

Like



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of our Wheels of Blessings Supporters!

Once again, Wheels of Blessings has received more than its share of blessings from you, our supporters and donors. This month, in addition to our regular monthly donors, we thank Riguey Gomez and her family and friends. Riguey and her group hold fundraisers three to four times a year by making and selling Cuban-style sandwiches. This month, the group donated 20% of their funds to Wheels of Blessings.

We are honored. Another thank you to Gail McLaughlin of Charlotte, who knitted two beautiful blankets for us. These blankets were given out on our December trip.



Team 1 - December 11th

We set out in a gloomy rain and ended the day with clear skies but very cold temperatures. We found so many people needing warm and dry clothes, socks, shoes, coats, and very hungry for sandwiches, fruit, and hot chocolate. We managed to find our friends from a camp which is constantly being moved on. They were once more in a different location; twelve people were there in the mud, wet and cold. Can you imagine having wet clothes, shoes, often no socks, and very very cold? The young man who helped us deliver our things was thoroughly soaked. We had dry clothes, socks, and shoes for him and the others. He was so grateful as he helped bring others dry clothes.

Many of the unhoused work, including our two regulars who live in their car. On the low wages they make, it's almost impossible to save money to afford a motel room, much less rent, as they must pay for gas, food, clothes for work, car repairs, and make car payments not to lose the car, their shelter.

We received a tip about a pregnant woman living behind a storage facility. We went to two such buildings but could not find her. The following week, Sr. Carolyn spotted her, talked to her, and has

contacted Social Services and another agency to get her help.

During our trip, Sr. Carolyn received word that our friend Suzanne had died that morning. Suzanne was the 88-year-old who lived in the toolshed. She and Sister Carolyn had a quite special relationship. See below Sr. Carolyn's thoughts on her bond with Suzanne.



Team 2 - Queen of the Apostles - December 18th

We began in Belmont, finding some regulars and new people in and around various parking lots. One man was very upset and didn't want to take a meal, just water. He is an artist and just wants a place to work in peace and quiet. We respected his wish to be left alone.

Closer to Gastonia, we went to Redeemer Lutheran Church and found

"A.", whom we had not seen on our last few trips, although she has been living there the whole time. The others left but she didn't. It was a joyous reunion! The church is in the process of installing a light and electrical outlet by her camp!

We keep meals in the front seat and gave out many individual meals as we drove along. Later, we found another friend we had not seen in a while. She was very upbeat and shared she was in the Phoenix program and was working one day a week. She is living alone in a tent in a safe place, staying away from her husband and ex-boyfriend because they are "toxic." Please keep her in your prayers because she has only been in the program for the past week and a half. When we returned to Belmont we found several other people and gave out our last meals and also fast food gift cards. They, like everyone else we encountered, were extremely appreciative. We asked them what they would do on Christmas Day, and one young lady replied, "We are a family and will be together."

We say our prayers that God watches over them. We make a difference every time we go out. While the problems of homelessness are overwhelming, we take our baby steps.

- Mary Kane

A Special Note From Our Founder, Sister Carolyn

This Wheels of Blessings day would turn out to be very different. It was about 11:00 am when we got a call from Gaston Memorial Hospital letting us know that our friend Suzanne had

gone to God. As sad as it felt to lose someone I have grown to love and value, I was happy to know she was now at peace.

We all prayed for her suffering to end and hoped God would hear her and us as we lifted our voices in prayer. On my weekly visits, it was clear she was getting weaker and she shared with me that God had told her he was going to take her home soon, and that this was something she had longed for.

Suzanne had been living in a shed for over a year. She had been forced out of her home when it was condemned and couldn't bare to leave the property. Even though she could not go inside of her home and the former store that she owned and operated with her husband for many years, she remained dedicated and living in a close-by shed. It is not surprising at the age of 89 that she didn't want to leave.



As I got to know her, I saw a woman who to some was strange, but to me a reminder of my own mom. Her thoughts to some were a reflection of a mind that was not her own. Wheels would bring her food and other things when we went out, including milk for her cats and kittens.

Occasionally I would bring ham biscuit or something from Starbucks as a treat. I always knew she enjoyed it when I heard her say "ooh"!

Suzanne could be ornery but there was also a tenderness and a deep desire to be with God. During the past year she spoke of loneliness and always of God, who by the way she got mad at, just like she did with us. I hate to think of what she will say to the Holy Spirit, who irritated her even more. She said at night God stayed with her in the shed with her cats to protect her.

Her Lutheran Church family and others made sure she was safe and cared for all year round. I would see them arrive to check on her, to bring her supplies and to visit.

Later that afternoon, I went to the Hospital to tell her goodbye and to say a prayer of thanks that God had taken her home. It will be her first Christmas in Heaven and I can see her dancing and "oohing" with the delight of a child. I shall miss her and before I left her still-warm body, I sang a simple verse, *"may the saints and angels come to greet you and lead you to paradise."* Bending down I gave her one last kiss on her forehead and whispered *"until we meet again, thank you"*.

On Christmas day I will be thinking of this special lady who even in her silence touched my heart and reminded me, our God loves everyone, even those who many ignore.

A special thank you to you to the Gaston Memorial Oncology team including many nurses, doctors and staff who decorated her room, sang with her and prayed her into heaven.

Rest in Peace Suzanne. Rest in Peace!

Blessings,

Sister Carolyn



In gratitude and with love,

Ellen and Your Wheels of Blessings Team



©2025 Wheels of Blessings | Gastonia, NC 28056

[Web Version](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by
[GoDaddy Email Marketing](#)®