

Report of the WANM outing of Saturday, August 2, 2025

Joanne and Mary, packets provided by St. Helen's

Shawn and other members of the St. Helen's indoor team were not available on August 2. They had tried to trade with one of the other churches but that had not worked out. So Shawn dropped off all the packets at Mary's home the week before. Joanne made sandwiches and hardboiled eggs and Mary bought bananas and oranges and bottled water. Mary picked up sleeping bags and mats from Rhona and carts and some clothing items from St. Philip's cupboard.

We set out in Joanne's car. We passed by the seating area at 10th and Sasamat but saw no one in need there.

We proceeded to the fence where we met T, A and P. All seemed in good spirits. All took food and water. T took a pair of jogging pants. P took a mat.

Our next stop was the 4th and Vine corner. Initially P was not at his usual place, but his Megaphones were there. In front of Whole Foods was a woman panhandling. Her name is C. She has 3 children at home. She told us she is an immigrant and had a work permit that has expired. She is working on getting it renewed. We gave her food and a T-shirt, and a laminated card. By the time we had finished talking with C, P had returned to his usual spot. He took food and seemed in good spirits.

We proceeded east along 4th to the Granville Loop Park area. We saw no one under the bridge ramp. We parked on 5th near Granville as we had previously found people camping in the park in areas not visible from a passing car. We walked through the tunnel. Directly up the hill from the big 100 statue we saw a tent surrounded by branches. We called out and a man answered, politely declining our help. We did not get his name.

We proceeded to 7th and Fir. In one of the parking garages along the lane behind the old Windsor Plywood we found R and C. C had recently had all his belongings stolen. He was happy to take a sleeping bag and mat and two T-shirts. Both took packets and fresh food and water.

We parked on Fir and 10th and loaded up our carts for the circuit around that area. We saw no one in the VSB Park. On the NE corner of 10th and Granville, by the old Chapman's store, we found A, J and S. S was new to me (Mary) but had met others from the WANM. S took a sleeping bag and mat. All took food and water. J was looking for a better pair of shoes. He walked back to our car as we had several pair of shoes in the car. He chose a pair that was a bit too small, but he thought they would do or he could trade for something bigger. We did a fairly thorough tour of that area, over to the Circle K on Hemlock and down Granville to 13th Ave, and in the lanes south of Broadway between Granville and Hemlock, but saw no one else.

Driving west on Broadway, we saw someone sitting on the sidewalk in front of the London Drugs at Broadway and Yew. So we parked and went over. This was A, (not the A that we have known for years, whom we met at Granville and 10th. This must be the man that our team met last Saturday) He had a sign saying that he could not work because of a neurological disorder and brain injury. He is staying in a hostel. He took a packet and other food.

We saw no one at Safeway, neither outside nor in the parking garage.

We found St near the dollar store on the north side of Broadway, one of his usual spots. He was preoccupied with moving his stuff a short distance to stay in the shade. He was very chatty, especially about his guitar. He took food and water.

Many people took bottled water, and a number wanted tooth brush and tooth paste and razors.

12 people met and 12 packets handed out.

Mary