



From the desk of the Director: “How Do I Get Involved?”

In trying to serve the homeless the best way we can, as well as give each person who volunteers the unique experience that selfless serving gives, we can't always accommodate many of your requests. The needs of the homeless are great, and the little that we do in preparing a nutritious bagged lunch for them is this; a simple exchange of satisfying someone's hunger for that day.

The responses from all who read this website is gratifying. We have a good record with the community that we serve by being consistent and showing up with a meal when we do. Counting the time before we became a not for profit organization, we have been serving the homeless as well as the hospitals, homes for the elderly, half way houses, and teen canteens for run-a-way youth since 1991. At the height of our service history, we were making a thousand lunches a month, gathering clothes, toys and making thousands of cookies for three hospitals that we delivered every Christmas day for ten to twelve years.

Due to changing administrations in the hospitals and homes, restricted access to clients and a poor economy we now have scaled back to serving only one day a month with some alternate Saturdays.

Due to your overwhelming offers of support, “Under The Bridges and on The Streets” is being revitalized and poised for new growth. To address this, two things need to happen;

1. New funding. This can come in the form of someone stepping forward who can write grants. It can also come in the form of a community, church, fraternity, or school, adopting Under The Bridges as their service organization by fundraising or writing a monthly check.
2. New routes. What this means is looking around in your area, which does not mean the neighborhood where you live, but the one you may drive past everyday to work where you notice a gathering of people that are homeless. Now, perhaps, you will take an action and start by making a difference in their lives, by offering them a bagged lunch.

This is how you can set up your own route:

1. Every lunch cost approximately two dollars.
2. You may assume that you will need about ten bagged lunches for this community that you have noticed.
3. You might have a few friends who feel as you do about bringing service into their lives and you collect twenty dollars.
4. You give this money to Under The Bridges on the last Saturday of the month, essentially you purchase ten lunches with water.
5. You and your friends then deliver the lunches. If you do this for three months straight, then we at UTB will pick up the tab for those ten lunches. So, now you have your own route and every time you attend on the last Saturday of every month, you will take with you ten lunches or more if you need them for the people that you serve.

“It is one of the simplest forms of service to feed someone who is hungry.” My teacher, Ma Jaya would say to “Feed Everyone”. It’s a basic need, and in my experience, one that is welcomed by most everyone that is living on the streets.

Sincerely

John Shinavier aka Swami/ Executive Director