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Summer Recap

This summer we continued our mobile shower program for our homeless clients. We increased our shower program from every other Monday to every Monday. Everyone who comes for a shower receives hygiene items, underwear, socks and outer clothing if needed. They also receive a hot meal and a beverage.

We started our food distribution program in June and have handed out food the past three months. Each month over 200 families have been blessed with boxes of produce, meat, pantry items, dairy products and bread.

Our Teach Them to Fish crew, consisting of volunteer homeless and local residents, has faithfully picked up trash and debris this summer, making a difference on our city streets. Truly, we have had a productive summer.

Now we're ready to move forward to fall and the work God has planned for us.

New Opportunities

We have recently been blessed with not one but two grants to serve the homeless community. One grant allows us to serve more homeless with our Monday shower program and the second grant allows us to serve those in the homeless encampments in Victorville.

Starting in September, the Teach Them to Fish crew will be going to each of the five sanitation stations and surrounding encampments on a rotating basis. For each visit we will provide the homeless community with COVID-19 information, hygiene kits, face masks and hand sanitizing gel. We will take each person's temperature so anyone with a fever can quarantine himself/herself. We are also taking meals to help with their nutritious needs. While at the encampments we will clean the area of trash and debris, leaving them with better living conditions, while also encouraging the residents to keep the area clean as well. It is our hope to ensure COVID-19 doesn't spread in these encampments while also meeting their physical needs. We will also be sharing resources with these individuals so they will know where to seek services.

This is a big undertaking for us but we are looking forward to it. This is our chance to let the homeless individuals in these encampments know that someone cares about them.

Volunteer Opportunities

We have several volunteer opportunities should you wish to serve the homeless. We can use help at our office on Mondays during our shower hours. We need someone to pick out clothing for our shower participants while someone else hands out food.

Our trash pick up crew could use some help picking up trash on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The wind seems to blow a lot of trash along the street behind Food 4 Less.

We could use more volunteers in the afternoons of our food distribution program. Once all of the food has been distributed we still need to clean up the parking lot. Any food that is left over is given to the church and we help them put the food in their pantry.

Once we start taking food and hygiene items to the homeless encampments, we could really use help preparing the meals we will be taking. We have the food, we just need someone to prepare it and deliver it to either our office or to the encampment itself. You would be cooking for 40-50 people.

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please call 442-242-1497. We would love to talk to you.

Wellness and Recuperative Care Center

Victorville City Council recently submitted a grant application to the state's Department of Housing and Community Development to build a Wellness and Recuperative Care Center by Eva Dell Park. The 168 bed Center will provide interim housing for 120 homeless individuals plus provide 48 beds for those who need recuperative care. The Center will provide on site services such as a multipurpose center, dining area, a medical clinic and a dog clinic. If they receive funding, construction could begin as early as October and be fully operational by March 2021.

The City has asked several nonprofits to partner with them to provide services for the homeless, including Women of Noble Character.

Sam and Samantha

Last week we had the opportunity to see just how necessary the recuperative care center is for our homeless population when we met Sam* and Samantha*. Sam had suffered a stroke within the last year and it affected his ability to walk as well as his speech. His wife, Samantha, has very limited use of her legs so she rarely moves from her chair, even for bathroom duties. Sam slowly pushed Samantha in a wheelchair to our office. Once here, it became apparent Samantha couldn't walk up the stairs into the shower or even crawl. Not wanting her to leave without at least washing up, we allowed her to use our restroom.

The stench in the bathroom was overwhelming. Her clothes were soaked and reeked of urine. With help from our volunteers, she was able to get cleaned up and put on fresh clothes. For that moment, she was clean and fresh. But for how long? She can't walk so the next time she needs to use a restroom she will be wet again, or worse. She needs to get off the streets for sure, but just putting her in a motel won't give her all of the help she needs. She needs assistance. She needs someone to help her shower, someone to lift her into bed at night and put her back into her chair in the morning. She needs help!

We were heartbroken to send her back onto the streets but there wasn't anything else we could do for her. We were comforted by the fact that for a brief moment at least, she was clean and she knew someone cared about her. Please keep Sam and Samantha in your prayers.

We will be checking on Sam and Samantha periodically to see what we can do for them.

*Names changed for privacy

Final Thoughts

2020 has been a challenging year for many people and yet, God is still in control. He knows exactly what is going on and He continues to bless us as we serve him. While COVID-19 has been a horrible disease affecting thousands, it is *because* of COVID-19 that we received both of our grants and thus, the ability to reach out to more of the homeless community. Who knows what His future plans are for us and the homeless we serve. He can do great and mighty things and we are blessed to be his vessels.

If you would like to partner with us to serve our community, we could use your prayers and your financial support. All of the food that is distributed to our Victorville residents is given to us by High Desert Second Chance and Victor Valley Rescue Mission. However, we provide food and drinks for our volunteers if you would like to make a donation.

Our office is open Monday through Thursday, 10am to 1pm. If you'd like to talk to someone, our number is 442-242-1497.

Thank you for helping us reach out "to the least of these."

To donate please mail your donation to:

Women of Noble Character
13782 Bear Valley Rd. D-3 #469
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Make checks payable to Women of Noble Character.



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