



The CedarWood Report



Summer 2020

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CEDARWOOD FEEDS A GROWING HOMELESS POPULATION

As difficulties with the economy persist, rent prices continue to increase and social services become more overburdened, how do you take care of the most vulnerable people in our cities? What does it take to provide hot meals and other necessities to men and women whose home is on the streets? The number of people our CedarWood Homeless Outreach Team feeds each week has been steadily increasing over the past many months. Here are some insights as to what it takes to feed over 140 people on any given Saturday in the city of Everett, WA.



1) TRUST GOD FOR HIS PROVISION. Each time our CedarWood truck drivers go out to pick up donations from local grocery stores, they never know until they get there what is being donated. We utilize food for different needs: Pantry families, hungry school children and at-risk people living on the streets. So, we pray and believe that we will get exactly what is needed. Each time, we find that we either have enough of the right items or we receive a cash donation or gift card so we can make the necessary purchase. Either way, we are always grateful for the abundance and specificity of God's provision!

2) RECRUIT HELPERS. Since our team is now feeding well over 100 every Saturday, we needed more volunteers to help distribute food and drinks, to-go bags, clothing, shoes and hygiene items. We now have regular help from volunteers gifted in connecting with people and reaching out with love, encouragement and prayer, specific to the homeless population in our city. We trust the leading of the Spirit of God to minister effectively and He is touching many lives.

3) PREPARE, PREPARE, PREPARE! A lot goes into the preparation aspect of feeding so many people! The team creates a monthly menu listing weekly hot meals which are prepared in large pans on Friday and baked early Saturday morning. During the week they glean specific items from our regular Pantry pick ups for the "to-go bags." Foods such as granola bars, cookies, nuts, chips, crackers and pastries are re-packaged into individual servings and then assembled into 120 bags to distribute. They also make 120 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to add to the bags as they are distributed. So as you can see, this is a huge undertaking and it takes many hands, all day Friday, to prepare for a Saturday outreach.

4) LOAD THE VEHICLES. CedarWood was blessed to receive a donated van a few months ago that is perfect for serving food and drinks. Hot food is served from the back, coffee, cocoa and cold drinks from one side door, and the to-go bags and sandwiches from the other side. A separate vehicle is used to distribute clothing, shoes, blankets and hygiene items. We load up the vehicle utilizing a catering box for hot trays, a cooler for cold items and two large catering carafes for hot water and cold drinks. Most of the equipment we use has been donated, so we are doubly blessed! *(Continued on Pg. 2)*



CedarWood International is a division of *The World For Jesus Ministries*

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5) GO TO THE HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS, SEEKING OUT THE LOST ONES. Our team has developed a regular route throughout the city, stopping at places where most people gather, but we also stop for the one, whether its someone walking or sitting alone on the side of the street. "Are you hungry?" is the question we always ask when we pull up. Hungry hearts are also fed, simply by treating individuals with the love and respect they deserve and by offering prayer and encouragement. When you stop to talk to people, look them in the eye and listen, something of value is imparted that lifts the spirit and breaks down walls of resistance and fear. Our team knows many by name and have heard their stories. Most do not want to be homeless but life circumstances, poor decisions and/or a lack of access to social services have contributed to their situation. It is our privilege to serve people with kindness and love just as Jesus would, because we are His hands and feet on the streets.

6) DO IT AGAIN. Finally, consistency is a huge factor in the work we do. For two and a half years the team has gone out nearly every Saturday, helping the homeless. Many of the people know us now, recognize the vehicles and are excited when we arrive. Very little is predictable in their lives, so us showing up each week is important to them and it means that we care. Many lives have been impacted for good as a result of the developing relationships and sense of community, and they have told us how grateful they are that we are there for them.

Thank you for your prayers and support for the work of CedarWood. We couldn't do this without you.



MID-YEAR PANTRY UPDATE



Despite the difficulties surrounding the current economic downturn, we are very thankful that CedarWood has been able to feed and care for so many people in our community. Store pickups continue to provide us with weekly food supplies and through our partnership with Food Lifeline, we have received 100 pre-packed dry-goods boxes each week to distribute to Pantry customers. We have also recently re-opened our clothing closet by appointment so that our clients can shop for free clothes and shoes for themselves and their children. The chart reflects the totals for the first half of 2020, from January through June.

Cumulative YTD Stats: January — June 2020

CedarWood Pantry

Pantry Families Served	2,870
Combined Family Members	8,014
New Families Registered	107
Coats Distributed	51
Shoes Distributed	69

CedarWood Homeless Outreach

Homeless Meals Served	2,299
Coats Distributed	48
Shoes Distributed	36

CedarWood Backpack Kids Program

BackPack Kids Meal Kits Assembled	1,000
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GET INVOLVED!

CedarWood International needs YOUR help to build stronger families! Consider donating money, food, or volunteer your time. Monetary donations are tax-deductible. Please write checks to World For Jesus Ministries (WFJM) and mail to the address on Page 1.

Please notate "CedarWood" in the memo section of your check. Online donations also accepted at <http://worldforjesus.org/ministries>. Click the "CedarWood International" donate button to add your donation to the cart. — **THANK YOU!** —