



# The CedarWood Report



Summer 2021

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## THE CEDARWOOD CREW IS BACK!

Two years ago, CedarWood launched a men's program called the **CedarWood Crew**. Our intended group was the men who came as clients to the CedarWood Pantry, as well as any of the guys from the volunteers and staff. We know that the needs of our clients go beyond just the physical requirement for food and clothing but extend into the social, emotional, and spiritual realms also. The staff and volunteers were building relationships with the men who attended the Pantry, swapping stories and even praying with them sometimes. However, the context of a food distribution didn't lend itself to going beyond surface-level interactions; we needed to meet with any who wanted to join us outside the Pantry operating hours. So, we began to have special events for the guys—a BBQ, a game day, even an evening bonfire! Each meeting was more than just guys having fun (although we did!); it was a chance to be real with other people and share our challenges and victories, ask for advice and pray together, and to encourage each other. It was living up to the CedarWood Crew motto—"Navigating Life Together."

After such a great first year in 2019, we took a break for the winter holiday season and found, like the rest of the world, the unexpected, as COVID-19 spread around the globe. As the world seemingly came to a halt, CedarWood adapted all its services to meet the challenges of the times we were in—and that included suspending the CedarWood Crew events. No one imagined in March and April of 2020 that quarantining and social distancing would last so long!



The calendar flipped into 2021 and in our conversations with the guys, we found that so many of them felt isolated in that year of drive-through Pantry. Gatherings of any size were forbidden by state government using emergency powers and we literally could not get the Crew together. Eventually, the restrictions relaxed and we held the first CW Crew event of the year in May, when we rented out a movie theatre for what turned out to be just 9 of us! After the movie we had a pizza party and Bible study, followed by great conversations. So many of the men expressed their excitement to reconnect with other guys and that they enjoyed the opportunity for spiritual development and relationship building.

We followed up that event in July of 2021 with a CW Crew "Breakfast on the Beach" and had our highest attendance since our initial kick-off in 2019. Fourteen guys gathered for eggs, ham, bacon, sausages, bagels, coffee, and more! We invited a local pastor to come and personally minister to every man who was willing to participate. The comradery and interactions, the laughter and the tears, the ministry and prayers for each other—all of these fulfilled the CedarWood Crew's mission of Navigating Life Together! We plan to make CW Crew gatherings a monthly event and we invite all men in the local area who want to meet with us!

❖ **INTERESTED? CONTACT ADAM SHEPHARD BY EMAIL OR PHONE LISTED BELOW.** ❖

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

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## CEDARWOOD CLOTHING CLOSET: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

One seldom-talked-about but important division of CedarWood is our **Coats and Clothing Closet**. Headed up by Lynn Nordrum, this valuable resource has provided our Pantry clients with free clothing, coats and shoes since 2013 and it has become more vital than ever as our community need increases.

Once Pantry clients receive their food on Mondays, they are invited to come upstairs and collect a bag of gently-used (and often new) clothing for themselves and their family. Each client can also receive two pairs of shoes per family member, per year, and one coat in the winter for each person in their household. Our newest service offered to clients is a clothing pick-up request form. Families can check off clothing items they need and list the appropriate sizes. While they are waiting in line for food, we will pack a bag with the requested items and have it ready for them before they leave.



Donations are our lifeline! We recently received multiple boxes and bags of new shoes from a ministry partner who unexpectedly received them from Old Navy but had no outlet for distribution. Along with that, they gave us boxes of new men's and ladies' undergarments as well as brand-new men's T-shirts that had been donated to them by Walmart. What a blessing to have these items for our clients! And, next month we will receive a van-load of children's clothing from a church that holds a yearly Back-to-School event and donates the remaining boxes and racks of clothing, coats and shoes to CedarWood.

We appreciate everyone who contributes to our clothing closet! Men's clothing is particularly needed, so if you or someone you know needs to free up space in a closet or bureau drawer, we would gladly accept any and all new or gently-used items. We also collect coats for adults and children to give away when the weather turns cold. Donations can be dropped off at Bethel Chapel in Mountlake Terrace, WA or mailed to the address on page 1 of this newsletter. Thank you for helping us help the families in our community!

## MID-YEAR PANTRY UPDATE: 2020 / 2021 COMPARISON

### 2020 Cumulative YTD Stats: Jan — Jun

CedarWood Pantry (AT START OF CV19)	
Pantry Families Served	2,870
Combined Family Members	8,014
New Families/Orgs 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	1,000

### 2021 Cumulative YTD Stats: Jan — Jun

CedarWood Pantry	
Pantry Families Served	2,492
Combined Family Members	7,078
New Families/Orgs Registered	54
Coats Distributed	82
Shoes Distributed	64
CedarWood Homeless Outreach	
Homeless Meals Served	3,374
Coats Distributed	57
Shoes Distributed	78
CedarWood Backpack Kids Program	
BackPack Kids Meal Kits	1,000

## 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!** —