

Monthly Newsletter

Hope for the Unhoused

Happy May to all Wheels of Blessings supporters!

Again this month your two teams went out to offer sandwiches, water, hygiene kits, and this time, three tents to our area unhoused persons.

Team 1

- We were happy to see R., our friend who lives outside the Gastonia Bus Station. He had surgery last month for an aneurysm. Surgery went well, and so now he is managing recovery and also trying to sort out the post-surgical medications he must take.
- We gave out two tents to a group who usually are outside an abandoned storefront in a small strip mall. One man is in a wheelchair, along with a woman, and another man with his cart full of meager possessions. The woman has a particularly haunting face: she has a child-like quality to her face and eyes: her eyes hold an expectancy, a freshness, like an infant's eyes. At the same time, her face and eyes reflect pain, disappointment, and the look of constantly feeling beaten down. She rarely speaks, but always says a soft: thank you. The men said they stay at night in the woods behind the strip mall, and could really use the tents we mentioned we had. After Sr. Carolyn gave B. the tents, he held out his hand. She reached out, and he covered both hands in hers and said thank you.
- We met a woman with a 6 or 7-year-old boy. The woman stayed on her phone the entire time she took a sandwich bag and nodded thank you. The boy took the water bottles and put them in his sweatpants pockets. But just like the woman's face described above, he had the child's freshness, but paralleled with the look of fear and being beaten down.
- We saw our regular friend at the junk car camp. We gave him his sandwich bags and bottles of water. He told us about a group living in the nearby woods. Two had just been released from the hospital and were too weak to come to our car. He said he would take things back to them. We loaded up a box, and as we did, he said, with a lot of joy: "Jesus called me today to be his disciple!". He then left to deliver the supplies, returned, and said: "Today I'm St. Paul!" We all laughed and thanked him for his missionary journey.



Team 2

- We again saw J. in the Walmart parking lot. The first month we saw his car he would not acknowledge us. Last month he took our lunch bag, looked inside, and said, "No thank you." He gave it back. Today he accepted our food, got out of his car, and spoke to us for quite a while. He has an autoimmune disorder keeping him from working. He looks out for the other unhoused folks in the parking lot.
- We gave another couple a tent along with the sandwiches and toiletry bags.
- We found our friend P., who told us people from the neighborhood burnt down their camp. One person from the camp is in jail and Animal Control took his German shepherd.
- We met up with several folks in the Franklin Square area. Earlier in the morning, as he was driving to Queen of the Apostles to go out with us, Stuart had spoken with a fellow around McDonald's and told him he would be back later with food. When we returned later, we were glad to see him again, and he was so happy when we gave him the promised food.
- During the day, Deacon Zeke got a text from our friend J. from the above-mentioned Walmart parking lot. J. texted to thank us for the food. saying he had been down to his last \$3.12 for food.
- We took some of the leftover food bags to the 2 motels in Belmont.

Both teams are always edified by the gratitude of the people we meet. Our gratitude, in turn, goes to you, our donors and supporters.

So many mutual blessings!

