand Warmers. Other items we also provide are stocking caps and a lot of dog and cat food. By the end of the year, we will have served about 9500 meals.

We had a volunteer group put together 165 back packs containing essentials such as flashlights, socks, hygiene items, a Bible, and additional items to be given out. Each of these were given out over the course of a single evening.

The Answered Prayers Grant

2025 is year nine of our “Answered Prayers Grant” program, which is available to help those looking to take the next step in turning their lives around. Grants are awarded to those having small financial obstacles in their path to moving away from homelessness. As well as those struggling to keep from becoming homeless.

This year we did not receive any grant requests.

Worship Wagon Services

In 2025, Worship Wagon continued its steady and faithful ministry throughout downtown Kansas City, offering monthly worship services that blended music, fellowship, and the hope of the gospel for our neighbor’s experiencing homelessness.

The year was largely “business as usual” in the best sense—consistent teams showing up, predictable rhythms, and a spirit of warmth and welcome that has become the hallmark of this outreach. Each month, volunteers from all our partner churches helped provide live worship music, a short and encouraging biblical message, and plenty of relational connection with the men and women who gather under the bridge.

There was one notable event this year when the Forge ministry hosted an elaborate sit-down style dinner that followed church service on one of our Monday’s in November. There were tables and tablecloths, porta-shade covers, on-site BBQ grills, and a full dinner spread. Our homeless friends were super excited to attend this unique evening. The Forge ministry may try to do something like this again next year!

Looking back at 2025, we are reminded of the value of showing up faithfully, meeting both practical and spiritual needs, and building trust through regular presence. The simple, steady format—songs, prayer, Scripture, and genuine conversation—continued to make a meaningful impact on the community, reminding everyone involved that God often works most powerfully through consistent, humble service over time.

Wrapping up

It truly has been a remarkable year. We saw several acts of kindness, some new volunteers, meet some new folks in need of help and were able to help them. We also saw three individuals get off the streets and into housing. Two of which now have jobs and are re-introducing themselves back into society.

As stated in the Worship Wagon Services updates Forge ministry provided a sit-down dinner. One comment I heard from several of our homeless folks was it was so nice to sit down at a table and eat. That is something that I and maybe even you take for granted each day.

This year, **Hope in the Streets is on pace to serve more meals than ever before** to individuals living on the streets of Kansas City. Unfortunately, the number of people experiencing homelessness has continued to rise over the past few years, and the **cost per meal has increased again this year**. As a result, we have faced several evenings when our budget simply could not cover enough meals for everyone we encountered.

Because of this growing need, **Hope in the Streets is seeking monetary donations** to ensure we can continue feeding and supporting our clients and friends who rely on us.

Hope in The Streets has zero overhead, no staff, no office. Just an amazing group of volunteers. Every dollar is returned to those living on the streets. On behalf of the Hope in The Streets volunteers and those we serve I would like to thank for your continued support and belief in our mission.

If you would like to support our efforts, please visit our [donations](#) link on our [website](#), or you can send a check or money order to: Hope In The Streets PO Box 458 Belton, MO 64012.

Signing off, I hope this newsletter finds you healthy, ready for the holidays, and eager to continue supporting Hope in the Streets.

God Bless and sincerely,

Gene Lowther

on behalf of the Hope in the Streets family