

## Street Outreach Report – 12 July 2025

Joanne and I (Jane) met at St. Philips to pick up the packages for our outing this last Saturday, July 12. As Ash was unable to greet us that morning, he had prepared the packages earlier and Joanne and I gathered everything together, including packages, some t-shirts, underwear, pair of shorts, few towels and extra toiletries. Mary had dropped off two sleeping bags for us (thank you Mary), Joanne had made boiled eggs and purchased bananas and brought her bag of toiletries and Jane made sandwiches (pb&j and ham and cheese), banana bread and picked up bottled water. Thank you to Ash and everyone at St. Philips for their generosity.

Our first stop was the fence at 4th and Highbury. We were met by T, M, A and P (who was pleasant, chatty and new to us). They all took packages (extra for A's wife), sandwiches, bananas, eggs (except Tim). M and A took underwear, all except P took a t-shirt, some took razors toothbrush/toothpaste. As it was forecast to be a lovely day, most of the fellows were heading down to the beach. P is looking for a place. He has only recently lost his housing and has put his things in storage as he has quite a bit of stuff. He is thinking of moving over to Vancouver Island because he feels his budget of \$1900 will go farther there. We left the guys each with a Macdonald's gift card.

We headed up to Fourth and Vine. We initially saw a fellow sleeping in the Safeway parking lot so we headed over to see how he was doing. When we were almost there, we were greeted by two off-leash pit bulls. Another fellow was behind the sleeping fellow and he did seem to have control over the dogs because they heeded him when he called them back but as we had little Rocco, we decided not to go any further.

We continued on towards Whole Foods at 4th and Vine and found P and B (P friend who lives in North Van and always has some lovely carvings on display). Both fellows accepted all the food offerings (but no egg for P). B accepted underwear, and both fellows took a gift card. P let us know that there was an event in Oppenheimer Park that day that should be fun. Joanne and I both purchased a Megaphone from Pete. We also found K outside the Whole Foods hoping to make a little extra cash. We have seen him before and he was happy to see us. He accepted food, underwear and gift card. He would have liked a shirt but unfortunately we did not have his size. He told us he was born in Ontario but grew up in East Vancouver. Nice fellow!

We drove slowly down towards Granville Loop Park, around the Park, over to 7th and Fir and parked in the old Windsor Lumber parking. We found R in one of the underground parking lots. He was on his own but apparently there had been another fellow who had just left. R took all the food offerings (including two sandwiches), t-shirt, pants, shorts, underwear, sleeping bag and gift card. He is always ravenous and was eating as we left.

We then headed to Fir and 10th but seeing no one at the VSB Park we headed east on 10th towards Chapmans. We saw a few fellows there so we parked in the underground parking lot across the street opposite the Firehall. We found , L and S. They were happy to see us and accepted all the food offerings, underwear, toiletries, etc. L took a sleeping bag. Joanne spent more time with the fellows than I at this location as I was concerned about my car because we had parked without paying... it was quite expensive. Parking all over the city is horrendously expensive now. I don't have an app (yet) and some of the meters have

increased the parking fee but have yet to install new parking meters so you can pay with a credit card. Trying to get adequate change the day before the outing is a challenge!. As we were driving out of the lot, L had met up with another fellow but they were engaged so we continued on.

We then drove around the lane behind Jordan's over to Hemlock. Joanne jumped out to check to see if anyone was at Circle K but there was not, so we drove up Hemlock towards 15th, west along 15th to Granville and slowly down Granville keeping an eye out. We then turned on 10th and still no one at the park so we headed down Broadway towards the Safeway, keeping a look out at London Drugs and IGA but still no one. We drove to the Safeway but there was no one in front so we drove into the parking lot and over to the underground entrance where M sometimes hangs out but he wasn't there. We circled the lot and continued down Broadway looking for St and anyone else in need. There was no one outside the Dollarama, Subway, Tim's or Macdonalds so we headed up to Dunbar.

We checked out the Shoppers but there was no one outside that day so we went back to St. Philips, dropped off the remaining packages, bits of clothing and toiletries. Joanne took the few pb&j sandwiches to St. Mary's.

We had a good day, quieter than normal but everyone was in good spirits. Although the forecast was for quite hot weather, it was very pleasant while we were out.

Blessings from Joanne and Jane