

Street Outreach Report – 14 June 2025

I (Jane) met with Ash at St. Philips to pick up the packages. He supplied us with 16 well stocked packages, 18 eggs, pb&j and cheese sandwiches, mandarins, two sleeping bags and mats, some t-shirts, underwear, a cane and some extra granola bars. Thanks to Ash for getting this all ready for us. He was a big help. And thanks to all the parishioners for their continued generosity.

We also had some McDonald's gift cards (both Joan and I had a stash) some cookies and water.

I met Joan at the fence a 4th and Highbury where T, A and M were waiting for us. M had been to Showers earlier so he had already seen Joan. They all accepted packages (A took one for his wife) sandwiches, mandarins, eggs, gift cards. A took underwear. They were all in good spirits and we enjoyed a short chat.

We then headed up Fourth to Yew and parked. Our P was not in his usual spot but one of his friends, B, had set up shop in his little corner. B is a carver and he does some lovely work. He had a few pieces with him that he was working on. He was quite chatty. When we enquired about P, he said P's brother had died recently so he was with his family. We will keep him in our prayers. Ben took everything we had to offer! We also found S sitting outside the Whole Foods. He is in a mobility chair but I am sure he is housed. He was just trying to collect a bit of extra cash. He was happy to receive all the food offerings and a gift card. He was very chatty and as we left, he was shouting "Go Edmonton Go".

We hiked around Fourth but not finding anyone else, we headed back to the cars and travelled down Fourth, around Granville Loop (lots of construction there so no campsites), and over to 7th and Fir. We parked in the old Windsor Lumber lot but unfortunately we have to be careful now because all the stalls say "Reserved". Keeping an eye on our cars, we walked over to the first underground parking lot and found R and L. They had quite a bit of stuff but I know they pack up and move around regularly because I don't think they can remain there for too long. They happily took everything. L also took a package for his girl friend, D. (R was joking around with Joan saying that he would have a girlfriend but he had to wait for payday!). They both accepted t-shirts, extra socks, underwear, razors, water, mandarins and gift cards.

We then moved up to 10th and Fir across from the VSB park. There was no one in the park but we hiked over to the old Chapmans and found S and A on the north side of the building. They took absolutely everything we had to offer, including underwear,

razors and gift cards. S asked for wet wipes which we didn't have with us but I thought I might have some in the car so we said we would try to get back with some. We then travelled down the lane adjacent to the Firehall and over to Hemlock where we found J parked outside the Circle K. J moves around the city between Broadway near the Fairmont building, Save On at Cambie, Island Park Walk in False Creek and Broadway and Hemlock. He has a ton of stuff which he occasionally unpacks and one cannot believe he could repack it and get it moved, but he does. He has something on wheels and when everything is packed up, it's about 7 feet tall and he sleeps/sits right at the top.... it's amazing. Today he didn't really want anything, but he accepted a mandarin. He was very polite and almost apologetic that we couldn't find anything to give him but he is quite fastidious (he wears heavy duty gloves) and doesn't want anything that looks remotely used! I have met him before (perhaps with Dana) and he was more receptive to accepting things but we had to show him everything we had and let him mull over each item... we had to be very patient. We then travelled up Hemlock and over to the parking lot across from the Firehall where we met D. We know D from this Ministry and Showers. She looked a little forlorn but we did have a good chat with her. She accepted a couple of packages of food, sandwiches, gift card and because Joan thought she looked a little chilly and she didn't want the fleece jacket we offered because it didn't have a hood, we found an IKEA fleece blanket in the bottom of my cart. I forgot it was there. It was brand new and just what she wanted. Joan wrapped it around her shoulders. It really wasn't that chilly out but the underground lot was cool and she seemed more comfortable when we left.

We hiked up a short way along Granville and finding no one else, we then returned to the cars. Joan and I made our way back up Broadway and into the Safeway parking lot. There was a chap sitting panhandling outside the Safeway but he did not want anything. Joan and I then parted.

I then drove further down to Tim's where I found St. St seemed in good form, playing his guitar. He took everything, including underwear, razor and gift card.

Travelling farther up Broadway and then up to Dunbar, I found C at the Shoppers. He was very happy to see me. He took all the food offerings, gift card, underwear and a sleeping bag and mat.

On returning home back along Broadway, I parked at the London Drugs just west of Arbutus and spotted S again, the fellow we met near Chapmans to whom I had said we would return with wet ones...well we had found some wet ones, so I was able to give him the package.

Joan and I had a good time and some good chats with our friends on the street. We

had a couple of packages left, the cane and one sleeping bag and mat which I will give to the group going out next Saturday (I am the spare so who knows I may be just keeping them).

Blessings from Jane and Joan