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Subject: Wheels of Blessings - February Newsletter
Date: March 7, 2025 at 10:02 AM
To: Judy Dobies dobiesj@mac.com

WB

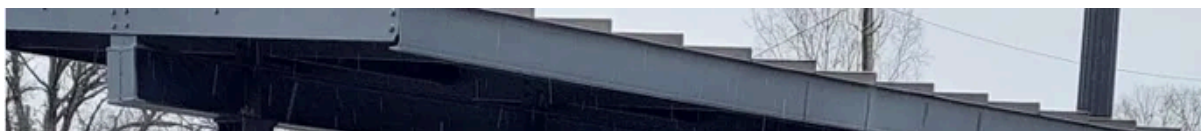


Dear Wheels of Blessings donors and supporters:

Every month two teams gather the sandwiches, hot soup or chili, care bags, and clothes you provide us. We take your care and love out with us to offer these to the neediest in our country. We absolutely could not do this without you.

February 12

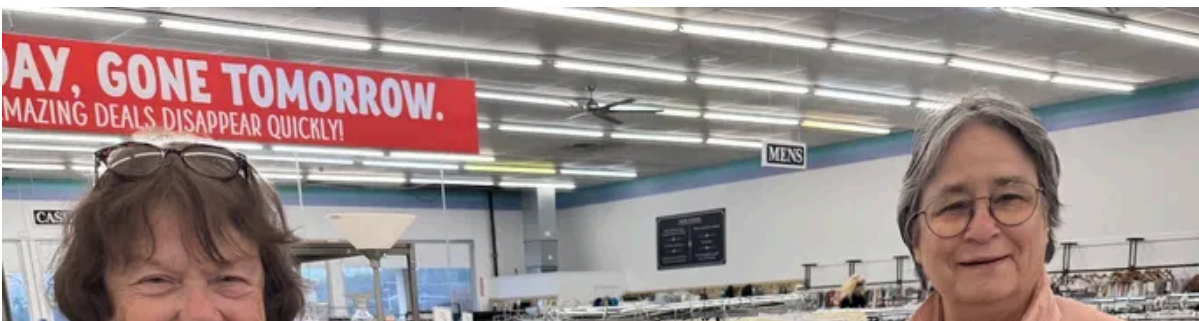
This was a day of unrelenting cold, steady rain. All of us—our unhoused friends and Wheels of Blessings team, were freezing and drenched. Our team, consisting of one 87-year-old, one 80, two 77s, a 71, and a young 50-year-old, certainly gained a good idea of what the unhoused experience in rough, inclement weather. We found a young woman on a bench under a small bus stop shelter. (see photo). A small overhead roof was the only protection from the rain, wind, and 35-degree temperature. The woman had a cat, and when we pulled up, the cat was draped around her shoulders, undoubtedly trying to stay warm. The woman was absolutely drenched. The blankets, clothes she had on, and everything she owned were soaked, all made doubly worse by the 35-degree temperature. In return for the dry blankets we gave her, she offered to give us her soaked blankets to wash and dry, and "give to someone needing them." She also needed dry sweatpants. As our stock of sweatpants had run out, we went to a local store and bought her 3 pairs. She was very grateful.





The crew warming up a soaked woman

Thanks to a donation from South Point Baptist Church in Belmont, we have received 10,396 brand-new sweatshirts, hoodies, light sweatshirts, T-shirts, long T-shirts, and jackets! Yes: 10,396. The church received the donation from a manufacturer, and Wheels of Blessings was contacted. We have shared the wealth with various churches, clothing closets, etc. Thanks to Marty and Mary of South Point Baptist Church for helping load the haul into our cars.





Sister and Ellen shopping on the spot for friends in need of dry clothing





Caroyln handing out chili and socks.

February 25

The Queen of the Apostles teams send out two groups, covering the east Gastonia and the Cramerton/Belmont areas. Some highlights: We were so happy when we saw our friend, J., staying in a house doing work for a friend who bought it as an investment. J.'s wife and children have moved to Florida, where he hopes to join them soon. In the meantime, he said he was going to look for some presentable clothes for a court appearance, where hopefully the charges against him will be dropped.

****Update**** His case was dismissed and a celebratory lunch followed ! Hallelujah!





Deacon Zeke, Jeanmarie & Jessica celebrating with J

We remembered we had two sports jackets; fortunately, one was his size. He looked sharp in a tan jacket with a navy top! Deacon Zeke and his wife Jean hope to be at J's court appearance for moral support. In the Belmont area, many people live in their cars in parking lots or tents in the woods. Several of the cars badly need repair. Heading into Gastonia, we found our friend P, who is living in a camp but has had his Social Security issues resolved and is hoping to be in a house soon.





The donations we receive are a blessing to many. Thank you for the many sweatshirts and shirts!

Thanks to the Lutheran church A. lives behind, which has given her a key to get in when too cold and to take a shower. She so appreciates the church and all they have done to support her. Later, at one of the motels, we found a young man searching through its garbage cans for food.



Abandoned tent on a very wet day.





In gratitude and with love,
Ellen and Your Wheels of Blessings Team



Gastonia, NC 28056 [unsubscribe](#)