

Street Outreach Report – 17 May 2025

For our Neighbourhood Ministry outreach I (Vineet) reached at St. Philip's to find Mary, along with Ash—a dedicated parishioner from St. Philip's—assembling food packages. I helped them load the carts and other items in Mary's car. Our supplies included 18 food packs as well as mandarins, 6 cheese sandwiches, 10 peanut butter sandwiches, and hard-boiled eggs. We had some clothing in form of rain jackets, t-shirts, pants, toiletries, and 2 sleeping mats.

4th & Highbury

We encountered T and A, who were in good spirits. They warmly received the packages and fresh food, expressing genuine appreciation for our ongoing support. They look forward to our visits and value our consistent presence in their lives.

4th & Vine

We saw D, asleep in a sleeping bag, visibly disheveled. Moved with compassion, Mary had brought 10 McDonald's gift cards and gave one to D along with food and supplies. P was also present and gratefully accepted both a meal and a gift card.

4th and Pine

The alley behind No Frills was empty.

Bus Loop at Granville Bridge

No one was present due to renovations in the surrounding park.

7th & Fir - Under Granville Bridge

No one was encountered at this location.

Granville Street

Not one of our usual friends at the Vancouver School Board Park were present. However, we met S near the library. He was collecting bottles and cans and gladly received all available food and supplies. S has lived in the area for a long time.

In the alley next to Jordan's Furniture, we met J. He gratefully accepted a sleeping mat, food items, and a few t-shirts.

With the weather shifting between rain and sunshine and despite walking the block, we didn't see anyone else during that time.

Broadway

At the Safeway Parking Lot we found an elderly man sleeping under a blanket. While we intended to quietly leave food and a gift card, he was startled and upset upon waking, so we respectfully left leaving the food items and the gift card for him.

We met St playing his guitar in front of a vacant storefront between Mackenzie and Bayswater Streets. He joyfully received everything we offered. I was personally pleased to see his wound had healed from the last time I had met him.

Dunbar

We also met another man sleeping in front of Shoppers Drug Mart at Dunbar. He received food and a gift card. He woke up and seemed very pleased to get the food. His name is C.

Closing the Day Mary kindly drove us back to St. Philip's, where we returned the carts, non-perishable food packages and sleeping mat. The leftover fresh food was taken to the community food fridge at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale to ensure nothing was wasted and all could benefit.

This day being my last day to minister with WANM was a reminder that outreach is not only about giving but about presence, consistency, and connection. Even a small gesture—a sandwich, a kind word, a gift card—can be a bridge of hope and dignity. I give thanks for each encounter I had and pray for continuation of healing and wholeness of our neighbours on the margins through this ministry.