

John 21:15

Peter said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus told him, "Feed my Lambs."

- Winter is near
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- Christmas party
- T-Shirts!
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- Pancake fundraiser
- Veterans' Shelter
- From the street

December is now upon us, and for most of us it is just the beginning of a month of festivity; Thanksgiving has just left us with fond memories of family and fellowship, and it's just a few short weeks until Christmas provides yet another opportunity to gather with loved ones, and let's not forget one last chance to ring out the year and usher in January.

For some of us, though, December heralds the beginning of the harshest season of the year. For those that live from day to day on the streets depending on day jobs or handouts to survive, and for those mothers that have to find refuge for themselves and their children in a shelter, it is not a month of fun and frolic, but one of frustration and fear.

A coat, a blanket, a sweatshirt, a pair of shoes, gloves, a hat... any of these can be such a small thing for us and salvation for them. This month, as you do your shopping for Christmas, consider all those for whom December 25 may just be another cold day, and encourage others to do so as well.

If you would like to contribute these or other items, please drop us a line at hotdogsandhope@yahoo.com and we gladly help you to help us to help them!

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank some of the various churches that contribute to our efforts:

Grand Prairie Family Church of the Nazarene; South Park Baptist Church; New Life Bible Fellowship; Abundant Life Assembly of God; Southside Church of Christ; Ovilla Road Church of the Nazarene; Mesquite Church of the Nazarene; Gateway Church; and several others.

Also, we'd like to thank Love and Living Hope Ministry and Professional Christian Womens Ministry for their support!

It's almost here... our annual Christmas party at the Women and Children's Shelter in Ft. Worth! As is our custom, we're bringing face painters, puppeteers, presents, food, and more to the shelter so that these children can get what they otherwise may not have. Oh, and word has it that Santa will be there and available for pictures!

The event is on Saturday, December 12, from 11am to 3pm. If you would like to volunteer some of your time to help bring joy to these children, or if you'd like more information about this event or our ministry, please email us at hotdogsandhope@yahoo.com.

People have asked, why don't we have t-shirts? Well, now we do! A first run of the green shirt has been quite popular (you can see the design on our BlogSpot blog, hotdogsandhope.blogspot.com), and orders are also now being taken for a red shirt. See the blog for more information and up-to-date news about ordering dates, new colors, etc!

Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others.

Barbara Bush

Departmentally speaking...

Communications/Promotions: It's been pointed out that the teens who volunteer their time could use some official recognition of service for college applications and the like; I'll be working on that.

Fundraising: Pancakes must be popular, because we fared well from our Pancake Breakfast. And, if you haven't bought a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory chocolate bar, you don't know what you're missing.

Special events: Did I mention the Christmas party at the shelter? We also have something in mind for the veterans.

Services: We have started bringing 700 hot dogs (up from 600) with us on Saturday mornings.

Stewardship: As we are a 501c3 organization, January will find us preparing tax forms and fulfilling our IRS obligations. Plus, board elections are coming in February, and there's preparation to be done.

The Pancake Breakfast was, by any measurement, a wild success. We had many people come to enjoy a great all-you-can-eat pancake and sausage breakfast, and between ticket sales and donations, we took in around \$2,700, which will go a long way toward financing the upcoming special events and keeping the ministry going. We'd like to thank Johnny Carino's in Grand Prairie for hosting our fundraiser, and we thank all of you who helped organize the event, sold tickets, and otherwise made it happen, but especially we thank everyone who bought a ticket or donated to our cause!

On Veteran's Day, we made a special trip to the Patriot House (www.pns-tc.org/patriot_house.html) and brought cookies and brownies as a small token of our thanks and gratitude for their service to our country.

For the same reason, we will partner with Love and Living Hope Ministry to help bring Christmas to the Patriot House. On December 19 from 11am to 1pm, Love and Living Hope Ministry is sponsoring a Christmas dinner (ham and all the trimmings) for the veterans, and we are helping out and providing some of the gift bags to be given. Contact our Special Events team if you'd like to help fill a gift bag and watch our blogs for information as it develops!

September 19, 2009:

As we were on the street this morning giving out hot dogs, a homeless man approached Tom & I with a concern of his. The homeless man had picked up a woman on the side of the street a couple days ago that was naked, wet, and very dirty... Javier and I went into the shelter and asked the person in charge if he could get her admitted into the shelter to take a shower and get some clothing. He refused because she did not have an ID Medical Card and he suggested that we tried the Day Shelter one block north of this shelter... Javier and I went with the homeless man to the Day Shelter and the security guard told us she could not come in and get a shower without an ID Medical Card. We asked to see the supervisor, and her name was Sharon I believe. We talked to Sharon and she made a special exception being we were with HotDogs & Hope Ministry and she allowed the lady to come in and take a shower and they had some clothing for her.

Javier & I were used by Jesus to be his hands and feet and we were able (with Jesus' help) to convince Sharon to help this poor, dirty, and naked lady get a shower and some clothing.

Go to our blogs to read more first-hand reports of our experiences on the street!

web: www.hotdogsandhope.com

blog: hotdogsandhope.xanga.com

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