

Hope in the Streets of Kansas City

Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.

Deuteronomy 15:10-11

We are very happy to report that many of our goals have been reached already. Thanks to your contribution, and the contributions of others, we have reached our target of being able to assemble 50 warmth kits this year! Over the last few weeks we distributed 15 kits to people who really needed them. By the end of December we will hand out another 15 bags, with the remaining 20 being delivered in January.

Several blessings have come our way since we started this project. First and most importantly, you found it in your heart to support this wonderful project. We thank you, and our neighbors living in the streets also thank you. Several other blessings have come as well. For example, the Salvation Army has offered to let us write the receipts for donations directly, and they didn't put a restriction on what we can write receipts for. As a result, all donations, regardless of the amount, are eligible for a charitable donation receipt that we will be sending your way in the next few weeks. The Salvation Army has also provided us with tax-exempt paperwork so that most of our purchases are now being acquired without having to pay tax. That means your donation went even farther this year than we expected! Dick's Sporting Goods had a sale this month on the sleeping bags we wanted, offering their bags for half off the normal price. In addition, because of the large quantity we purchased they happily provided us with an extra 10 to 15 % discount (depending on which location we purchased them at).

The kits this year include: Sleeping Bag (rated to -10 degrees below zero), Insulated Sleeping Mat, Wash Cloth, Hand Towel, Warm Hat, Thick Gloves, Work Gloves, 5 pairs of Socks, Chapstick, Kleenex, Toothbrush Holder and Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Soap Dish and Soap, Hair Brush, Deodorant, Hygiene Bag (to store all the hygiene supplies), a Bible, A St. Christopher Coin, 4 Cans of soup, 2 Packages of Beef Jerky, 8 Candles, 2 Boxes of Matches, Duct Tape, Rope, Wind and Water Resistant Coat and Pants, and a large Duffel Bag (to hold everything).

Here are the names of the people that have received the warmth kits so far: Andrew, Virginia, Jim, Randy, Darren, Daryl, Dan, Jose, John, Luther, Clinton, Mike, Jim, Curtis, and Carlton (who calls himself Mastermind). We know each of these people personally and have served them meals over the last year. We can attest that they were in serious need of the kits and that they were very appreciative when they got them. In fact, 10 of the kits were handed out the night before the big 8 inch snow storm early in December ... just in time!

We have been so encouraged by everybody's support of this project that we have decided to formalize our efforts and register as a non-profit charitable foundation under IRS rule 501(c)(3). We are calling our new foundation "**Hope In The Streets**", and we think this best signifies what we aim to achieve ... hope for those living in the streets. Hope for a better tomorrow, hope to stay alive one more day, hope to break out and better sustain a normal life again. We will file our application in January and should be able to operate as a charitable entity very shortly thereafter, although it will take as much as a year or more for a final ruling from the IRS. I will start the development of our web site (www.HopeInTheStreets.com) soon and should have that operational before spring arrives. The cost of setting up the foundation will be borne by us completely, outside of any donations that we have or will receive. Going forward, we will maintain the primary directive of our charity ... every penny of every dollar donated will go directly to those who need it most. There will be no administrative or management charges taken against our charity. If you like the way our charity operates, please tell others about "Hope In The Streets". We have a lot of ideas about how we can provide additional care, support, rehabilitation, and directed assistance to the homeless in Kansas City, and we can only deliver on those ideas if the funds in our foundation grow.

We have also arranged to have one night each month where we crew our own truck for the Salvation Army. That means we will drive and deliver the needed supplies around Kansas City while also serving meals to the poor and homeless in town. This is such a blessing, and we are thankful to the Salvation Army for letting us do this ... and they are very happy to let us take the truck because they know the good that our charity is providing as well. If you would like to join us on the route some time and help serve meals please let us know, we would be happy to take you out with us.

We just wanted to let you know how things have been going since you sent us your donation. We want you to feel as though you are a part of these efforts and to feel comfortable with how your donation is being used. Your generosity is very much appreciated and there are people here in town, very close to us everyday living on the streets, that are benefiting from your donation and who truly needed the support.

May God bless you, your family, and our homeless brothers and sisters.